



## Coast Dispatcher #197

### September 2017

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

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

Next Division Event  
September 24, 2017  
Alameda Elks Lodge  
2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA

9:00 AM.....Doors open. Free Door Prizes.  
9:30 AM.....Get Auction Cards.  
10:00 AM.....Building and Operating a Model Railroad in a Middle School Classroom - Jeff Allen  
11:00 AM.....Clinic TBD  
11:00 AM .....Modeler's Roundtable - Bring your Modeling Questions...discuss... get Answers.  
12 Noon.....Business Meeting  
~12:30 PM\* ...Model/Photo Contest Results  
~12:45 PM\* ...Auction starts, Roundtable continues  
  
3:30 PM .....Timesaver Results, Door Prizes– afterward Auction continues if required

9:30 AM – 12:15 PM:

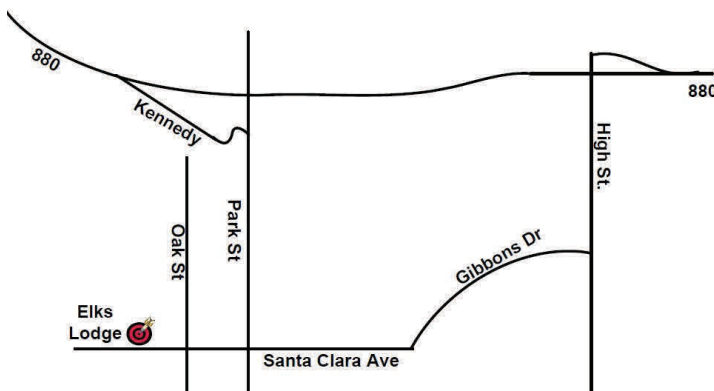
Model Contest– Steam, Maintenance of Way, Structures, Traction and Passenger

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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## ***Santa Clara County Mini– Layout Tour***

***By David Griffy***

We are looking for a few good layouts - - - - -

- - - - To be open to be enjoyed by your friends and peers.

We have been asked to arrange an open house tour for Santa Clara County and have selected Saturday, September 30, 2017. We would like to have at least six layouts representing at least:

- . One small layout in relatively advanced development;
- . One large layout in relatively advance development;
- . One layout in the early stages of development;
- . Layouts from N, HO, S, O, and large scale;
- . One layout with wireless or WiFi control;
- . One layout with DC operation;
- . One single level layout;
- . One multiple level layout;
- . And more.

Please e-mail me at [d.griffy@comcast.net](mailto:d.griffy@comcast.net) or Bill Goodenough at [billgoodenough@gmail.com](mailto:billgoodenough@gmail.com) if you would like to share what you ae doing or what you have done AND e-mail us if you would like to visit layouts in the county. Those opening their layouts to visitors are requested to provide a 75-word or less description of the layouts.

Layout owners are to advise of the hours that they will be open for visiting. As an owner you determine when you will be open to anticipating visitors. It is encouraged that you select a period starting after 10:00 AM and closing before 4:00 PM. We encourage that you have your layout open for at least three hours.

We will not release the names of the participants and the names of their layouts be released to the general public. A list of participants will be made available to visitors during the week preceding the open house.

This was announced at the last meet in San Leandro and has been discussed with the officers.

## ***Director's Report***

### ***By Frank Markovich, MMR***

Not much new but the PCR board meets less than 1 month from now Oct 21, 2018 in Rohnert Park. All members are invited to attend. If you have any issues you would like addressed by the board let me know by October 15<sup>th</sup> so that I can get the issue on the agenda.

Still working on getting a special clinic by Bob Brown of the Gazette, I should know more by the event on Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Elks club in Alameda.

Mark your calendars for the PCR convention next year in Rohnert Park. Lots of activities including a special event at Sturgeons mill for PCR members only. I have been there a number of times and have really enjoyed it. Also a tour of the Korbel winery.

**April 4 – 8, 2018** - [Enduring Rails 2018 PCR Convention](#), DoubleTree by Hilton, Rohnert Park, CA.

Save the date! Come join us for 5 days of clinics, contests, layout tours, operating sessions, prototype tours, and more! For more information, see the [Enduring Rails 2018](#) website for all the information you need. Online registrations now open!

I attended the NMRA National Convention in Orlando. Some great clinics were given and some excellent models in the contest room. Not many from the west coast attended but there were a few. Next year the convention will be in Kansas City.

I also attended (well will be as this has to go in right before the convention) the National Narrow Gauge Convention (NNGC) in Denver. Note that the NNGC two years from now will be in Sacramento. I am the contest chairman for that convention. I will be looking for some help for that convention. Any of the modular groups that wants to display at that convention should let the committee know ASAP as there is limited space.

## ***Superintendent's Report***

### ***Doug Smith***

I'll start off with "Coming Events" in this issue. September looks busy for the Division. We will have a table at the Los Altos Train Museum for the Train Days event September 16-17. Ours will be an informational booth along with The Timesaver switching layout. There are still a few volunteer spots open, so if you like talking about model railroading and can fit in a few hours that weekend, let me know and I'll get you on the list. If you haven't been to this weekend event I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

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The next weekend, Sunday September 24, is our Coast Division meet, this time at the Elk's Lodge in Alameda. Clinics, contests, show-and-tell, the auction, modelers roundtable – everything you've come to know from a Coast meet. Did you know that we're the only Division meet in the country with a regular members-only auction? The meet is at the usual time, 9:00 AM until about 5:00 PM.

The next week is something old and something new at the same time. There will be a Coast Division layout tour on Saturday Sept 30. As of this writing there are six layouts on the tour. Some you may have seen, some you may not have. David Giffy and his team are looking for a few more. The area of these layouts is currently within 20 minutes of a well-known hobby shop in Santa Clara. They would like to have the few more open layouts in this general area. Future tours will be in different locales around the Division. Timing is within 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM, or any significant portion thereof. Notification of locations and open times will probably be via the Coast Division Yahoo Group, but that's still in the works. We haven't had a layout tour outside of a PCR or SIG meet for a while, so this should be a good time. Contact David Giffy if you would like to be a part of this day. His contact info is on the Coast Division web site call board.

If that's still not enough you can kick off your month at the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Denver starting August 30<sup>th</sup>. Narrow gauge folks will love it, and more mainline or traction folks could find new techniques and different takes on the hobby. Early registration rates have closed but still it's reasonable. Too late for this year? Put it on your 2018 to-do list.

There are many more events to fill out the year. See the PCR master calendar at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/calendar.shtml>. That's all for "Coming Events".

The June meet at the Boy Scouts' SF Council Office Center in San Leandro was another success. Many thanks to them for the continued hosting of our meets. Attendance was an even 100 with 75 from Coast, 7 from RED and 5 Sierra members. We also had 15 guests and first-time attendees. Hopefully you all felt welcome and want to find your way back. When you do please feel free to ask questions of any of the officers or members. Introduce yourself around the room every chance you get. Thanks to the clinic presenters, Ray Davis and John Stutz. A general theme from those in the rooms was "I'm going to try that!" Just what everyone hoped for. Thanks also to those who shared some of their modeling skills and works-in-progress at the contests and Show-and-Tell tables. There were 510 items that passed through the auction, with 426 sales.

The auction in June went very smoothly, but we're looking for ways to make it even better. Those ways fall basically into three categories: more help for the auction staff, better quality and sale-ability of auction items, and having folks stay around to bid on items towards the end of the day.

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Help first: The auction staff can use a few more folks to help moving tables as the day goes along, to place items in order on the tables, and a couple of more helpers behind the front table to keep things in order before and after bidding. Volunteering is easy, see one of the folks in the front of the room. You don't have to sign up for all day. Any help you are willing to give will be much appreciated. It won't get in the way of bidding either. You see the guys up front bidding all of the time. Just make a list of what interests you and you'll be able to keep up. Also stick around for the end of the day and help break down the day if you can. We need to put everything away for our hosts.

Quality and Sale-ability: Over the past 8 auctions about 20% of the items have not gotten a single bid. Two auctions had that number over 30%. Some of those because the minimum bid is too high, some because the item frankly isn't worth a dollar to anyone in the room. Please make sure when you assemble your items to sell that they're something folks will buy. Also when you set a minimum bid, set it a little lower. When the bidding does start you'll be surprised how well it goes. No guarantees, just experience.

Stay until the end: This meet we will have two collections from long time members. Not estate collections thankfully, but very good collections with many desirable brass items. The members are selling things here rather than e-bay to help benefit the Division and see that the items go to folks who will enjoy and appreciate them. The items will be spread throughout the tables from the front to the finish. So stick around. There will be some jewels and deals near the end of the day.

The Coast Division Board of Operations is comprised of the elected officers and many key folks in the Division. Our last meeting was both spirited and productive. The auction was one of several points of focus. Changes are being considered to the operation of the auction including but not limited to no-bid items, how auction cards are distributed, and how items are lined up on the tables. Although our auction runs smoothly as viewed by many in the room, there is room and need for improvement. These changes are being carefully reviewed before being implemented. All of the Board members ask for your patience and support in this effort. There's a reason our auction is unique within NMRA. It's a very difficult thing to do and do well. I'll have more at the September meet.

Back to having fun. Try to join in the activities planned for September and beyond. It's great weather to get out and find some new trains to enjoy. My local Round Robin group took a day and visited the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista. There were a great number of improvements since my last visit. It's well worth the trip. There are many other places I'm sure you've wanted to get to but haven't yet. Grab a friend, pick a day, and go. All for now. Hope to see everyone September 24<sup>th</sup> in Alameda.

## ***September Clinics***

***By Richard Brennan***

10:00 Clinic 1: Building and Operating a Model Railroad in a Middle School Classroom - Jeff Allen

Clinic Description: Every aspect of designing, building and operating a model railroad is rich with opportunities to learn - about engineering, manufacturing, electronics, commerce, history, carpentry, metalworking, architecture, geology, botany, culture, signaling - the list is endless. Hear from a middle school math teacher how vivid classroom lessons become when framed by an operating scale model of the "real world." Jeff will also discuss some of the unique design and operating constraints that make this classroom layout distinct.

((tbc)) 11:00 Clinic 2: HELP WANTED!!!!!!

11:00 Modelers Round Table - Open Discussion

## ***Registrar's Report***

***By Ronnie LaTorres***

Here is the Meeting Attendance from the June Division Event

Coast Division	75
Daylight Division	0
Redwood Empire Division	7
Sierra Division	5
Guests	6
Total Attendance	100

First Timers	7
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Note: There was one individual who was both a guest and a first timer

### **Income:**

1 Badge @\$5	\$5.00
Ticket Donations	\$21.00
2 Memberships	\$110.00
Total Income	\$125.00

### **Expenses:**

Prizes	\$-57.68
Total Expenses	\$-57.68
Prizes Paid Back	\$ 57.68

## ***Auction Report for 06/04/2017 Event***

### ***John Ameling***

Here is the Auction Committee report for the June 4th 2017 Division Train Event and the Board of Operations meeting in July

Total Items Sold	426
No Bid Items	84
Auction net	\$610.5

At our last meet the Auction Crew was dealing with several problems which the board feels needs 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 buyers pile or the “no-bid” sellers pile. Additional help is also needed putting auction items in sequential order prior to the auction and keeping them in order as new items arrive out of order or require more space than had originally been allocated

If you are willing to help in either of these functions please see either John Ameling, or Bob Ferguson. 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

Thanks  
John Ameling  
Auction Committee Chair

## ***Publicity Report***

### ***Steve Wesolowski***

Do You Enjoy Trains?

Of course you do, or you wouldn't be reading Coast Dispatcher.

Do You Enjoy Trains More with Others who also Enjoy Trains?

Maybe I'm wrong, but I'll bet MOST of you say: Yes. (If your answer is No, you can stop reading this.

My answer? YES! Why? Because I'm an NMRA Member who attends Coast Meets & other events for those who enjoy Trains, including Train Shows.

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Why do I spend my limited time/money on these events?

Because ALMOST everyone, even younger or older than I, I've met at TrainEvents, has increased my train enjoyment; they all teach me something!

I learn more fun & useful train info from other train people than from most books or mags in my Way Large collection of "Train Porn", AKA old/new books, MRs, RMCs, NG&SLGs, etcetera, etcetera ad (nearly) infinitum.

I find NMRA members even More interesting: but, I'll get to that.

Later. [See my PS below]

WHY Do I Enjoy MOST train people MORE that many people I meet?

We share (at least) One interest outside our selves: Trains. Very Often, more than one interest! Because Most Train People share more than one External Interest, I notice we talk about our selves less often, especially our aches & pains, etc. I'm 99.9% Certain: if I start talking about my latest ache /pain, you'll be gone in 60 seconds. EVEN IF it's a Shared Pain (a common interest) it's still boring after 90 seconds. Now, I'm bored writing about PITAs. Back on topic: TRAINS!

After another Awesome Total Solar Eclipse is gone for another 7 years, I noticed leaves on my pistachio tree turning color, which means Fall is on its way. Fall means Model Train & other Hobby Shows are coming soon, and Coast Division

Next week's Narrow Gauge Convention is in Denver. Why NNGCs keeps returning to Colorado when Narrow Gauge Railways were built nearly everywhere, including California, go figure. LOL! As Colorado's not in Coast Division, we don't need local volunteers for it, but It's worth attending.

Los Altos Train Days are September 16th & 17th, see <https://losaltoshistory.org/> Coast Division will have a Timesaver there. We could use some more volunteers. Volunteering is always a great way to meet more Train Lovers.

International Railfair returns November 11 & 12 to Roseville/ the Sierra Division always welcomes Coast Division Volunteers

November 25-26 The Great Train Show returns to Alameda County Fairgrounds

More Volunteers are always welcome to share our love for and enjoyment of trains with anyone who stops by our Coast Division Information Tables during the above events. By Volunteering to help other Coast Division Volunteer answer questions, you enjoy free admission to the event. You will also enjoy meeting and spending some quality time sharing your passion for trains with other Coast Division Volunteers and event attendees you meet.

Volunteering for train shows since I returned to Model Railroading in 2000, I have met many interesting people at these events and made many interesting and fun friends. I encourage everyone to Volunteer, because you will enjoy the events even more. I can guarantee that you will learn more by volunteering, and maybe make a few new friends for life!

If youre interested in volunteering, Contact Frank Markovich, Doug Smith or myself. Our Contact information is on the Coast Call Board on page 2 of this Dispatcher.

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Happy Trains to you, until we meet again! Hopefully, Volunteering at an Event helping others enjoy more Train Fun!

steve

PS: Why Do I find NMRA members even More Interesting (than Most Train People)?

There's no 'best' one answer to this Q:

From what I've known as a kid in the 1960's, and after returning to Model Railroading (& NMRA) in 2000, the NMRA has generally attracted & tried to serve its members with an organization & events which encourage meeting others with both similar & different train interests. I think NMRA attracts mostly those who enjoy learning more about AND sharing what they learn about trains, modeling & what-ever! NMRA members seem more willing to donate some time so we ALL enjoy more train fun together than we can achieve alone.

## ***Special Clinic with Bob Brown of the Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette***

The Coast Division has set up a special live clinic on Saturday Oct 7, 2017 at the Los Altos Library, 13 S San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, CA 94022. Bob will talk about how he came about starting the magazine and various challenges he faced along the way.

In addition to the Gazette Bob is a very active modeler and has won best in show at a NMRA convention. His layout is in his home in Los Altos and is in On3.

This is a special clinic that will give you insight into one of the premiere magazines in the hobby and the dedication and work that goes into producing such a magazine.

## ***Model and Photo Contest Report June 4, 2017*** ***By Jim Eckman***



### ***Diesel and others***

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Tom Knapp's Brill Class 55 Nn3 Railcar 100% scratch-built with custom parts and decals designed by Tom.

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## Caboose

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Kenneth Martin's CB&Q Caboose, he designed a 3d printed interior for it, very cool!



Other Entries:

[Frank Markovich's](#) West Side #5 caboose built from a kit.

*(Continued on page 12)*



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## Display

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Al Kuhn's Rengstorff House, you can see the real thing at Shoreline Park, a splendid model.



### Other Entries:

Frank Markovich's Nacho's General Store.

## Freight Cars



**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Frank Markovich's Michi Cal log car, a Russ Simpson kit.

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## Other Entries:



Kenneth Martin's CB&Q auto car built from a kit.

## Photo Contest–Favorite Photo

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Eugene Brichacek's *UP #119 at Promontory*



### Other entries

Tom Vanden Bosch's *SP Fast South, Springdale Switcher and Day After Christmas Startup*



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Jay Shellons's *L.K. & P* on  
*Lahina Turntable*



Chris Palermos's *N&W* #1219 at  
*Alexandria, VA*

## ***Show and Tell***

John Stutz shows off his HOn3 snow sheds and tunnel equipment.



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Tom Knapp had one of his Nn3 gems, the Pacific Coast Oil Company which if I heard correctly, took a first at Bakersfield.



Tom also brought a friend's partially completed Tn3 Unitah locomotive.

**PARTIALLY COMPLETE Tn3 MODEL OF UINTAH MALLET**  
Built by "Pete" Peters

Howard Lloyd brought in some HO buildings that he was the process of building.



in



George Downs brought in his scratch-built HOn3 trestle along with a few cars to display.



### Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For August, 2017

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#### **A message from Charlie Getz, NMRA President -**

Gallery Exhibit and Kalmbach Memorial Library move at the California State Railroad Museum status

It has been a long process but we are happy to announce that the long-promised Gallery Exhibit ("Exhibit") and Kalmbach Memorial Library ("Library") move at the California State Railroad museum are finally underway.

The Exhibit was first proposed over a decade ago. Benchmark Publications' publisher and MMR Bob Brown once said: "To attract people to our hobby, you must show them what we do." We know from the success of train shows and the World's Greatest Hobby campaign, such public exhibits work well and inform and excite the public about our hobby.

Over the past six years, we raised \$250,000 from our members and corporate partners as we have promised that this Exhibit will not use dues money. The estimate for the project's fabrication and installation is between \$500,000 and \$750,000. We will fund that amount by donation.

Implementation delays were due to a problem that involved CSRM's parent agency, the California Department of Parks and Recreation. After much patience and entreaties, CSRM management worked out all of the obstacles preventing final approval and in late June, we finally received the long-promised agreement authorizing the Exhibit. The BOD unanimously approved that agreement in an electronic vote in June to meet a BOD-imposed July 15 deadline for finalizing the agreement.

The agreement could not be more fair nor inclusive. We are happy to report all of the elements described or represented over the years are included. There is no cost to NMRA for the space provided and utilities/outside maintenance will be performed by CSRM. We will be responsible for interior maintenance, which we prefer. We will own the exhibit which can be moved and used later in a permanent Museum. Although they no longer do so, CSRM has agreed to administer our Library and allow full access to their vastly larger library to NMRA members at no additional cost.

#### **From Trains Magazine**

##### **Amtrak 'Capitol Limited' schedule modified after Sand Patch grade derailment**

by Chase Gunnoe/August 3, 2017

#### **A CSX Transportation freight train derailed at least 32 cars near Hyndman, Pa. on Wednesday morning impacting both freight and passenger railroads.**

MP208

HYNDMAN, Pa. — Amtrak's *Capitol Limited* between Washington and Chicago will be running on a modified schedule for the next four days after a CSX Transportation freight train derailed more than 30 cars east of Sand Patch near Hyndman, Pa., on Wednesday morning.

Amtrak spokeswoman Kimberly Woods tells *Trains* News Wire eastbound train No. 30 will terminate in Pittsburgh for the next four days, while its counterpart, westbound train No. 29, will have its passengers bused from Washington to Pittsburgh to meet up with the train consist. Passengers trying to get to Washington from points west will be bused from No. 30's terminating point in Pittsburgh.

On Wednesday morning at around 5 a.m., at least 32 cars of a 178-car eastbound CSX freight train derailed and caught fire near Hyndman on the railroad's Keystone Subdivision. The incident is affecting both freight and passenger operations on the railroad's famed Sand Patch grade route.

Fires were still burning and evacuations were still in place for a half-mile radius as of Wednesday evening.

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*(Continued from page 16)*

The cause of the derailment remains under investigation.  
No injuries were reported.

**NMRA Awards presented at the NMRA Convention in  
Orlando, FL**

-  
Fellow of the NMRA

Gary, Burdette, MMR  
Ron Williams, MMR

Distinguished Service Award (DSA)  
Jim Hediger

Meritorious Service Award (MSA)  
Bob Hamm  
Rick Coble  
Dave Liesse  
Scott Povlot  
Martin Oakes

Presidents Award (PA)

Grant McAdam  
Dave Lamberts  
Larry Alfred  
Chris Lyon  
Ben Sevier  
Donovan Lewis  
Martin Boyask  
Jack Dziadul  
Rich Seymour  
Mark Cowles  
Doug Wagner  
Al Hovey  
Terry Davis

Alex Huerres  
Roy Hord  
Peter Watson  
Shirley Sample  
Walt Liles  
Bob Chaparro  
Bob Hamm  
Clark Kooning  
Joe Gelmini  
John Stevens  
Pete Magoun  
Peter Youngblood  
Leslie Eaton

Regards,

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