



Coast Dispatcher September 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

September 10, 2006

Buchser Middle School, 1111 Bellomy St., Santa Clara, 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 Modeling the Lackawana in 1:32 scale - Kermit Paul
10:00 AM (2 hour) Timetables and Train Order Operations - Jim Providenza
11:00 AM Model Railroad 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

Activity details are on pages 4 through 8.

December 3, 2006

Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA

9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.
9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.
10:00 AM Building a John Armstrong Layout – Otis McGee and Jim Providenza
10:00 AM (2 hour) Layout Design SIG – Seth Neuman
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: Trains as Art

Model Contest: Favorite Model – Open Category

Allen Fenton Switching Contest

See Bill Burket's story on Page 7 about the banquet.

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Membership: (vacant)

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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>



Suntan Special Newsflash #3 by Steve Wesolowski, Publicity

Ever since my first Train Convention, 2001 A Train Odyssey in SLO, I've volunteered during or in advance at every one I attend. I volunteer because every time I meet new people and/or learn from other volunteers I already know, because we volunteered together. I also learn new skills because PCR Volunteers ALWAYS help other Volunteers succeed. So, Don't be afraid you'll be left to sink or swim alone: I've never been assigned any task that overwhelmed me. And, with more volunteers, the workload is less for all, so all Volunteers have more time to enjoy the convention too!

We still have some volunteer positions open for the Suntan Special and I want to encourage YOU to apply: Please feel free to contact me at swezz@comcast.net or Kevin Hurley at khurley@pcrnmra.org, if you have any questions. We welcome your help in helping make the Suntan Special more fun for everyone.

While visiting Garden layouts during the NGRC, I was looking for any near Santa Cruz which our PCR 2007 attendees would enjoy seeing in May. I mentioned this to Jim Vail when our bus visited Bob Brown's several Narrow Gauge Short Lines in different scales. Jim said he was doing the same while visiting garden layouts!

Jim said he is coordinating Layout Tours for the Suntan Special, and Jim's wonderful HO₃ layout will be one of those open!

I want to encourage anyone in Santa Cruz, Monterey or Santa Clara County with a home or club layout other modelers could enjoy visiting in May to contact myself or Kevin Hurley: we will pass your information on to Jim Vail.

Kevin and I are certain there are several wonderful layouts in or near Santa Cruz which have never been open. Here is why I'm convinced we are right: At the 2006 Sacramento PCR convention a couple younger local modelers asked if they could ride along with Mark Schutzer, Tom Van Horn, myself and some others on the first night of Layout Tours. PCR

2006 was their first convention and their first layout tours. After they saw how fun & informal layout tours are, after the last layout they invited us to see their HO layout. Of course, we said Let's Go. We were Totally Surprised.

Their layout ran around and between every room of the house except the bathroom, about a foot below the ceiling! It was over 50% complete, with scenery, most painted backgrounds, many structures and their trains just ran and ran quietly, while the rest of us kept picking our jaws off the floor! Because they had seen how easy an Open House could be that night, they printed up flyers with a map and opened their layout to tours the next evening! We told everyone to see their layout, and they had Big Fun running trains and many happy visitors.

Every layout I visit gives me new ideas: most have given me many ideas. I've seen some wonderful, interesting and humorous modeling. If you will have a train or trains running by May 2007, whatever your layout's scale, size or theme, I know others will enjoy your layout AND you & your layout may benefit from the exchange of ideas and perspectives with your visitors. So, please consider opening your layout for tours during the Suntan Special in Santa Cruz, May 2-6, 2007.

Our Convention Chairman, Kevin Hurley, always says how Family Friendly the Santa Cruz area is, with Monterey Bay, The Aquarium, Monterey, Carmel Santa Cruz; Point Lobos; Half Moon Bay and miles of coastline within an hour's drive of our Convention, and many more fun places to make new memories with your family nearby: Big Sur, Santa Cruz's Beach & Boardwalk, UCSC's Arboretum and Farm & Garden. See our website: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007/index.shtml>

Our housing is affordable for families: the UCSC Inn is \$89/night (plus tax), includes Full Breakfast: for a 3rd or 4th in your room (got Kids?) add \$10 each, which also includes the Full Breakfast! Such a deal....

Full Registration at \$105 includes Saturday's Banquet at Roaring Camp NG RR, including FOUR train rides-- to and from Roaring Camp to Santa Cruz's Boardwalk along the former SPC NG mainline AND Steam train rides up and down Bear Mountain before our banquet. We will raffle off cab rides for each train ride! Spouses/SOs and Youths (12-18) are \$70 for all of Saturday's events -- less than the rides & banquet would be if you booked them! For more info, visit Roaring Camp's website : <http://www.roaringcamp.com/>

Our Convention Car will be an HO GraniteRock Hopper. Proto Tours should include GraniteRock's Quarry, the Davenport Cement Plant, a food processing plant, and more. We will have many of PCR's quality Clinics, nice layouts in and near Santa Cruz to see, including Narrow Gauge ones I'll enjoy seeing again, plus others I've not seen.

We hope to see you there!

Steve Wesolowski, Suntan Special Publicity Chair, swezz@comcast.net

Division Model Contest by John Sing**Show and Tell / Model Contest - June 2006 Recap**

Thanks to everyone who came out to participate or view the June 2006 edition of the Coast Division Model Contest and Show and Tell! Check out the online photos from the June 2006 Coast Division Model Contest and Show and Tell Table at:

http://home.comcast.net/~atsf_arizona_2/Contest_Jun_2006.html

Show and Tell Table June 2006

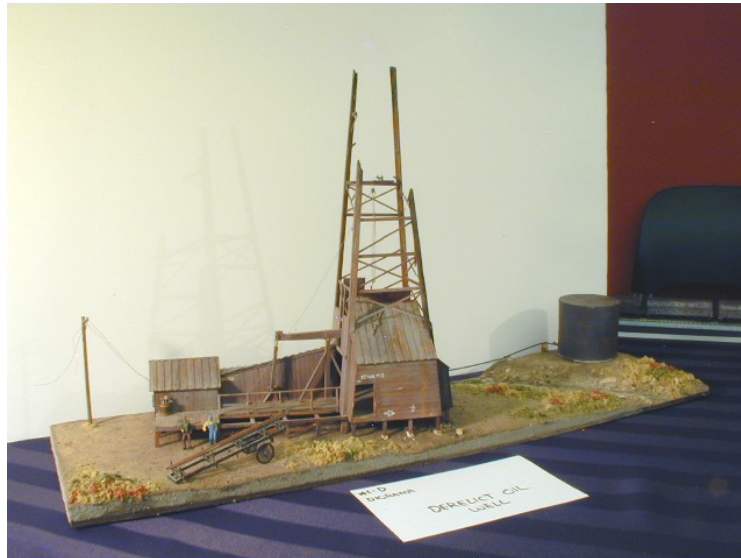
Thanks to those who brought models for the Show and Tell table. We had:

- Mike Blumensaadt: N scale SP steam-powered sugar-beet train
- Pat LaTorres: HO award-winning SP SD40T-2s
- Mark Schutzer: HO SP brass Mountain 4-8-2, and 0-6-0 #1278
- John Sing: N scale Santa Fe Freight F7s A-B-B-B-A

It was a great table. Let's keep up the Show and Tell! You're invited to bring one or several of your items of pride to the September 2006 meet to share with us; finished or work-in-progress are welcome. You're also welcome to bring for Show and Tell, a 'Poster' display, showing some favorite technique that you have developed and would like to share.

Model Contest Results June 2006

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

1st Place Diorama:

'Derelict Oil Derrick' - by Andrew Merriam, visiting us from San Luis Obispo

Division Model Contest (continued)**1st Place Structure:**

North Shore Skokie Valley Line - Sheridan Elms Station - by Alf Modine.
This model also received an Achievement Program Merit Award – congratulations, Alf!

2nd Place Structure: HOn3 Water Tank to Steve Wesolowski

1st Place Traction/Self Propelled:

D&RGW Motor Coach #592 - by Andrew Merriam

2nd Place Traction/Self Propelled: Pacific Electric Baggage/RPO - by Andrew Merriam

3d Place Traction/Self Propelled (tie): - Pacific Electric PCC #1601 - by George Freisleben

3d Place Traction/Self Propelled (tie): - SF Muni Mkt Street Railway #1722 - by George Freisleben

Thank you to *all* who participated in Model Contest and Show and Tell, and **Congratulations** to the awardees.

September 2006 Model Contest

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

- **Steam locomotive**
- **Diesel & other locomotive**
- **Passenger car**

Coast Division Model Contest results for September 2006 will be determined by Popular Vote. As always, we will have a Show and Tell table as well; any category is welcome for Show and Tell.

We also will continue our Coast Division service of photographing your models and supplying you with quality digital picture, as a part of your participation in either Show and Tell and/or Model Contest.

Note the following categories for upcoming Model Contests at future Coast Division meets:

September 30, 2006 Banquet:	"Cutest Train"
December 2006 Meet:	"Favorite Model" (open category)
March 2007 Meet:	Freight car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way

Optional: take advantage of NMRA Judging, available to you at any Coast Division Meet to any Model Contest participant. You can have an 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 and share with us for either Show and Tell or Model Contest!

We're looking forward to seeing you.

John Sing
Coast Division Model Contest Chair-flunky

Coast Division Banquet by Bill Burket

We are attempting to once again 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 too long! The dinner will be held at Three Flames Restaurant at 1547 Meridan Avenue in San Jose. It is 5 minutes off the 280 Freeway Meridan Exit. We have capacity for 300 people, so there is plenty of room for each member and guests. We encourage you to bring a spouse, friend, significant other or anyone else you would like to invite. 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 there will be a surprise slide show and an informal model train contest. It will be the "Cute Favorite Train Contest". So bring any cute train you want. It can be anything whether it was built by you or not. John Sing has agreed to run the contest and we will announce who the judges are to be at the banquet. To top it off there will be door prizes! The price is \$35 per person and tickets will be available at the September Meet or by contacting Bill Burket at 408-410-1999 or Doug Gross at 408-807-1226. 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 a social evening with other modelers and their friends and family. There is no head table and no speeches. Just come to have fun. Thanks and hope to see you there! So, mark the date of September 30th on your calendar.

Your Banquet hosts, Doug Gross and Bill Burket

Auction Report By Bill Burket

The last auction was low on items and short on air conditioning. The air conditioning problem at the Computer Museum will be addressed. We handled around 400 items once again. Please note that we do have a brass section with numbers 51 to 100 reserved for those items. It is your support of the auction that enables us to put on the quarterly meets and other activities such as the banquet planned for September 30th. We need your participation! Once again I would like to say that when we have an auction that has a full 50 brass items I will look into providing a raffle just for the entrants of brass. Remember to clean out the closets and free them of un-built kits. Bring a friend with all the dusty items and enjoy a fun filled day. See you at the Meet! Oh, there will be an estate being sold at the September and December meets that will include brass equipment. So, come, see, enjoy, and bid.

Timesaver Corner by Mark Schutzer

Here are the switching contest results from the June Meet:

In the six car Senior Brake Person category the winners were all the usual suspects,

Bill Burket 4:28 First Place
Tom Crawford 5:30 Second Place
Alan Havens 6:00 Third Place

In the five car Brake Person category we only had one official entry,

Steve Wesolowski 9:04 First place

Special congratulations go to Jim Radkey who graduated to Senior Brake Person with his all time best performance of 5 minutes and 4 seconds. Great Job Jim!

At the next meet please come over and give the switching contest a try, it's a lot of fun and it's free!

Division Photo Contest By Pat LaTorres

In the June photo contest on "Computer Enhanced Photos", Mark Schutzer won both First and Second Places and Steve Wesolowski won Third Place.

The subject matter for the September meet will be "Railroad Structures". This can be anything from Depots to tool sheds, from bridges to tunnel portals. If it's a permanent structure built by and for the railroad, I consider it to be fair game.

The subject for the December meet will be "Railroads as Art". These should be photos which accentuate the artistic rather than the literal nature of railroad subjects.

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.

Membership News By Bob Ferguson

Since last January, the NMRA has had the sole responsibility to send out renewal notices to all the NMRA members. Their renewal notice is the ONLY renewal notice you will receive; the PCR is NOT sending out renewal postcards anymore. When you get that NMRA renewal form, and if you want to be counted as a supporter of the PCR and receive the Branchline regularly, you MUST check the box for the PCR Subscription and include an extra \$6 along with the NMRA dues. Failure to do so will cause you to NOT receive the Branchline quarterly; only once per year in January.

The NMRA HQ is doing double duty right now running two concurrent membership software programs to ensure that the new programs, which will eventually be available to the Regions Membership Chairmen via the internet, have as many of the bugs worked out before committing to running just the new software. I know that many feel the HQ can't handle it, but let me assure you that the NMRA Office Manager, Jenny Hendricks, is spending a lot of her personal time, over and above her salaried time, to make sure it works before we switch.

The labels generated for mailing the Region and Division publications are generated locally from monthly data files sent by the HQ to all of the Regions. These data files are constantly being enhanced to customize them to the wants and needs of the Regions and Divisions. The HQ staff is working "overtime", figuratively and physically, to give us the best data possible. So before you bash the HQ staff, think about the extra mile they are going to give us the best possible support in the Regions and Divisions.

Remember, pay your PCR Subscription (pronounced 'dues') on the same form as your NMRA dues. All of those people who thought they were cutting a fat one by paying PCR dues but not NMRA dues have by now discovered that they are no longer receiving any mailings from our organization. On the flip side, we have been seeing former members of the PCR and its Divisions returning to participate once again with us. Welcome back!

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22nd National Garden Railway Convention
Santa Clara, CA
July 3-9, 2006

By Bob Ferguson

Have you ever wondered what it is that intrigues garden railroaders? You had a chance to find out last July and if you missed it...you missed having a lot of fun. Have you ever wondered why so many male model railroaders are into garden railroading? If you didn't come to Santa Clara...you'll never know. Well, OK, I'll tell you. Their wives come along and enjoy the convention as much as their husbands! That's because garden (female) railroading (male) is a couples adventure. Now there are the exceptions, but this is pretty much the norm.

As the registrar for the convention, I can tell you that we had 1,978 pretty happy attendees in Santa Clara. The convention started on Monday morning with self-guided layout tours (no buses on Monday). Monday evening was dedicated to getting acquainted with your friends you haven't seen for a year and planning out the rest of the week.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday had bus and self-guided tours every day for a total of 78 garden and a few smaller layouts to visit. The format of a garden railroad convention closely resembles a Narrow Gauge convention in that the layout tours happen during the day (for more obvious reasons-daylight for one). The evenings saw many wonderful clinics both on railroading and gardening—the two go hand in hand; just like their followers.

On Wednesday evening, there was a BBQ sponsored by USA Trains at Kelley Park. One of the trolleys was out a running for our entertainment along with a country band and 386 attendees enjoyed a Firefighter's BBQ dinner. USA Trains gave away many very valuable and desired door prizes. Thursday evening was the Ice Cream Social where 555 attendees enjoyed that San Francisco favorite; Its-It Ice Cream Sandwiches. Also in attendance was Adolph Sutro, the mayor of San Francisco, to give a speech to the assembled masses. Friday evening, events were held in the Exhibit Hall for all of the attendees to participate in. Saturday evening was the Gala Banquet with a wonderful dinner served to 402 along with recognitions, awards and a great presentation by Jack Burgess on the Yosemite Valley Railroad.

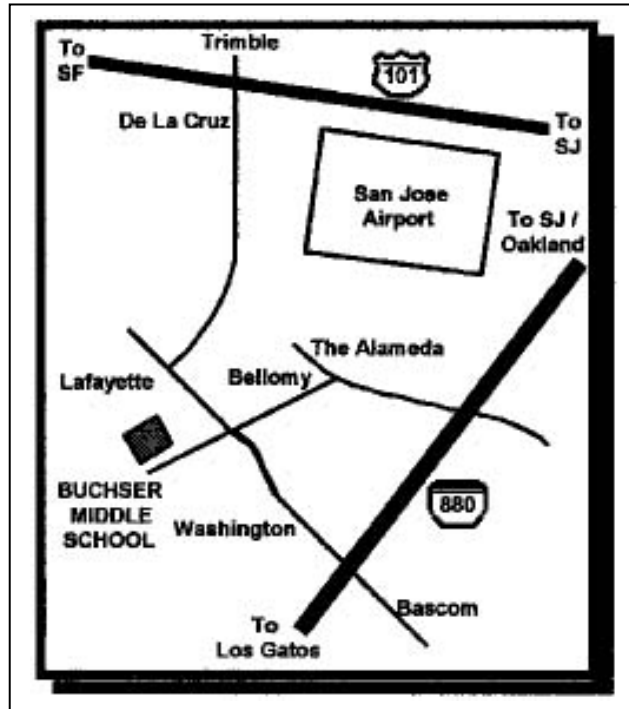
An Exhibitor Hall/Trade/Train Show was also held using 50,000 sq ft of the Santa Clara Convention Center. This Exhibit Hall was open to the attendees on Thursday and Friday evenings and the general public on Saturday and Sunday. Many fine vendor and manufacturer exhibits were on hand and I personally saw a lot of merchandise being carried out of the hall by smiling faces. I know a part of your Coast Division auction crew came away with 3 SD70mac's!

As you may or may not be aware, this convention was held concurrent with the NMRA convention purely by coincidence. The NMRA Philadelphia convention was also a success and I hope that someone who attended that convention does a similar report. Unfortunately, I was unable to stay at Philadelphia after the NMRA Board Meeting as I was the Registrar for the Garden Convention, a position I committed to prior to my election as the RAC Director for the NMRA. The next Garden Railway Convention will be hosted in Las Vegas next year and I would suggest that you consider attending one even if you've not yet made the decision to move up in size to the garden scales.

Many of your fellow Coast Division members were involved in making this convention a successful happening. Those that I recall are Dave Connery-Chairman (a yeomans job too), Jack Verducci- asst chairman (and he received his MMR at the banquet), Bill Swindell, Dave Benjamson as Registration Assistants, Kermit Paul-Clinics, Steve Wesolowski-ombudsman.

The next meet will be on September 10, 2006 at the
Buscher Middle School 1111 Bellomy St., Santa Clara, CA

Details are on Page 1. Here is the map.



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