



## Coast Dispatcher June 2007

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 3, 2007**

**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 ..... Extended Show and Tell Session (2 hours)  
 11:00 AM ..... Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Jerry Littlefield  
 12 Noon ..... Business Meeting  
 1:00 PM ..... Auction starts, Roundtable continues  
 1:30 PM ..... Model/Photo Contest Results – afterward Auction continues  
 3:30 PM ..... Timesaver Results, Raffle –afterward Auction continues if required

**9:30 AM – 1:15 PM:**

**Photo Contest: Model Railroad Photos**

**Model Contest: Structure, Display/Diorama, Self Propelled Cars & Traction**

**Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)**

**September 9, 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 ..... Clinic TBD  
 11:00 AM ..... Clinic TBD  
 11:00 AM ..... Model Railroad Roundtable hosted by Jerry Littlefield  
 12 Noon ..... Business Meeting  
 1:00 PM ..... Auction starts  
 1:30 PM ..... Model/Photo Contest Results – afterward Auction continues  
 3:30 PM ..... Timesaver results, Raffle –afterward Auction continues if required

**9:30 AM – 1:15 PM:**

**Photo Contest: Working on the Railroad**

**Model Contest: Steam locomotives, Diesel / other locomotives, Passenger Cars**

**Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15 PM)**

**Read the Superintendent's report on page 3 for a discussion of the June Extended Show and Tell**

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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>

The E-Dispatcher also has more information than we could fit in this 10 page format. Things included are bigger pictures, the map and report on where the Coast Members live, and more complete Registrar's and Photo Contest reports.

If you would like to get the E-Dispatcher, go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) and then select Groups in the left column, and type in "Coast\_Dispatcher" in the search box.

## ***Super Notes***

**To:** Coast Division Membership  
**From:** John Marshall  
**Subject:** Division comments for the second quarter of 2007

First, let me thank each and every one of you for allowing me to continue to serve you as Superintendent for another two years. I have had a grand time working in the position over the last term of office, learned a lot and gotten to know the people in the Coast Division better than ever before. I thank you all for that privilege.

Again, we apologize for having to reschedule the March meet to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Some things in life have a way of getting in the way of our established routine of doing things. Fortunately in this case both the first and second weekends of March were railroad related events. The March meet was successful even if it was late. We had a fantastic auction with lots of really neat stuff being offered and loads of bargains too. The clinics were well attended and I sincerely hope that each and every one of you that attended had a good time. That is what this hobby is all about, having fun doing something interesting.

Now some of you may be concerned that we don't have any clinics posted for the June meet. Yes, that is true in a sense. We don't have any "formal" clinics on the schedule. We are always looking for interesting things or ways to do things to improve the meets. That is why we are having the "Show and Tell" event in June. These are nothing new to the hobby. They are used in other divisions and regions and at national conventions as well. Think of them as having 10 or 20 mini clinics available for you to attend.

Now, who should consider having a "Show and Tell" table at the June meet? Ok, here are my thoughts on that. "Is there one aspect of the hobby that really interests you?" , "Do you collect something unique?" , "Do you model a specific prototype?" , "Is your club looking for new members?" "Is your special interest group (SIG) looking for new members?" All of these are candidates for a table at the June meet. The biggest asset that the NMRA has is its members and the accumulated knowledge that those members have. We are blessed by the fact that so many of our members also feel an obligation to share that with their fellow members.

Each of us is an overflowing jar of knowledge about some aspect of the hobby that interests us. What is your favorite Railroad and why? What is your favorite type of rolling stock, passenger train, structure? Those are all good topics. Do you love to chase trains, take photos of trains, collect buttons, switch locks, lanterns or even RR related postage stamps? Have you found some interesting things that help you make scenery? Have you found some unique source for unusual tools that help you in your modeling? Those are all good topics. This is your chance to tell your fellow modelers about it. Chances are, you will find others who share your interest. Here us your opportunity to have the floor.

If you are interested in participating, please let either Tom Crawford or me know by e-mail or by phone and we will reserve you a table and have a sign for your topic. Our contact information is listed in this copy of the Dispatcher.

We will have the Model Railroaders Roundtable. Jerry tells me we had a good turnout at the 'second section' edition at the December meet so he has agreed to continue hosting both morning and afternoon sessions for us to get involved.

And of course we will have the auction and the raffle drawings, the switching contest and all the other fun things that our meets encompass.

I plan on being there and I sure hope you will too.

John Marshall



## Suntan Special: -- Bring Someone

### By Steve Wesolowski, PCR 2007 Publicity

Hi again!

I know. I almost hear groans of "Oh NO, not MORE Suntan Special Publicity by Steve!" When you read this, PCR 2007 should be nearly here, or over. So, I'm changing my tune, But Not Quite Yet. If PCR 2007 hasn't begun & you aren't Registered, I hope you do, at: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007/index.shtml> or at the convention. If the Suntan Special IS over, I hope you enjoyed it, too. One Thing Is Certain: this is the last you'll read about PCR 2007 from me. Please: No loud cheering; your neighbors need their sleep. I'm not giving a Nixon (who?) "You won't have me to Kick around any more!" speech, just Thanks for reading (if you did) and maybe some time you'll agree to do PCR Convention Publicity. I can honestly recommend it as mostly fun, ask me sometime and I'll tell you more. I saw it as my chance to be like Herb Caen (who?), creating columns out of nothingness. I think it was so easy for me because if there's something I really know, it is nothing. Ask ANYONE who knows me. I'm sure they'll agree: I know nothing. And I write about nothing pretty well and at length. I'm sure many of you are equally qualified, so Just Do It!

Because as usual I was thinking about nothing in particular, I got to thinking about my role as PCR Coast Division Publicity Person (I think of me as "Grand Poo-Bah For Distributing the Real Poop". No fake DooDoo.)

Anyway I digress as usual...Here's my job as I see it: Every 3 months I cut/paste a flyer together of when, where & what is the next Coast meet about. I take copies to local hobby shops & email a PDF Flier file to other Coast volunteers (Thanks!) who print & take copies to places model train lovers go near them, including clubs.

When I learn a local train event is coming, I ask on the PCR List for Volunteers to help populate the Coast/PCR/NMRA recruiting tables during the events, like GTE shows (& GATS before them). Some of us get to the event before it opens and set up the Coast Division PCR/NMRA banner and the Timesaver, give away old train magazines, helpful handouts, and Coast Division fliers. We try to help anyone who stops by and asks questions. I see our role as mainly trying to help both new & returning modelers & parents learn about helpful clubs, dealers and other resources near where they live that can help them more. While being helpful sometimes we also get to re-educate an occasional kid or 'adult' playing rough with the Timesaver by teaching them gently but firmly having Kadee couplers couple & uncouple as designed can be loads more fun than any method which involves moving the loco or the cars directly with your hands. Such fun. Come join us sometime!

I asked myself why do we have Publicity for the Coast Region? I feel the real reason is to invite others to join us, in the hope we all will enjoy our common interest in trains more that we enjoy it without them. By sharing our knowledge with each other and teaching each other skills, we all learn how to do more & enjoy more about trains and modeling and we may also have lots more fun doing so. The reason for Publicity is to attract others to come share their interest in trains with the rest of us in good company, by attending Division Meets, Regional and National Conventions, and even Train Shows. Publicity is not anything else than different ways of asking others to try joining us to see if we enjoy trains more together with them than by ourselves. It is Very Simple.

But the most elusive thing about most Publicity is never knowing if anything I do to try to attract new people to come see if they enjoy our gatherings succeeds in even attracting one person. I just don't know; there is almost no feedback. BUT, I do know if/when any one of us invites and then brings someone to a meeting, that worked! At least for one person for one meeting. And, If they enjoy it, they may come back. Their decision, not ours.

I know that like most of what I write, I am writing nothing new here: I'm pretty certain it has all been tried before. I just want to suggest each of us try putting ourselves out just a little bit by talking to a friend, or an interesting or pleasant stranger you may meet in a train store, and invite them to the next Coast Meet. I think there is no more powerful form of invitation than a personal one. It is hard walking into a room of total strangers for many of us. Offer to pick them up & give them a ride & to introduce them to some of your friends at the meet You think they may enjoy. Remember, we all share with this new person as a minimum some common interest in trains. Maybe they will come back again, or maybe they won't. But they won't know what they are missing unless they try coming once. You could even invite someone you know who thinks NMRA isn't worth it. Perhaps after they come and maybe have some fun, they will change their mind. Try it. Please think about it. Some stranger you invite may bring a wealth of new skills and ideas, but we may never know until and unless you invite them.

Until next time, Happy Rails to You! Steve Wesolowski

## Next Coast Division Banquet— Initial Planning

Last September a bunch of us attended the revived annual Coast Division Banquet, which Doug Gross and Bill Burket organized at the Three Flames Restaurant in San Jose. We had, quite frankly, a blast. We had a lot of fun talking not in the context of a Division meet, and involving our spouses, meeting those people we had only heard about before. There were good door prizes, and an excellent slide presentation.

So we are going to do it again. This time we thought we would wait until after the holiday season dust has settled. So, we are planning the next one for January or early February 2008.

Doug and Bill will probably organize it, but we would like feedback and input about the location or anyone who would like to give a talk or presentation—possibly from a railfanning trip? Bring out those pictures from the Feather River Canyon or something. If you have some ideas, or would like to present something, contact Bill Burket or Doug Gross. (or as a last resort, your intrepid editor)

## Membership Locations

Right now all of the Coast Division Meets are held in the South Bay (Mountain View and Santa Clara). It turns out that the geographic center of our division is West of Fremont in the middle of the Bay. See the E-Dispatcher for a map and more details.

We think there should be one meeting to the south of this line, and one to the north. Therefore we are looking for some northern sites. What we are hunting for is someone who lives in these areas and is familiar with possible sites and can help us find a suitable location or two. If you fit into this category and are willing to help, please contact our superintendent, John Marshall at 925-461-0206 or email him at [ntrak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ntrak@sbcglobal.net)

## Registrar's Report By John Ameling

At the March meet we had 92 attendees: 81 from Coast Division, 6 from Redwood Division, 1 from Sierra Division, 1 from Daylight Division,

and 1 from Other (I never heard of it either). There was 1 guest. This was down from the typical 110 we have had recently.

We had 12 door prizes and 7 raffle prizes. The raffle prizes included \$225 in gift certificates, and the book "Napa Valley Route". The raffle income was only \$1.26 per person, as opposed to a more typical \$1.50.

We will be looking at alternatives to increase our prize options.

## Elections

At the March Meeting we elected the Superintendent, Chief Clerk, and Treasurer.

Dave Connery was sick, so Rod Smith took off his bridge structure reporting hat and put on his alternate ego as Dave's nominating committee backup. The nominations for officers from the committee were:

Superintendent – John Marshall

Chief Clerk – Tom Crawford

Treasurer – Bob Ferguson

A request for nomination from the floor was met with a deafening silence, and the railroad job was completed by Pat LaTorres moving that the slate be approved unanimously. Jerry Wilson seconded this blasphemy and it was approved before any dissidents could interject.

## Auction Report By Bill Burket

The March meet brought out a little over 500 items of which 34 were brass. This was a very good showing. I am hoping for just as good or better turn out of items for the June meet.

Also, I brought a guest who attended for the first time. If all of us could come up with one guest it would double the attendance. I don't think this is impossible, rather something that takes a little effort. You never know what you may find.

At the December meet I bought two books that I had been looking for for over ten years! I usually don't get the word on estate items until after the Dispatcher goes to print. So bring a guest, come for model railroad fellowship and a good time. See you at the June meet!

## Transition Committee Report By Tom Crawford

Last year Bill Burket came to the Board of Directors meeting and said that he needed to prepare someone to take over the auction, since he has been on the committee for closing in on 40 years and he wants to retire from it. As we discussed it, we came to the conclusion that we really didn't have a transition plan for when people leave their jobs for any reason. In Bill's case, we have time, but we realized that we need to be able to consider all possibilities. What happens if you intrepid editor gets run over by a train tomorrow and no one knows what to do.

An even worse situation would occur if someone like Bill Swindell, who is responsible for our auction software, would get hit by this proverbial train. (or more likely get killed in a car accident) How about our Treasurer, who is the only one who has access to our money?

You get the picture.

This was really brought home when we heard that Bill Swindell and Bob Ferguson were not going to be ay the June meet due to other commitments. We panicked. It turns out that the situation changed, but this really brought home the point that this hypothetical train had many faces, and the threat was very real.

So the Transition Committee was formed. It consists of Tom Crawford, John Sing, and John Ameling.

Our task is to make sure that each position in this division is documented and the information and tools are available for us to recover after the loss of anyone in a leadership position in the division, with no warning.

This committee has documented 5 positions so far, and at the March meet we started working on documenting the Auction Accounting functions. This also involves training people to take over the tasks done by the auction accounting committee members. If we do it right, we can even have people give these very hard workers a break every once in a while. I did a stint doing Bob's job at the last meet, and it is REAL easy to make a mistake which can cost us significantly. Making sure someone else

can fill in doing the job accurately very quickly during the rapid fire operation of the auction, is mission critical.

We will keep you posted on our progress.

## Show and Tell / Model Contest – March 2007 Recap

The March 2007 Coast Division Model Contest and Show and Tell very entertaining entries as always. See these models online at the updated Model Contest / Show and Tell / Photo Contest web pages on the Coast Division PCR website at:

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

Thanks to \*all\* who participated, you put on a great Holiday show and inspired all of us.

## Model Contest March 2007

**By Popular Vote, the awards were:**

**First Place Caboose:** Andrew Merriam, from San Luis Obispo for HO Southern Pacific #998 Wartime Passenger car used as Caboose



**First Place Freight Car:** Jim Eckman, for On30 A&MR Boxcar #27



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**Second Place Freight Car:** Andrew Merriam, for HO Southern Pacific Hoppers #480117 and #480123



**Maintenance of Way First Place:** Andrew Merriam, for HO Southern Pacific Plus Loader/Ditcher and Side Dump car



**Maintenance of Way Second Place:** Jim Eckman, for On30 On30 A&MR Ballast Spreader



Thank You to \*all\* that entered a model, you put on a great show and inspired the rest of us. We hope you enjoyed our admiration of your work.

Here is a picture of our March 2007 Coast Division Model Contest table:



In the end, NMRA contests are not about winning, rather, they are about the fun of

participating to share your pride and joy in modeling, and having fun self-inspiring yourself. We all love love to see your pride and joys, and hope to see you in a future edition of the Coast Division Model Contest.

Thank you to Steve Wesolowski for standing in as Model Contest/Show and Tell Chair for John Sing, who was out of town on business. Steve was ably assisted by Mark Schutzer (photos) and Pat LaTorres (vote counting).

## Show and Tell March 2007

Thank You to all who participated in our Show and Tell for March 2007. We really appreciate bringing your works of art to share with us all.

1) We had a wonderful model of a Southern Pacific Railfan Car (fully populated with scale people), by Bill Dwyer of Alameda, CA. This "Open Tourist Car" was used by SP between Eugene, OR and Dunsmuir, CA. Unfortunately, we missed getting a photo of it. Bill, please contact John Sing <mailto:singj@us.ibm.com> if have a photo of your entry that we can post, we thank you very much and would love to recognize you for your participation.

2) Ken Lunders' latest kit wonder from Stevens Creek Models <http://www.hon3.com/> "New England Potato House":



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Thanks again to all who participated, and we look forward to seeing to upcoming Meets to see what you may want to share with us. Any category is always welcome for Show and Tell, works in progress are welcome.

Let's keep up the Show and Tell! You're invited to bring one or several of your items of pride to the June 2007 meet to share with us; finished or works-in-progress are welcome. For Show and Tell, we always have it open to any category.

Note that we have our special Extended Show and Tell session scheduled for the June 2007 Coast Division Meet. See the Superintendent's report on Page 3 of this Coast Dispatcher for more details.

## Model Contest Categories for Upcoming Meets

Coast Division Model Contest categories are rotated throughout the year as shown below. Therefore for June 2007, the categories are **Structure**, Display/Diorama, Self-propelled Cars & Traction. Bring your favorites to share! Remember, it's really about participating and meeting your fellow modelers; we all love to see your pride and joys

- June:** Structure, Display/Diorama, Self-propelled Cars & Traction
- Sept:** Steam locomotives, Diesel / other locomotives, Passenger Car
- December:** "Favorite Model" (open category)
- March:** Freight car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way

Coast Division Model Contest results for June 2007 will be determined by **Popular Vote**. Arrive and enter early to get more votes.

### John Sing Coast Division Model Contest Chair-flunky

**Model Railroad Appraisals  
Estate Planning and Disposal  
John Marshall  
8211 Moller Ranch Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
Ph: 925-461-0206 Fax: 925-461-9061  
Email: ntrak@sbcglobal.net**

## Photo Contest By Pat LaTorres

The March theme was: "Trains in Action"

There were four entries.

Thank you to all who brought your photo to share, we all love seeing your work.

The winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Bill Burkett – this is a first time for Bill to enter  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Seth Neumann  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Bill Burkett  
4<sup>th</sup> Place Steve Williams – this is Steve's first time to participate.

The category for the June meet will be "Model Railroads"

All photos should be matted (inexpensive, re-usable mattes can be had at most art supply stores) and should be between 5x7 and 11x14 in size. Hope to see your work there!

Results are determined by Popular Vote. Bring your photos early to get the early votes.



### Tom's Trackside Trains

1675 Rollins Rd. Suite B-1  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
Tom Van Horn  
tomtracksidetrains.com

**Hours:**

Wed & Fri: 12-8 Thu: 12-5  
Sat: 12-6; Sun: 12-3

Phone (650) 692-9724  
Fax (650) 692-9725



## Timesaver Corner

By Mark Schutzer

At the spring meet we had eight brave participants that tried their skill (or luck) against the Timesaver. We had four first timers, two of which were promoted to Senior Brake Person by the end of the day! Congratulations to Charlie Knoth and Nick Brisco, our two first timers that are now Senior Brake Persons.

The winners of switching contest for the Spring meet are:

### Brake Person Category

First Place	Charlie Knoth	5 minutes 13 seconds (promoted!)
Second Place	Nick Brisco	5 minutes 51 seconds (promoted!)
Third Place	Steve Williams	7 minutes 49 seconds (his first time!)

### Senior Brake Person Category

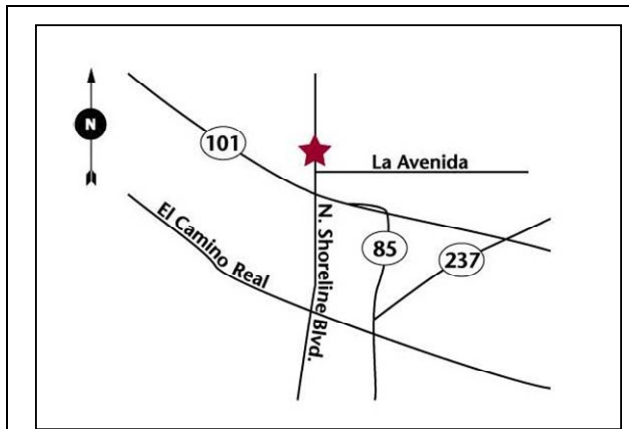
First Place	Alan Havens	4 minutes 57 seconds
Second Place	Bill Burket	6 minutes 24 seconds
Third Place	Dennis Stokely	9 minutes 35 seconds

Congratulations to all our winners!

Come see us at the next meet and try your luck against the Timesaver. To quote Tom Van Horn "It's a lot of fun and you have to try it because it's FREE!"



The next meet will be on June 3, 2007 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.**

**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.**

**The Museum Entrance faces the North Parking Lot. The door will be manned.**

**Coast Dispatcher  
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