



# Coast Dispatcher

## #201

### September 2018

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

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

Next Division Event: September 23, 2018  
Alameda Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA

9:00 AM.....Doors open. Free Door Prizes.

9:30 AM – 12:15 PM: Model Contest– Steam, Traction, MOW/Non-Revenue and Structures  
Photo Contest– Working on the Railroad, model or prototype

9:30 AM.....Get Auction Cards.

10:00 AM.....Clinic: Moving Petroleum by Rail - Clif Linton

11:00 AM.....Clinic: Ornate Brickwork - Thomas Knapp MMR #101

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

12 Noon.....Business Meeting

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

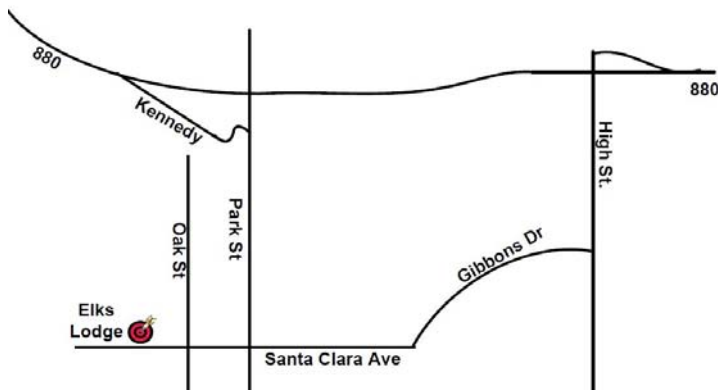
~12:45 PM\* ...Auction starts, Roundtable continues

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

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.

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## **Director's Report**

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

**July 2018**

The Division is continuing with the current format of 2 clinics per event, an auction, contests (switching, Model and Photo), business meeting and modelers roundtable.

Of concern is that there are still some open positions. We need someone to take over the PA (Quartermaster), and Auction Chair.

Highlights of the meet:

- Over 400 items in the Auction
- Close to 80 in attendance
- Good quality model contest

Next Coast Division Event September 23rd at the Elks club in Alameda.

The National Narrow Gauge Convention will be in Sacramento in 2019.

The 2019 PCR will be in Sacramento – more to follow.

I am leading a team to make recommendations for conventions going forward – format etc. This will be presented to the PCR board at the mid-year board meeting.

If any of you have input on items to be brought up at the mid-year meeting please contact me ([frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com))

We need a committee to work on the 2020 PCR convention the Coast Division will host.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Doug Smith**



Hopefully everyone is enjoying their summer. Folks may be getting away for vacations, maybe headed to Kansas City for some big time railroading in any scale you like. Maybe making some progress in the train room. Staying at home or trotting the globe I hope all are well. The Division has been busy since the last meet at the Boy Scouts' in June. That was a slightly smaller meet with about 80 folks attending. Great clinics were on offer, with good response from both. Mark Poggendorf presented his clinic from Rohnert Park entitled "The State of your Estate". Mark discussed the "What do we do when ..." question that seems to come up later in life, but can come up in some form at any time. Many great questions, solutions, and paths towards peace of mind. It got a lot of us thinking, which is the first step. Also Pete Birdsong brought us another of his 'How to' clinics, this one was on scratch-building Logging Disconnects in On30. The clinic expanded on the article Pete authored in the January 2010 NMRA Magazine. Along with the modeling there were looks at the workings of scale and prototype logging railroads.

### **Coming Events**

Los Altos Train Days September 15, 16: This was a fun event last year. Six to eight model groups, mostly operating clubs, set up at the Los Altos Museum for a weekend. Those clubs set up outside and ran trains for the kids. We set up the Timesaver inside and drew a great crowd. Some grade-schoolers and adults worked switching problems. Many younger kids just wanted to run a train. Lots of smiles and a pretty good time. It should be easy to fill a team of 4-5 folks for the 2 days. Steve Wesolowski is heading up the team this year. Please contact him and sign up early.

September 23<sup>rd</sup> meet at the Elks: Our usual Fall meet in Alameda is Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> this year. The clinics look like good

ones. Cliff Linton will present Petroleum by Rail in the 21st Century, and Tom Knapp will discuss Ornate Brickwork. See Page 5 for details. Also see my Clinic Note below. Doors open at 9:00 and we run till the auction folks can't do any more. Much great knowledge to share, comradery of course, and great recycled treasures to take home. Lunch will be available as usual thanks to Mary and Mark.

GTS Richmond – November 24-25: We had a great time in San Jose at the train show. Our table filled the gap between buying stuff and running trains on the many modular layouts. The problem I'm working with the GTS folks is space at the Craneway facility for a table for us. I'll keep everyone posted on progress. Save the date though.

### **Be an Active Member**

I want to say Thank You to all our Coast Division members, especially those who volunteer and take the time to make the Division work. Without you none of this would be possible. With that said, we have opportunities for more folks to take active roles. Division elections are coming up, with three positions on the ballot. They are Superintendent, Chief Clerk, and Paymaster. Interested members are encouraged to contact Dave Connery, our nominations chair. If you know someone who you think would be a good candidate / officer, talk with them and encourage them before turning in their name. It's only fair.

We also have several non-elected positions in need of people:

Quartermaster is a position perfect for a newer member. Responsibilities are meet attendance and caretaking of selected Division equipment such as the P.A. system. Requirements are a good attitude and a bit of storage space. You also get a seat at the Board of Operations meeting to help with the running of the Division.

As noted earlier John Ameling is stepping down as auction committee chair. Many thanks are due John as he stepped up in a time of need. This position is much more than handing out advance sellers' cards. The auction is a very dynamic enterprise that needs strong leadership to continue to serve the Division, both financially and as a resource for members buying and selling equipment.

Last and by no means least is the 2020 PCR Convention committee. We have assembled a team of Chris Palermo, Earl Girbovan and myself to co-chair the convention. We have had an initial meeting. The where and when questions are the first ones on the very long list. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to or agreed to take on a role in doing this convention. We haven't worked through that list yet. We'll have an update at the September meet and much more information as the planning process continues.

### **Clinics**

Everyone has a different approach to the hobby. Look into 100 members' homes and you'll find 100 combinations of themes, scales, special interests, and strengths. Why not share some of these at an upcoming meet? Traditionally clinics have been 45-50 minutes long, but that's not necessary. We can fit 2 or 3 shorter clinics into a given time slot. Clinic chairman Richard Brennan is a creative fellow. Grouping clinics together with a theme (beginners, track-work, operations, photography, railfanning, ???) would open things up for people who don't want to or feel they can fill a full 45 minutes. Step up! You're probably doing something nobody else is doing, and even if many are doing it you're probably be doing it differently. Our goal should be to have way too many clinics from way too many people.

### **Something A Little Different**

Here's a story from Northeastern Region's Hudson Berkshire Division newsletter, President Paul Hoffman's column:

Having problems with your layout? Track not doing well? Need to repair a section or two? Then you can sympathize with Norfolk Southern Corp, which bought 4.7 million wood ties in 2011 and started installing them in 2012. (Note: That's enough for about 1467 miles of mainline track !!! ) And now those ties are deteriorating and will need to be replaced. Inspections and analyses have shown that the wood was treated with 'a blackening agent' and not pressure treated with creosote as was required by contract and as was done to the samples presented to earn the contract award. Most of the delivered ties had the correct appearance but not the necessary resistance to weather and rot. Legal proceedings are of course underway. And you thought your track was troublesome.

All for now. Hope to see everyone in September.

Cheers, Doug

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## ***September Clinics***

***By Richard Brennan***

10:00 - Moving Petroleum by Rail - Clif Linton

Clif will leverage his real-world industry knowledge to discuss production of petroleum products, rail logistics and key elements that can be modeled, including petroleum-related infrastructure and cars.

11:00 - Ornate Brickwork - Thomas Knapp MMR #101

Tom will show his method for modelling ornate brick patterns, using colored decals printed on an ink-jet printer, and applied to embossed styrene brick sheet to replicate Romanesque-style brick. This style was used on many central stations and other city buildings.

11:00 - Modeler's Roundtable - Topics as they arise...

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

***By Ronnie LaTorres***

(No report File)

## ***Auction Report for September, 2018***

***John Ameling***

(No report filed)

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## Publicity Report September, 2018

### Steve Wesolowski

I'm writing this on the first day of school, when I can almost smell Fall coming. There are two main weekend public Train Shows in Coast Division this season: First, the Los Altos Train Days, September 16th & 17th, followed by the Great Train Show's return to Craneway Pavilion in Richmond, November 24th and 25th — after a couple years away. I've enjoyed volunteering at both venues multiple times over several years. I invite YOU to Volunteer, too! No experience required!

These are different train shows, each fun for similar AND different reasons: they both attract large numbers of kids with their parents, plus many other train loving folks. Both Venues have their own beauty; Los Altos' Museum is a pleasant tree-filled setting, while Craneway Pavilion has beautiful pier views of the Bay, alongside the Rosie The Riveter Museum.

The Los Altos History Museum's Train Days celebrates the train history of Los Altos, when Foothill Expressway used to be a peninsula commuter train right of way, and Los Altos was one of its stops. Our John Allen Time Saver has been very popular at this show: we are mainly looking for volunteers to enjoy helping us introduce Time Saver's operational switching fun to kids of all ages. There are several portable modular trains set up mainly outdoors around the museum: The Diablo Valley Shortline & BAGRS Live Steamers, Lionel groups, the Swanton Pacific RR near Davenport, the Stop/Look/Listen Train Safety volunteers, and more. A Snack Food Vendor and the Museum Gift shop are the only on-site sellers.

The Great Train Show is a much larger commercial show with more portable modular train groups set up inside the pavilion, a rubber wheeled train to ride outside, plus many vendor selling tables. Again, our John Allen Time Saver is very popular at this show: we are again looking for volunteers to enjoy helping us introduce Time Saver's operational switching fun to kids of all ages. We should also have some table space to actively demonstrate modeling, including but not limited to building models, painting figures, etc. We also hope to have volunteers to help display and explain an N or HO Scale Build Your Dream small modular layout.

All NMRA Volunteer opportunities count towards the Volunteer Achievement Award. IMO, more importantly, we volunteer to answer questions of kids and parents just getting started in our hobby and help and encourage them by pointing them towards local resources to help them grow their interests in Trains and Model Railroading, including maybe even someday joining or re-joining the NMRA. We invite anyone and everyone interested to our local events, and also try to inform everyone who will listen or read our handouts about many other train related resources in our area.

In addition to Good Karma for helping others enjoy trains more, volunteers enjoy free Admission to also enjoy the events they Volunteer for, when we enjoy breaks from volunteering. We do pay our own transportation and parking, but we also carpool when we can.

I've volunteered for nearly ALL Train Show events since I rejoined NMRA in Fall 2000 at

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the Pleasanton Great Train Show. I always learn something useful & interesting every show from: other Volunteers, Vendors and People we meet who ask Questions. During every show, I volunteer some time, I enjoy trains at the show & Visiting with the many friends I've met among the Volunteers, Vendors and modular groups, including those who attend regularly or even only one show these 18 years. Try it!

We'd enjoy having you join us in volunteering for either or both shows, either of both days you've maybe already planned to attend. Contact Frank Markovich, Doug Smith, or myself if you're interested in enjoying EVEN MORE train fun together; our contact information is on the Coast Call Board, on Page 2 of every Dispatcher. WE always enjoy train shows with new people!

Many Happy Trains to You, until we meet again!

Steve

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## Model and Photo Contest Report June 3rd, 2018

Jim Eckman

### Diesel and others

No Entries

### Caboose

1st Place—Pat La orres J&R #35, On30 with inerior



### Other Entries:

Kenneth Martin's CB&Q Passenger Waycar, built from a Silver Streak kit.

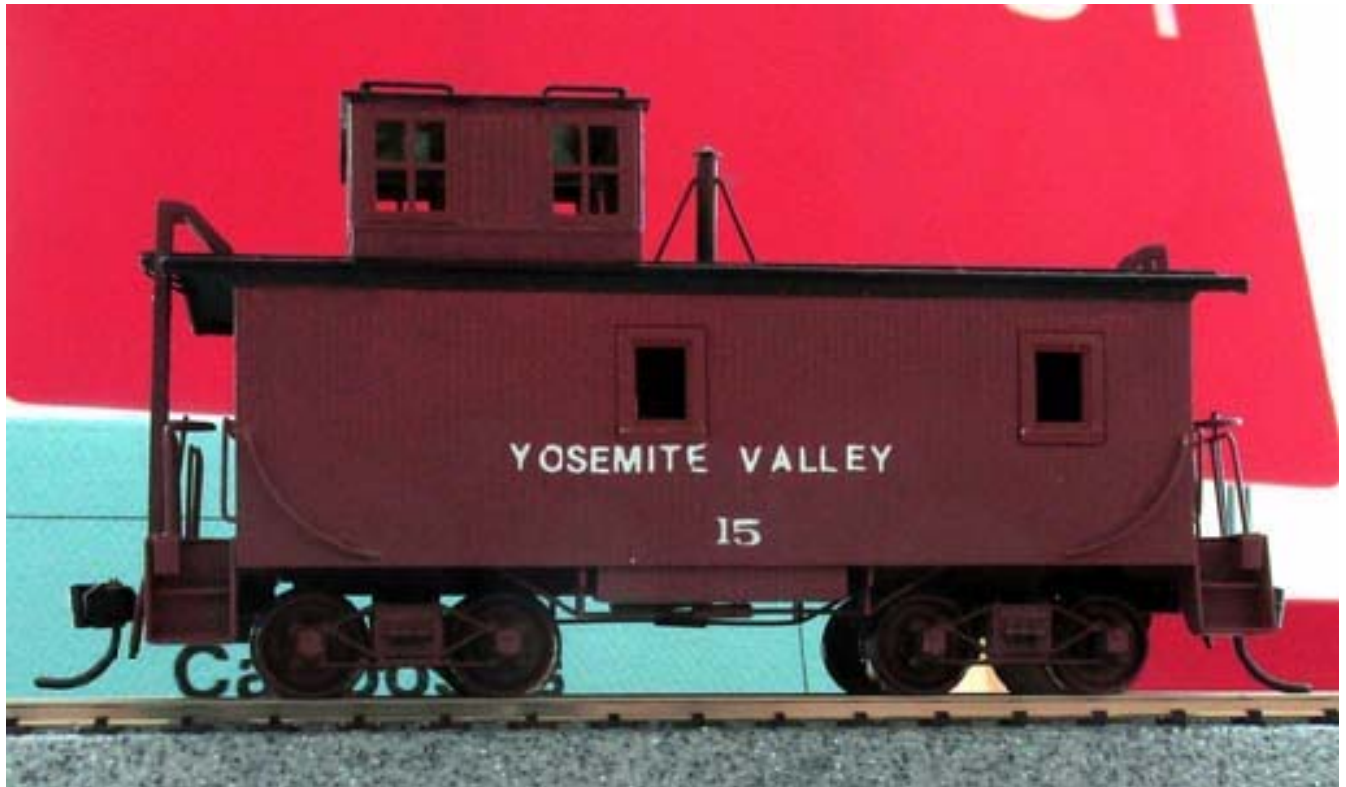


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Craig Matora's Yosemite Valley Caboose, a West Side Models brass car that he painted himself.



### Display

1st Place – Mike Blumensaadt's Mission Display brought back childhood memories of visiting California's Spanish missions. N scale.



### Freight Cars

No Entries

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### **Photo Contest—Black and White**

12t Place—Pat La Torres *Service with a Smile*



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*page 11)*

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**Other Entries**

Ronnie LaTorres Warehouse



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## Show and Tell

Tom Knapp's Nn3 critter with custom parts and decals designed by Tom.



Ronnie LaTorres scratchbuilt trestle received a merit award.



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Earl Girbovan's planing mill with lights.



Jim Eckman's Arkham Depot, a simple diorama made from cardboard and Styrofoam.



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## WITLESS vs CLUELESS

### The adventures of Rivets O'Reilly and Larry Loungecar

**Rivets:** Hey, Larry, how's it goin'?

somethin', like curtains or furniture or food or somethin'!

**Larry:** Pretty good, Rivets, how about you?

**Rivets:** And they don't appreciate what we do for our families worth a hoot, either, Larry. You know, I spent hours naming things on the layout after the family, like stations and towns - you know. I painted signs and set 'em around; but you think they'd appreciate that? Nope. All Rosie said when I showed 'em to her was that I misspelled her name, and she got all in a huff and wouldn't speak to me for a couple days. How do you figure that?

**Rivets:** Not Bad. The railroad's goin' fine. But Rosie's been givin' me a hard time lately about what I'm spendin'.

**Larry:** Yeah, I know exactly what you mean, Rivets. Spouses can be really unreasonable about model railroadin'. Lilly's the same way with me. If she ain't complainin' about the money I spend, she's complainin' about the time.

**Larry:** Beats me. Sounds like just a simple, unintentional mistake. Happens to me lots o' times, when I've been down in the basement for a week or so.

**Rivets:** You said it, Larry. Rosie's always after me to spend more time with whatzernames, you know - my kids.

**Rivets:** Yeah, I think the paint and glue fumes may have somethin' to do with it. See ya soon, Larry.

**Larry:** Yep, same with me. And it ain't just the kids, either. Lilly's always fussin' that I don't take her nowhere, and it ain't fair, Rivets. This year alone, I took her to the NMRA regional, and on an excursion, and Lord knows where else. And back to the money...it's a different story when THEY want to spend on

**Larry:** Yeah, Rivets - take it easy



## EDITOR'S NOTES

First of all, thanks to Tom Crawford, the previous editor, for all his help in the transition of the *Coast Dispatcher*. Tom did an incredible job for many years, and it will be daunting to carry on that legacy. I figure my first order of business is not to rock the boat before I have my sea legs, so don't expect any major changes for a while, at least, if ever.

On the other hand, I have made a few minor organizational changes to the first couple of pages (didn't even notice, did you?) and I'm starting a series called "Witless vs. Clueless," first installment above. I started this column in November 1999 for the MCR Division 10 newsletter, and the installments ran for many years, taken over in time by a fellow division 10 member. The series chronicles the adventures of Rivets O'Reilly and Larry Loungecar. Rivets is pretty straight-laced, and Larry is pretty laid back. They banter back and forth similar to the "Look Both Ways" series in *Railroad Model Craftsman*, but this is ALL spoof, so don't take any of it seriously.

As your new editor, I'd especially appreciate any comments you have, pro or con, about the newsletter, or any suggestions for improvement.

Thanks.

*Pete*