



Coast Dispatcher June 2006

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

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

Welcome to the Coast Division of PCR

Here is what we have planned for the next two meetings

June 4, 2005

Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA
(map on last page)

9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.

9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.

10:00 AM Utilities – Tom Crawford

11:00 AM Operation Lifesaver – Steve Cabellos

11:00 AM Model Railroad Roundtable hosted by Jerry Littlefield

12 Noon Business Meeting

1:00 PM Auction starts

1:30 PM Contest Results – afterward Auction continues

3:30 PM Raffle –afterward Auction continues if required

9:30 AM – 1:15 PM:

Photo Contest: Computer Enhanced Photos

Model Contest: Structure; Display; Self propelled cars & traction

Allen Fenton Switching Contest

Activity details are on pages 4 through 8.

Due to Museum Security, we need volunteers to take turns opening the door during the CHM meet in June; with several volunteers, each of us can man it for less time. Please email Steve Wesolowski at swezz@comcast.net if you can help.

September 10, 2006

Buchser Middle School, 1111 Bellomy St., Santa Clara, CA

9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets. (See note on page 9 about prizes)

9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.

10:00 AM TBD

11:00 AM Operation Lifesaver

11:00 AM Roundtable moderated by Jerry Littlefield

12 Noon Business Meeting

1:00 PM Auction starts

1:30 PM Contest Results – afterward Auction continues

3:30 PM Raffle –afterward Auction continues if required

9:30 AM – 1:15 PM:

Photo Contest: Prototype Railroad Structures

Model Contest: Steam Locomotive; Diesel Locomotive; and passenger cars

Allen Fenton Switching Contest

**See Bill Burket's story on Page 7 about the banquet.
Also see important auction update information on Page 8.**

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Layout Tours: (vacant)

Membership: (vacant)

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Sign up to help with the Suntan Special. See page 6 for details and open positions.

Editors note: There is lots of stuff this month. Sorry, but I had to edit like crazy to make it all fit. I also did not include the NMRA Membership Application. I apologize if I cut out something you consider important.

This issue has some good color pictures in it. To see them in all their glory, go to our website at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast>

***Super Notes:
Superintendent's Report By John Marshall***

How time flies.

Here it has been just a year since I took office and there is so much new and different yet so much the same. Under the new category we doubled the size of the Coast Division in what now seems the blink of the eye and each quarterly meet seems to bring out more and more new faces. Those are, of course good things. In the same category, we are still seeing vacancies on our committees and can't seem to find willing volunteers to take the posts. Don't get me wrong, we have had many people volunteer to take critical posts but some that have been vacant since before Jim Long was elected superintendent remain vacant. We will continue to survive without someone in the post but it would lighten the load on the board if we could fill them. We need people with a fresh outlook to take on these posts and put some P&V back into our activities.

The DCC roundtable was a real winner at the last meet. Unfortunately, I didn't get to attend but I did talk to a couple of people who did and from what I heard, it was a smashing success. Of course the school would like us to replace the broken furniture and black boards (just kidding). It was so good that we will be hosting another one later in the year.

Joining us again at the June Meet will be Steve Ceballos from California Operation Lifesaver. This is an important and educational clinic that I highly recommend for us each of us to attend. Anyone who plays around real trains like we sometimes do needs to know how to protect themselves and be aware of their dangerous surroundings.

The PCR convention is coming upon us very quickly. The convention is in Sacramento and runs May 3 thru 7. This will be a great time to see the Prototype activities, attend clinics and get together with all your old buddies from across the region. If you haven't registered yet, please do so as quickly as possible. Otherwise you may miss out on all the fun.

Utility Clinic by Tom Crawford

As many of you know, I work for PG&E. I got into a discussion about the markings on the ground that we use to mark the location of underground utilities, and got asked to present something on it.

I will explain the Underground Service Alert (USA) program, and more specifically what those markings are you can model on your roads.

I will also explain what is really up there on all those towers and poles you see. And what a well modeled utility pole would look like. (most people model the old telephone and communication poles.)

Admittedly its not a huge subject, but it may be of interest to some of you. I will hand out some USA literature.

Division Model Contest by John Sing

Model Contest / Show and Tell Table - March 2006 Recap

Thanks to everyone who came out to participate or view the March 2006 edition of the Coast Division Model Contest!

Check out the online photos of the March 2006 Coast Division Model Contest and Show and Tell Table at: http://home.comcast.net/~atsf_arizona_2/Contest_Mar_2006.html

Show and Tell Table March 2006

First of all, the Show and Tell table was full. We had:

- A beautiful Pacific Coast HOn3 three car pile driver train by Eric Bracher
- A whole flock of Z scale cabooses representing Pacific Northwest railroads (qty = 10 cabooses !) by Robert Ray
- Really great Z scale structures - horse barn and a derelict house - also very fine - by Robert Ray
- A wonderful O scale Central Pacific Boxcar no. 1930 - by Jim Eckman
- Superbly weathered and detailed Z scale locomotives and cars - by Jeff Merrill (including decoderized Z scale locos)
- N scale Santa Fe Zebra Stripe locomotives and Santa Fe reefer train - by some N scale dude originally from Arizona (i.e. me, John Sing)

It was a great table. Let's keep up the Show and Tell! You're invited to bring an item of pride, whether finished or work in progress, and share it with us.

Model Contest Results March 2006

And for our Model Contest, here are the participants and the lucky awardees:

Freight Car:

- Honorable Mention = John Cockle, for N scale Santa Fe MOW boxcar (entered in freight car category)
- 3d place = Bob Booth, for HO scratchbuilt freelance Ore Car
- 2nd place = Tom Vanden Bosch, for HO New York Central well flat car

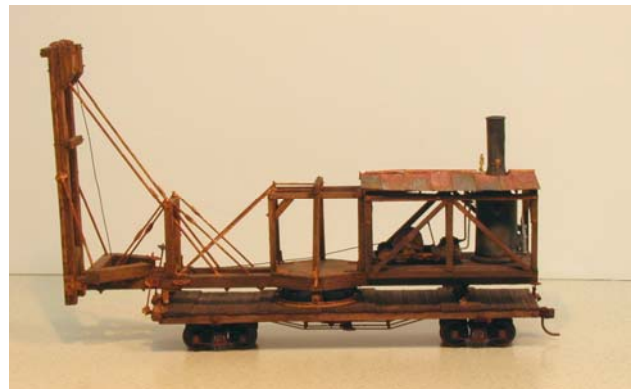
and....

1st Place = Jim Eckman, for South Pacific On30 Tank Car (left picture)

Maintenance of Way:

- **1st place** = Bob Booth, for a scratchbuilt HO Pile Driver. (right picture)

Bob's MOW Pile Drive entry also received a Merit Award (i.e. > 87.5 points) from the Achievement Program judges Kermit Paul and Bob Wurthlin.



Division Model Contest (continued)

Caboose:

- 3d place = Bob Booth, for freelance caboose #14
- 2nd place = Bob Booth, for freelance caboose #13. This model was originally constructed in 1950 and has been refined over the years.

and.....

- **1st place** = Bob Booth, for freelance caboose #12



Thanks again to all who participated, you made it another great show for us all.

June 2006 Model Contest

For June 2006, the Coast Division Model Contest categories are:

- Structure
- Display/Diorama
- Self propelled cars & Traction

Coast Division Model Contest results for June 2006 will be determined by Popular Vote.

Optional: take advantage of NMRA Judging, available to you at any Coast Division Meet to any Model Contest participant. You can have a entry judged (all results are private if you desire) for:

- Achievement Program Merit Points
- Regional/National Contest entry preparation 'dry-run' and friendly expert advice
- Or, just to see how you would have done (and receive the best of very friendly, private, expert suggestions)

We are lucky in Coast Division to have a wealth of expertise and experience available – you'll be happily surprised by the benefits you'll receive by bringing a model to the Model Contest and asking for it to be privately judged.

So, bring your models for either the Show and Tell Table or the Model Contest!

We're looking forward to seeing you.



Suntan Special Newsflash #2 by Steve Wesolowski, Publicity

I'm excited about our Suntan Special Convention in Santa Cruz, May 2-6, 2007 at the UCSC Inn!

Full Registrations for the Suntan Special will be \$95 during River City Express in Sacto, then will be \$105 until January 31, 2007, then will be \$115 until the 2007 convention ends. This is a Deal-- if you enjoy riding trains: Full Registration includes Saturday's Special train to Roaring Camp & Big Trees from the Santa Cruz Boardwalk AND the return train to SCruz PLUS the Banquet at Roaring Camp AND the steam train rides to/from the Summit, with raffles for cab rides!

Other registration options: Saturday Only (includes train rides & dinner) for \$70; Spouse (all week) for \$70; Saturday Dinner only (intended for other family members): \$60; Daily Registration(W/Th/F): \$35. Checks or PayPal for payment. Website should be up May 1st, at www.PCR2007.org. Our Convention Car will currently be a Granite Rock car.

Prototype (and Layout) tours being planned include: Granite Rock on Thursday, Davenport CEMIX plant on Friday, Martinelli Cider/Birds-eye Frozen Foods on Saturday. Although I have Jim Vail's DVD of his 1970's 2 minute video of the Davenport Plant's Narrow Gauge Electric Railway (the only known video), I've wanted to see the Davenport plant for 30+ years and this is my(our) chance to see whatever replaced those trains. Layout tours should include many from San Jose to south of Santa Cruz, including many fine layouts I've seen and hopefully many I haven't seen, yet!

We've reserved 100 rooms at the Inn for \$95 a night, including Full Buffet Breakfast (NOT "Continental"): the UCSC Inn also houses students on the meal plan, and 4 years of their breakfasts was always fine by me.

Stop by our Registration table at the River City Express; we'll try to answer your questions. We eagerly welcome more volunteers for the Suntan Special, including clinics, layouts and prototype tours you want to share.

We are still looking for volunteers for Convention Secretary, Prototype Tours, Company Store, SIGs, and Facilities Planning. Come join our fun team!

Division Photo Contest By Pat LaTorres

In the March photo contest on "Model Photos", Mark Schutzer won First Place, Seth Neumann won Second Place, and John Sing won Third Place.

June's theme will be "Computer Enhanced Photos"

The Coast Division Photo Contest has started to grow again. Unfortunately we can still use more entrants. This is a popular vote contest, so don't worry about the photo being "Great Art", just try to stay with the subject heading for each meet.

All photos should be matted (inexpensive, reusable mattes can be had at most art supply stores) and should be between 5X7 and 11X14 in size. Hope to see your work soon.

Bring your photos early to get the early votes.

Coast Division Banquet by Bill Burket

This year Coast Division will have an annual banquet for a pleasant social get together on Saturday, September 30, 2006. I last remember attending one of these over 25 years ago when Bob Dupont was Superintendent. It's been way too long! The dinner will be held at Three Flames Restaurant at 1547 Meridian Avenue in San Jose. It is 5 minutes off the 280 Freeway Meridian Exit. We have capacity for 300 people, so there is plenty of room for you members and a guest. Happy hour will be from 6 to 7 PM with dinner at 7 PM. We will have our own no host bar available in the room featuring a variety of wine, mixed drinks and soda. You have a choice of three entrees: Three Flames Special Steak - topped with sauteed mushrooms, Breast of Chicken Saute - tender boneless breast in a white wine and mushroom sauce, or Salmon - grilled and topped with Tarragon-Chardonnay sauce. We will have special cake for the occasion served for dessert with the choice of coffee or hot tea. For your entertainment following dinner will be a surprise slide show and an informal model train contest. Details of the model contest will be announced at the June meet. To top it off there will be door prizes! The price is \$35 per person and tickets will go on sale starting at the June meet. Once you purchase your tickets there are no refunds. This is our only disclaimer. This is an opportunity for all those who attend and work on putting on our quarterly meets to take time out for nothing more than a social evening. There will be no head table or any speeches. Just come to have fun. Thanks and hope to see you there! So, mark the date of September 30th on your calendar. Oh, by the way, if you see this, Bob Dupont, we hope you can make it.

Your Banquet hosts, Doug Gross and Bill Burket

Auction Report By Bill Burket

Sorry, I missed the last meet but it is not easy for me to get off work at certain times. My helpers inform me that the last auction went well although it was low on items. Just over 400. Please remember that the 10% that goes to Coast Division from the sale of items is what supports your division and member services. We especially need to increase the brass section. Numbers 51 to 100 are reserved for the brass. When we have an auction that has a full 50 brass items I will look into providing a raffle just for the entrants. So, please support the brass section of the auction. Remember to clean out the closets, bring a friend with their dusty items and join in for a fun filled day. See you at the meet.

There are some important changes you should be aware of. See Bob Ferguson's article on the next page for details.

Bill Burket

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Auction Accounting by Bob Ferguson

At the Coast Division Board of Operations meeting, the subject of auction item security and sold item pickup was discussed at length. Several changes will be made as a result of problems encountered recently at the meets.

1. The 10 item limit will be enforced. This is not a limit on the number of items that can be entered into or purchased from the auction. It is the number of items you have committed to purchase and which are stacked together on the stage or tables behind the auctioneer. When you have reached 10 items purchased and not picked up, come forward to the auction cashier, pay for the items and remove them to a secure location of your choosing. Once you have paid for your purchases, the auction accounting committee and the Division are no longer responsible for their safety. If you do not come up and claim your items when the 10-item limit is reached, the auction will be stopped and you will be asked to settle your account. The auction will not resume until your transaction has been completed. This will include the members working on the auction committee. Avoid this by keeping track of how many items you have bid on and won and come settle up regularly. If you intend to pay by check and purchase a lot of items, bring several checks as we will not be "banking" your items for payment on a single check.

The checks tendered for payment are always made "Pay to the order of CASH" so that we can use them to pay the sellers. Even though you may have bought a lot of stuff, chances are that not all that stuff was entered by the same seller and we therefore need to have checks in amounts that can be used to pay multiple sellers. No check will be accepted for more than \$300. If your total bill is \$725, be prepared to write 3 checks when you pick up your items. Of course, cash is always an acceptable form of payment! You can avoid the hassle of checks by going to the bank on Saturday and withdrawing cash to bring to the auction in lieu of checks.

2. The area behind the auctioneer is not a lounge for non-working auction committee or "Officials". The space is limited and the entire length of the stage area is used to spread out the sold items until they are picked up. People who are just standing around in the area present a hazard to those who are handling the items, especially when picking up stacks of items to take up to the cashier. Please do not use this area to chat or lounge. Find a chair away from the working area and enjoy the auction.

3. At the end of the auction, the head tables will NOT be taken away until all of the purchased and no bid items have been picked up. All persons, except the auction accounting crew and runners, will be asked to immediately depart the area behind the tables and the end of the head table area which was previously open to the room will be closed off with the last auction items tables.

4. No one will be allowed to pick up his or her own items from the sold area. Even if you are on the Auction Committee, you will need to get in line with everyone else to claim your items. It will help to expedite the closing of the auction if all sellers would allow the buyers to come up first and purchase their items so that we can handle the sellers just once when they cash out. Perhaps the sellers could help the site host with the cleanup and table/chair stacking while the buyers are handling their transactions.

I know that these concerns and the associated measures sound a little draconian, but problems in the recent past have necessitated these changes. If we all work together and keep track of our purchase progress throughout the auction, these measures will be inconsequential to most of us. I would like to thank everyone in advance for their understanding and concurrence.

Timesaver Corner by Mark Schutzer

At the last meet we didn't have the usual level of activity in the switching contest. I suspect the great DCC roundtable discussions are to blame! We did have nine operators test there skills against the clock, three of which were first time participants.

Those who did participate had a lot of fun! Here are the results from the last meet:

Brake Person

First Place	Chip Morningstar	10:58
Second Place	Jaumar Davis	15:24
Third Place	Bob Moore	16:48

Both Jaumar and Bob were first time operators, Congratulations guys!

Senior Brake Person

First Place	Mark Schutzer	4:06
Second Place	Tom Crawford	5:42
Third Place	Alan Havens	6:50

We missed Bill Burket in the senior competition this time.

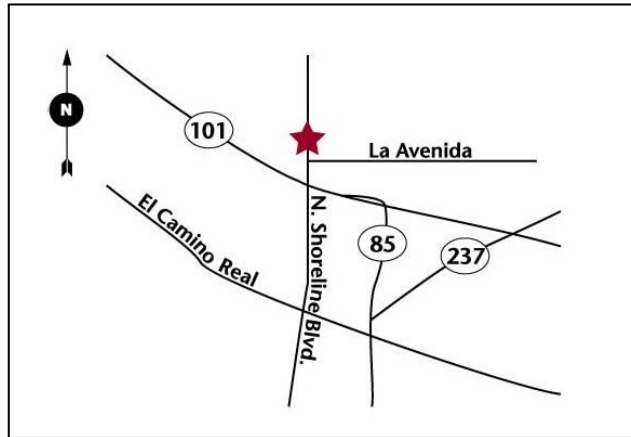
At the next meet the Timesaver will have a new piece of rolling stock. While I was in the Train Shop I ran across a B&O boxcar advertising the railroad's "Time-Saver Service".



What could be better for the Timesaver!

At the June meet please come back and try your hand at the switching contest. As Tom VanHorn says "It's a lot of fun and it's FREE!" Mark Schutzer

The next meet will be on June 4, 2006 at the
 Computer History Museum 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View
 Details are on Page 1. Here is the map.



From San Francisco: Take Highway 101 South. Exit Shoreline Blvd. At the light, turn left onto N. Shoreline Blvd. After going over the freeway and crossing through the light (La Avenida), take an immediate right into the first driveway. You are there: Entrance faces North Parking Lot.

From San Jose: Take Highway 101 North. Exit Shoreline Blvd. At the light, turn left onto N. Shoreline Blvd. Take an immediate right into the first driveway. You are there: Museum Entrance faces North Parking Lot.

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