



## Coast Dispatcher December 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**

**December 3, 2006**

**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 .....Building a John Armstrong Layout by Otis McGee  
 10:00 AM .....Phone Systems for Operations by Seth Neumann  
 11:00 AM .....Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Jerry Littlefield  
 12 Noon .....Business Meeting  
 1:00 PM .....Auction starts, Roundtable continues  
 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  
 Activity details are on pages 4 through 8.**

**March 4, 2007**

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

9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.  
 9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.  
 10:00 AM .....TBD  
 10:00 AM .....TBD  
 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 In Action  
 Model Contest: Caboose, Freight Cars, Maintenance of Way  
 Allen Fenton Switching Contest**

**Read The Suntan Special article on page 4 about first time participant discounts**

Coast Call Board

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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>

Your intrepid editor is playing around some more. This time I'm using MS Publisher for the first time, and trying to make it more like news instead of just a bunch of reports.

Comments welcome. Be gentle.

## ***Super Notes***

To: Coast Division Membership  
From: John Marshall  
Subject: Division status as of 10/08/06

The June meet was a lot of fun for all that attended. We had a few new faces join our ranks. And, as always, the participation was active. I sincerely hope that you all enjoyed the clinics. Response to the Model Railroader Roundtable has been so great that Jerry Littlefield has offered to host afternoon sessions of the Roundtable for all who wish to attend. These afternoon sessions will start after the regular business meeting. Jerry has worked hard to keep these sessions lively and interesting and you have showed your appreciation by your attendance. The model contests were well populated though we would really like to see more of you participate. John Sing is doing a great job chairing this activity and I really appreciate the enthusiasm that he has brought to the post. I don't want to forget to mention all the activity that we saw back in the Time Saver contest corner either. Mark, you are doing a super job with that and I know that everyone who participates has a really fun time doing it.

Over the course of the past 2 or 3 meets, we have increased the number of Hobby Shop gift certificates that have been given as prizes. The June meet offered a bonanza of certificates. I would like to get some feedback from the winners of those certificates about their experiences at the hobby shops who provided them. Did you find things of interest? Were the hobby shops well stocked? What was the store's attitude when you presented your certificate?

This is your chance to be the Coast Division's mystery shopper. Tell us what your experience was like. It will help us to select and support those hobby shops that offer the widest range of products and best service. Your after meet experience should be fun too.

At the September meet we were all saddened to learn that three of our members are no longer with us. Each of us has our own individual belief patterns and views of life. I personally don't feel that I should impose mine on any of you. I only want to leave you with a couple of thoughts that I had when I learned of the passing of these three men. First, "I will remember them, because when someone stays in your memories, they stay in your heart as well and that keeps their spirit alive." and second, "I will keep in contact with those that I share an interest with, whether it be in my hobby or in other areas of my life." It seems that as we become more technology orientated, we have forgotten the personal side of relationships, friends drift away, our lives become more complex and hectic. We should make every effort to stay in touch with those that we share so much interest with.

John Marshall

**PCR 2007 Suntan Special Noozflash #4  
Steve Wesolowski, Publicity Hounddawg**

**Why PCR 2007 Should be Your First/Next PCR Convention: a \$30 Discount!**

Mainly to encourage those who have NEVER attended a PCR Convention (or missed '04-6 in Napa, Concord & Sacramento), we offer PCR members who qualify a First Timer/Returnee \$30 discount, lowering the \$115 Full Registration to \$85. Of course, PCR 2007 volunteers want All other PCR members to Register and come if they can, but we especially wanted to encourage New or Recent PCR members (and those who haven't come recently) to attend the 2007 Suntan Special in Santa Cruz, May 2-6 2007 at The UCSC Inn. The discount applies whether you register by mail or online at: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007/index.shtml>

Why? While planning PCR 2007, we agreed newer PCR members and those who haven't attended a PCR convention recently aren't really enjoying the full benefits of PCR/NMRA membership. We agreed for many reasons, and I'll share mine with you.

I've been a PCR/NMRA member since Fall 2000 after leaving PCR/NMRA & Model Railroading as a teen in 1968. Seeing the 2000 San Jose NMRA Train Show revived my interest and I rejoined PCR/NMRA at the Pleasanton GATS. After two Coast meets, I finally registered for PCR'01 in SLO. I arrived late Friday not knowing what to expect, only signed up for a Saturday Pacific Coast Railway (narrow gauge) bus tour by Karl Hovanitz. Karl's tour was more fun than I ever imagined! I returned totally energized after spending my first few hours ever with other railfans; several shared their greater knowledge and excitement with me while Karl drove the former rail route, showed us restored boxcars, and concluded with an surprise visit to a fully steamed up locomotive! Several PCR members I met at SLO welcomed me warmly; the LCHOn30 modular group shared module building techniques and Narrow Gauge knowledge & pretty quickly became my best resources for enjoying NG HO modeling more fully. Several modelers I met became friends; some are now very close friends. I've made new friends during tours, clinics, contests; everywhere during conventions. Although modelers are diverse in every respect, conventions exist to encourage and facilitate sharing interests, skills & knowledge about trains. Meeting those with common interests at PCR conventions (and NMRA Seattle), my model & proto railroading knowledge and skills have grown more than from all the magazines, books & videos I've consumed.

The knowledge transfers conventions facilitate is why I attend. The growth continues afterwards: most PCR attendees live close enough to get together/call/email to help solve shared and individual modeling challenges. I also run into many PCR Convention attendees at shops, meets and elsewhere, but more growth usually occurs at PCR Conventions because that is why many attend.

I also think the more who attend the more chances we all have of learning something new from each other. Although life's other challenges sometimes prevent each of us from attending, I hope you will join us in Santa Cruz. Especially if Santa Cruz is your first convention, find me and let me know: perhaps I can introduce you to another PCR member with one or more similar interests.

I've already written how Family Friendly Santa Cruz citing some of Monterey Bay Area's many fun places to enjoy within an hour drive of the UCSC Inn. Housing is reasonable at \$89/night (plus tax) for two including FULL Breakfast. Registration is a Bargain because it includes all convention hotel events like clinics plus Saturday's Four Train Rides to/from Roaring Camp and from/to Santa Cruz's Boardwalk and the steam train rides up/down Bear Mountain plus the banquet at Roaring Camp. Spouse/SO or Youth 12-18 registration costs \$70, including all Saturday events. Prototype bus tours and convention store items cost additional. Our Convention Car is an HO GraniteRock Hopper, which can should be preordered at \$60 for 5 or \$15 each. Tours planned include GraniteRock's Quarry, the Davenport Cement Plant, a food processing plant.

I know we will enjoy some new PCR High Quality clinics offered, including Building a Live Steam Locomotive and Scratchbuilding Rolling Stock in 2.5" scale, plus other clinics we may have missed before may be revised and/or offered again. Layout tours of new, revised, and finished layouts of various scales & gauges are being scheduled for our enjoyment, including many I enjoy seeing again & others I've never seen. I should have more details in my next Dispatcher report.

Again, if you've not attended a PCR Convention before or one lately, Register for \$30 less and attend the Suntan Special. The least I expect attendees will receive in return for registering is FOUR real train rides AND a meal with fellow train lovers. More likely your life will be enriched by years of even more train fun if you meet just one new friend who shares your love for trains.

And if have some free time before/during the convention and want to increase your convention fun, consider volunteering.

Email me at [swezz@comcast.net](mailto:swezz@comcast.net) or Kevin Hurley at [khurley@pcrnrmra.org](mailto:khurley@pcrnrmra.org), if you have questions/are interested. See you there!



**PCR/NMRA**  
**SUNTAN SPECIAL**  
 2007 Convention  
 University Inn & Conference Center  
 May 2-6 2007

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:  
 SUNTAN SPECIAL  
 4337 La Cosa Ave  
 Fremont, Ca 94536  
 E-mail [Crawford.Tom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Crawford.Tom@sbcglobal.net)

Hosted by: Coast Division, Pacific Coast Regions, National Model Railroad Association

**Registration Form**

To place credit card order go to our website <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007/>

Please Print

Last Name		First Name		First Name (for Name Badge)		
Address		City		State	Zip Code	
Home Phone	E-mail Address			NMRA # (Membership Required)		
Registration Type (Please check one)			NMRA Region (if other than PCR)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Non Rail <input type="checkbox"/> Youth						
Primary Scales and Interests (Check all that apply)		<input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> Other:				
<b>ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT(S) LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form for more than 1)</b>						
Last Name		First Name		First Name (for Name Badge)		
Registration Type (Please check one)			<input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Youth			
<b>All Fares include:</b> Seminars, & on Saturday a train ride from Santa Cruz to Roaring Camp & steam train ride to summit of Bear Mountain and back, a banquet at Roaring Camp & train ride back to Santa Cruz						
<b>FARES: Please fill in and total</b>				<b>QTY</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
Early Registration prior to January 31, 2007					105.00	
Full Registration after January 31, 2007					115.00	
First Timer Registration (not registered for past 3 conventions)					85.00	
Non NMRA member must join the NMRA, 6 month Rail Pass					9.95	
Spouse Registration or Youth Registration (12-18 years or student)					70.00	
Ball Cap with Logo – one size fits all					15.00	
Pocket T-Shirt with Logo <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL					18.00	
Pocket T-Shirt with Logo <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL					21.00	
Shirts - Polo w/ Pocket and Logo (Check Size) <input type="checkbox"/> XS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL					25.00	
Shirts - Polo w/ Pocket and Logo (Check Size) <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL					28.00	
Shirts - Polo w/ Striped trim (Check Size) <input type="checkbox"/> XS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL					32.00	
Shirts - Polo w/ Striped trim (Check Size) <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL					35.00	
Convention Car – Granite Rock Hopper Car (HO Only)					15.00	
Set of 5 Convention Cars – Granite Rock Hopper Car (HO Only)					60.00	
Payment by <input type="checkbox"/> Check** <input type="checkbox"/> Cash                      [Use website for credit card]				<b>TOTAL:</b>		

\*\* Make Checks Payable to: "PCR Convention 2007"

**UNIVERSITY INN & CONFERENCE CENTER**

611 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz 95060 (831)-426-7100

[HTTP://UCSCINN.COM](http://ucscinn.com)

Use Rate Code PCR

Room rates (includes full breakfast)

Single \$89.00

Double \$89.00

Triple \$99.00

Quad \$109.00

Convention Website: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007>

Convention Questions - E-mail [questions@pcrnmra.org](mailto:questions@pcrnmra.org)

<b>Committee Use</b>



### Coast Division Banquet Report

On September 30, Coast Division returned to an activity that had not occurred in many years.

Doug Gross and Bill Burket organized the revived Annual Coast Division Banquet at the Three Flames Restaurant in San Jose. The 22 intrepid railfans who showed up had, quite frankly, a blast.

John Sing organized the model contest for the "cutest model" and Nicholas Briscoe won the \$25 gift certificate for first prize with his "Lego GP30." (Yes, it really was made out of legos and it looked really good. See the picture below.)



There were four door prizes (which I forgot to itemize, but included an HO Triple Head dome car – guess who won that.)

Bill Burkett showed a set of "Dad and Joe" slides, which were pictures which he and his son Joe took on many railfanning adventures. Many of these had the advantage of the actual engineer's perspective and had pictures that many of us pedestrian railfans would never get to take.

All agreed that the night was a winner, and we vowed to do it again next year.

#### Division Photo Contest By Pat LaTorres

For those wondering what The title "Trains As Art" for the next Coast Division meet photo contest means, I'll give some guidelines. The idea is to take a railroad subject out of the literal and a bit into the abstract; a shot of a steam locomotive's eccentric rod that treats it as a study of shape and form, rather than a part of a steam locomotive; the often used shot directly down onto a pair of couplers that may emphasize the "holding hands" effect, rather than looking at them just as a pair of couplers; a shot of a yard ladder which is of such high contrast that one sees the shape of the ladder, rather than seeing it as part of a rail yard. These are just some ideas and I'm hoping that some others will come up at the meet. I know of at least three folks that are planning to enter, I hope to see several more beyond these.

## Show and Tell / Model Contest - September 2006 Recap

Thanks to everyone who came out to participate or view the September 2006 Coast Division Model Contest and Show and Tell.

We have newly updated Model Contest / Show and Tell web pages now up on the PCR website:

<http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest.shtml>

Check out all the online photographs, all the past one year's worth of Coast Division Model Contest and Show and Tell Table, including September 2006. See who is doing what, especially in the Show and Tell section. Thanks again to all who participated.

### Show and Tell Table September 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  
 George Freisleben: HO SF Muni and Pacific Electric streetcars  
 Manuel Noriega: work in progress 1/2" scale flatcar  
 John Sing: N scale Santa Fe nine-unit diesel freight lashup

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 December 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 September 2006

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

1st Place  
 Steam  
 Locomotive:

'Johnston and  
 Rheinstra Heisler #1'

by Pat LaTorres



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Steam Locomotive:**

**Southern Pacific  
0-8-0 #4503'  
by Mark Schutzer**



**1st Place  
Diesel Locomotive:**

**Work in Progress-  
Gulf Mobile & Ohio Ingalls  
Diesel #1900  
by Tom Vanden Bosch**



See more about this unique prototype at.

[http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest/contest\\_sep\\_2006\\_ingalls\\_diesel\\_info.shtml](http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest/contest_sep_2006_ingalls_diesel_info.shtml)

**1st Place Passenger Car:**

**Colorado Midland chair  
car #112  
by Tom Vanden Bosch**





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

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## Model Contest Categories for Upcoming Meets

Coast Division Model Contest categories are rotated throughout the year as shown below.

Therefore, for December 2006, the category is: **Favorite Model(s) (any category)**. Bring your favorites so share! Remember, it's really about participating and sharing. And we all love to see your pride and joys.

December: "Favorite Model" (open category)

March: Freight car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way

June: Structure, Display/Diorama, Self-propelled Cars & Traction

Sept: Steam locomotives, Diesel / other locomotives, Passenger Car

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

Arrive and enter early to get more votes!

## Show and Tell Table

As always, we will have a Show and Tell table at every meet; any category is welcome for Show and Tell at any meet. We love to see what you would like bring and share with us. Show and Tell can be anything: models, works in progress, interesting photos from a recent railfanning trip, layout visit, or convention..... be creative and we'd love to see you.

## Photography of your models

We also will continue our Coast Division service of photographing (with your permission) your models and supplying you with quality digital picture, as a part of your participation in either Show and Tell and/or Model Contest. As you can see from the new web site updates above, (with your permission) your participation and photo of your model will be placed on the quarterly Model Contest / Show and Tell web site.

**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.

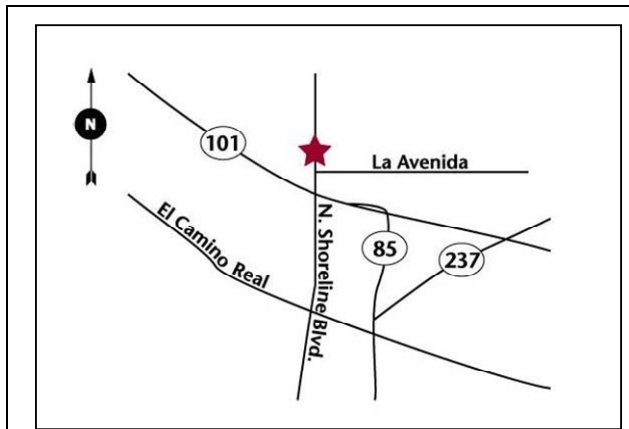
So, bring your models and share with us for either Show and Tell or Model Contest!

We're looking forward to seeing you.

**John Sing**

**Coast Division Model Contest Chair-flunky**

The next meet will be on December 3, 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

**Coast Dispatcher**  
4337 La Cosa Ave