



Coast Dispatcher September 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**

September 9, 2007

**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 Clinic—Modeling Oak Trees by Bill Goodenough
 11:00 AM Clinic—Effective Operating Sessions by Dave Clemens
 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: Working On The Railroad

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

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

December 2, 2007

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 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: Trains in Action

Model Contest: Favorite Model (Open)

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

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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>

The E-Dispatcher also has more information than we could fit in this 10 page format. Things included are bigger pictures, and more complete Registrar's and Photo Contest reports, all in color.

If you would like to get the E-Dispatcher, go to <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 third quarter of 2007

A special thank you to all of the Coast Division members who participated in the Suntan Special Convention we sponsored in Santa Cruz last May. The convention was a lot of fun. We did a lot of different things, participated in great clinics, did some railfanning and a fun trip on the Roaring Camp excursion train. Some even got married. Talk about lifelong activities. Everyone that I talked with was having a great time. And to each of you that helped make this convention a memorable event for the PCR membership I want to congratulate you on a job well done.

It was also nice to have an opportunity to sit and chat with our new region president, Ron Piles. He is really committed to the PCR and wants to get us going and growing again. During my chat with him one topic came up that has been kind of at the back of my mind for a couple of years. I have always said that I am a model railroader and rail fan because I was exposed to it at an early age. The National Organization pushes us to go after the 30+ guy with time and money on his hands looking for a hobby to cut his stress levels. My thought is that we need to work to introduce the hobby to youth. After all we all started young, maybe drifted away in our teens and found our way back again. If we want our hobby to survive we need to help those young minds develop an interest in railroads and the modeling aspects of it.

Bob and I talked at length about developing a relationship with the Boy Scouts of America. And by working with their group in assisting their members earn their Railroading Merit Badge. I think that is a fantastic idea. Are there any members of the Coast Division who are active in the leadership of the BSA? If there are, I would like to talk with you. We need to find out who we should be talking with to get involved in this activity.

I sincerely hope you all are planning to attend our September Coast Division meet. Remember, because of the Labor Day holiday, it will be the second Sunday of September.

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

John Marshall

Special Notice:

The Antioch Model Railroad Club show and swap meet will be October 27-28 and November 3-4 with the swap met on November 3. See their website www.blackdiamondmines.org for details.

Publicity, Volunteers, and Much More Important Stuff by Steve Wesolowski

Hello, again! It's Summer, and all forms of outdoor recreation/fun, like mowing the lawn more often than in Winter, seem to cut into my Modeling time. Going to the beach may be warmer & drier than in Winter at least. Now the PCR 2007 Suntan Special is over, I'm gonna branch out this time: Frankly, I bet all of us will be glad not to read another column urging us to climb "All Aboard!" for awhile .

First, my personal Thank You to everyone who volunteered your time and energy to help May in Santa Cruz be So Much Fun! I don't have room or memory to list everyone, but You know who you are, and I believe everyone else there also says Thank You, Thank YOU, for helping All of us enjoy more fun. I hope you had even more fun by Volunteering: I did. Second, I know some of you took a trip to Detroit. I'd love hearing about and seeing any proto or model Narrow Gauge anyone saw in MI, if anyone found any? Please bring some pictures to the next Coast Meet Sunday, September 9 at Buchser School.

Wait! A Better idea (what could be better than Narrow Gauge?): Bring a Friend to the meet September 9th at Buchser. Introduce them to others with similar model and/or Prototype interests. If you don't know who any others are, introduce them to me, Pat LaTorres or another Coast Volunteer and we will try to help. Much fun of any NMRA meeting is new people, learning new stuff with/from them & sharing this hobby of ours. It's Free, except for a couple hours time, and they could win a Door Prize, even.

Once again, The Great Train Expo is coming to San Jose at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds September 29-30. I dunno if you'll find that special item you have been searching for, but I know you'll have some fun if you Volunteer for our Coast Division PCR/NMRA Information table. You get to spend some time with other happy modelers, See Some Trains (!) and Meet 'New' Train lovers of all ages & sizes. I can also promise: If you aren't having fun, you must have fallen asleep. No one has ever complained to me about volunteering with other fun & train loving Coast Division members at the Coast Division's Information table. No experience necessary: We Will Train You! (Did you get it? DOH!). You'll have some Train Fun! If you can't make it, the GTE will be in Pleasanton's the Fairgrounds on November 24-25. Let me know if you are interested in helping with either one, swezz at comcast dot net.

Last Sunday I finally had the pleasure of seeing Jack Burgess' wonderful Yosemite Valley Railroad (www.yosemitevalleyrr.com), live! If you don't know, Jack, a MMR, is one of many World Class modelers in the Coast Division whose layouts I've never seen except in pictures, after returning to model railroading in 2000. When I left, I asked Jack why he hasn't had an Open House since Y2K. "I figured Everyone already has seen it" Jack replied. Well, I know I can't be the only one who hadn't, and I've heard of some other nice layouts I haven't seen yet, maybe because the Coast Division hasn't had a Layout Tour Coordinator in a couple years. If you want to see more fine Model Railroads, think about volunteering. Or: volunteer to take over my job, Publicity, and then I may have time to be Layout Tour Coordinator. Please think about the latter: I could use a break, and I can train(!)you in this job pretty quickly and easily.

More Importantly: I want to suggest you have an Eye Exam, especially if you haven't had one in the last two years (since 2005). More than 90% of what I enjoy about model railroading involves my vision. If you can't see clearly, you won't have full enjoyment of this hobby, plus other visual beauty in the rest of your life. I know. Last month, I finally had an eye exam after 4 years, despite 'knowing' (after 48 years of wearing glasses), I needed a new prescription about a year ago. I put it off because I was "busy" and cheap: my \$5K deductible insurance won't cover it, until i couldn't take all the daily hassle of not seeing clearly, (and I'd saved money to pay for my exam and some new lenses). Although I WAS surprised my exam, one pair of excellent lenses for my old frames, a bargain pair of reading and/or modeling glasses, and some Cocoons sunglasses (100% UVA&UVB blockage, at <http://www.cocoonseyewear.com/>) cost me several hundred dollars, and over 2 months (long story) of waiting, as of yesterday, I can now See Clearly, again! Wow, I forgot how cool the stars look! I wasn't happy to learn a cataract has started in one eye, but I verified my slightly high eye-pressure is still Not Glaucoma. It's ALWAYS better knowing what you can/must do to prevent any of many causes of preventable blindness.

Writing this, I see the cost of my exam & new glasses another way: I'll trade owning any of the world's most beautiful brass locos for the continued privilege of being able to still see them, and the rest of Life's visual splendor. A pretty loco, like a pretty girl, is a melody I'm enjoying, perfectly loud and clear, once again. I'm so glad. And, Until I see you again, (more clearly, now), Happy Trains to You!

Registrar's Report By John Ameling

At the June meet we had 87 attendees: 75 from Coast Division, 3 from Sierra Division, 2 from Redwood Division, and 2 from Other. There were 5 guests and 5 first timers.

We had 13 door prizes and 6 raffle prizes. The raffle prizes included \$175 in gift certificates, and the "Ultimate Encyclopedia of Steam and Rail" donated by the superintendent.

The raffle income was \$1.83 per person, which was excellent.

More details in the E-Dispatcher.

Auction Report By Bill Burket

The June meet had a total of 390 items in the auction. Brass had a low showing of nine items. We did much better than that at the previous meet but I know you can bring the brass. Remember that at Coast Division you can see the item you are bidding on and the seller gets his cash on the same day and as a buyer there is no shipping to pay. Such a deal especially since the online auctions have raised many of their charges. Also, at the last meet I meet new bidders and sellers and members who hadn't attended in a while. When you participate in a Coast Division auction the 10% keeps us going to serve you the member and the more modeler friends you bring the higher the final selling price for your items. Bring a newcomer and get an extra door prize ticket. Coast Division auction is only as good as your participation. See you on September 9th! Clean out a dozen or so of those closet storage items and make some open space.

Division Banquet

There is nothing new to report on the Division Banquet, but we will have more information at the September meet and will have tickets available at the December meet. Stay tuned and we will provide details as soon as we have them.

Show and Tell / Model Contest – June 2007 Recap By John Sing

The June 2007 Model Contest, special Show and Tell Displays (including some really amazing displays by the 'Bay Area Z Cooperative'), and regular Show and Tell were a great success. See photos of the meet online at the updated Model Contest / Show and Tell / Photo Contest web pages on the Coast Division PCR website at:

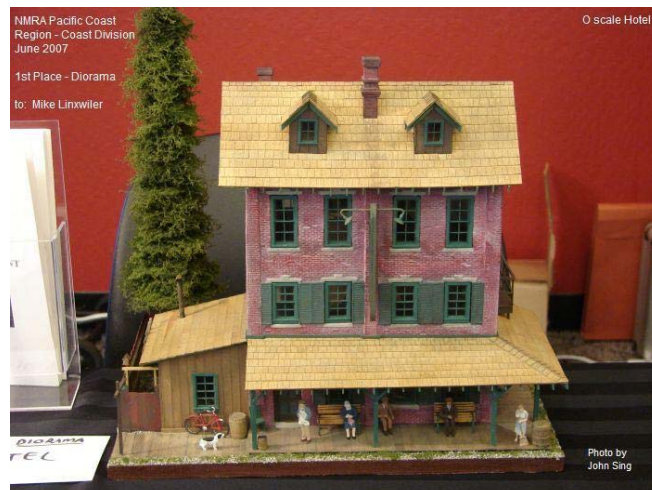
<http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest.shtml>

There is a new feature on the web page: *Close-ups* of the models! Click on the above and check it out. Thanks to *all* who participated, you put on a great show and inspired us all.

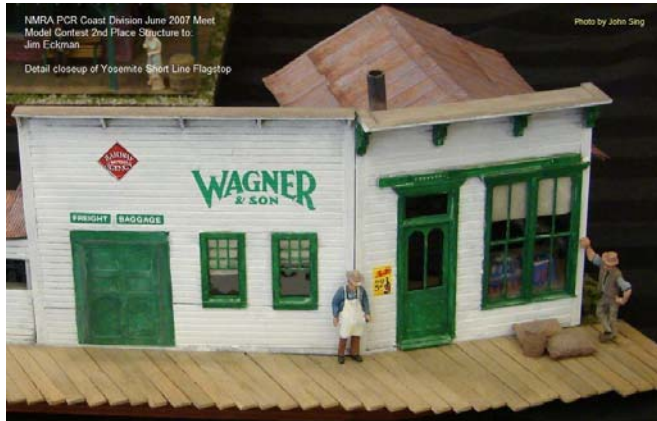
Model Contest - June 2007

By Popular Vote, the awards were:

1st place Diorama: Mike Linxwiler, for Hotel in O scale



2nd place Diorama: Jim Eckman, for Yosemite Short Line Flagstop in O scale



1st Place Structure: Kenneth Martin, for CB&Q Lowell, Nebraska station.



1st Place Traction and Self-Propelled: Alf Modine, for Chicago, North Shore, and Milwaukee Birney #320 in O scale



2nd Place Traction and Self-Propelled: Kenneth Martin, for CB&Q Gas-powered Coach #9568 in HO



3d Place Traction and Self-Propelled: George Freisleben, Pacific Electric #53 modeled in HO



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.

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 to see your pride and joys, and hope to see you in a future edition of the Coast Division Model Contest.

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Special Show and Tell Displays

We had a special Show and Tell Event at the June Meet, inviting our members to display their modeling talents and techniques for all to enjoy, and we had a very good turnout. Thank you to Superintendent John Marshall and Chief Clerk Tom Crawford for putting forward the idea, and getting the ball rolling.

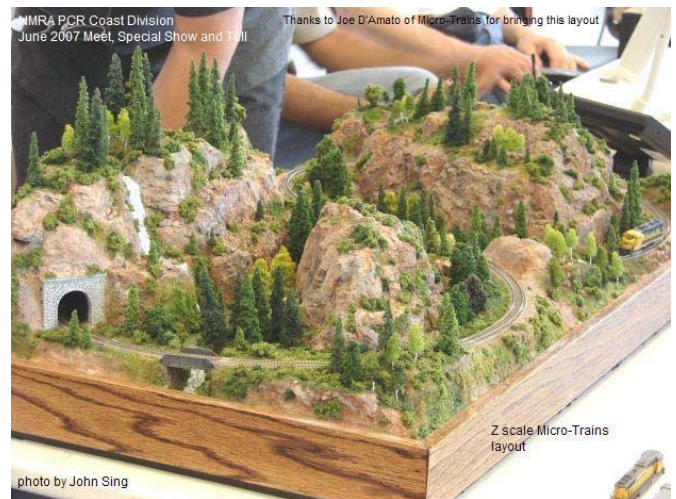


We had California Central Lines present their operations scheme, Seth Neumann talking about the Operations SIG (Special Interest Group), Kermit Paul displaying Computer-Aided Design stands, a scale HO rocket and train car to carry it, a superb exhibit by the Bay Area Z Cooperative, and I'm sure I missed some others.

The Bay Area Z Cooperative's displays were stellar:



Bay Area Z Skail Lumber



Microtrains Z scale layout

And visit our Coast Division special June 2007 web page dedicated just to their superb display. Check out the Z scale Rotary Snow-plow with 3 on-board cameras, and the Z scale animated garage door that opens and animated Z scale automobile racetrack:

[http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest/June 2007 Bay Area Z Cooperative.shtml](http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest/June%202007%20Bay%20Area%20Z%20Cooperative.shtml)

Show and Tell June 2007

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

We had wonderful models of Great Northern locomotives (Chuck Mitchell), Southern Pacific articulated Daylight diner (Bob Booth), Southern Pacific steam (Mark Schutzer), Southern Pacific Sunset Limited and SP MOW (Mike Blumensaadt), and a collection of Santa Fe Warbonnets (John Sing).

Here's a few photos:



John Sing Warbonnets

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Mike Blumensaadt SP Daylight PA and Sunset Limited



Mark Schutzer steam details



Chuck Mitchell F Units



Bob Booth SP Diner

Thanks again to all who participated, and we look forward to seeing you at upcoming Meets to see what you may want to share with us. You're invited to bring one or several of your items of pride to the September 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.

Model Contest Categories for Upcoming Meets

Coast Division Model Contest categories are rotated throughout the year as shown below. Therefore for Sept 2007, the categories are Steam Locomotives, Diesel / other locomotives, Passenger Car. 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.

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

December: "Favorite Model" (open category)

March: Freight car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way

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

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

John Sing
Coast Division Model Contest Chair-flunky

Timesaver Corner

By Mark Schutzer

The winners of switching contest for the June meet were:

1st Place Brake Person: Ronnie LaTorres
2nd Place Brake Person: Steve Williams

1st Place Senior Brake Person: Bill Burkett
2nd Place Senior Brake Person: Tom Crawford
3rd Place Senior Brake Person: Alan Havens

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!"

Photo Contest

By Pat LaTorres

The June theme was: "Model Railroads"

There were 10 entries.

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



The winners were:
1st Place John Sing
2nd Place Kenneth Martin
3rd Place Stanley Kaiser

The category for the September meet will be "Working On the Railroad"

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.

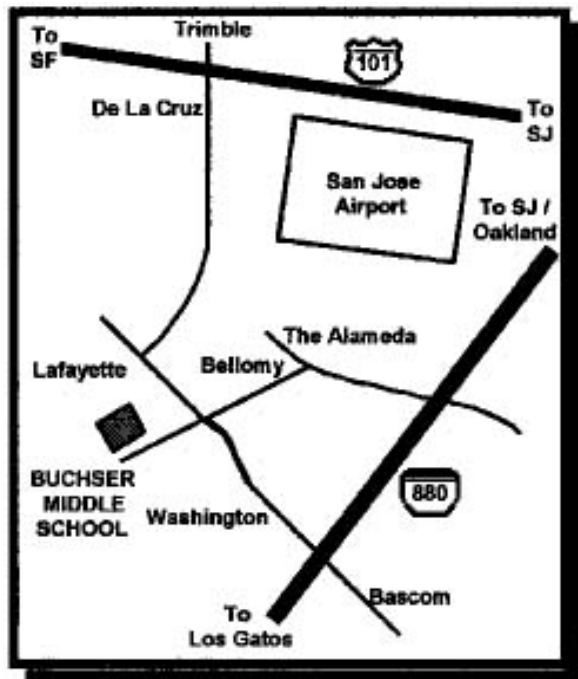
More details in the E-Dispatcher.

Tom's Trackside Trains
 1675 Rollins Rd. Suite B-1
 Burlingame, CA 94010
 Tom Van Horn
 tomstracksidetrains.com

Hours:
 Wed & Fri: 12-8 Thu: 12-5 Phone (650) 692-9724
 Sat: 12-6; Sun: 12-3 Fax (650) 692-9725

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The next meet will be on September 9, 2007 at
Buchser Middle School, 1111 Bellomy St., Santa Clara, CA
Details are on Page 1. Here is the map.



From San Francisco: Take Highway 101 South. Exit on De La Cruz, and follow for about 1.7 miles until De La Cruz bears right and becomes Lewis. Turn Left on Lafayette and continue 0.6 miles to the school on your right at Bellomy.

From The East Bay: Take Highway 880 South. Exit at Bascom. Turn Right and continue north on Washington. The Street will dog leg and change to Lafayette. Right after the dogleg, the school is on your left at Bellomy.

Coast Dispatcher
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