



## Coast Dispatcher June, 2008

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 are our next few events.**

### Division Meet

June 1, 2008

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..... Clinic - Modeling Public Utilities, by Tom Crawford
- 11:00 AM..... Clinic - Basics of DCC, by Mark Gurries
- 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: Prototype Railroad Structures

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

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

### Layout Tours

June 14 & 15

June 14 North East Bay Tours

June 15, South East Bay Tours

See the article about the layout tours on Page 5. It describes how to sign up to have your layout on a tour and how to be contacted to go on a tour. We will not publish details of tours for non members to see because we do not want to have strangers showing up at layouts un-announced.

### Division Meet

September 8, 2008

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

Model Contest: Steam Locomotives, Diesel & Other Locomotives, Passenger Car

Photo Contest: Prototype Steam Locomotives

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**Membership: (vacant)**

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This June 2008 Dispatcher is full to the brim. I just plain ran out of room, and had to chop articles like crazy to stay within my 10 page limit. I apologize for the meat cleaver job on the contests. Maybe if we went to tissue paper we could keep it under an ounce and add more sheets (just kidding).

The full version of the Dispatcher is called the E-Dispatcher and is distributed by E-mail. It is also available on the Coast Division Website.  
<http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/>

You may subscribe to the E-Dispatcher for free by contacting Tom Crawford at [CrawfordT@ASME.org](mailto:CrawfordT@ASME.org)

## The Number 40

The number 40 has always been a significant number throughout human history. It has symbolized several events. In August 1968 the NMRA Convention was held at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco. It was quite a gathering. I recall many manufacturer displays, contests and several great clinics given by some of the biggest names in the hobby at that time. Another activity I noted in the program was an auction of model railroad equipment. Being 17 years old and on a very low budget I took this as the perfect opportunity to add to my collection that consisted of one brass Balboa SP MT-4, a set a SP F Units and about two dozen cars. Pretty humble beginnings. The auction was on a weekday and began in the early afternoon after lunch. There were about 30 to 50 items and two people running the auction. John Dennis, who set it up, was auctioneer and clean-up person and one other who I can't recall sat at a small table to collect the money from the successful bidders. I was eager and seated right in the front row. Just before John started he looked straight at me and said, "Kid come up here and help pass these items to me." The rest is history. For the past 40 years I have been helping with the auction for Coast Division and at special events through the years. I've worked on the auction in several capacities and in recent times as the chairman, filling John's shoes after his untimely death. August 2008 is my 40 year mark. Coast Division to me is a special organization that is dear to my heart. I've gone from those few pieces of model trains to 4 feet 8 and 1/2 inches which will also be a 32 year milestone in August 2008. It has been a wonderful journey. Now burdened with extended family obligations and advised to take things a little easier it is my time to step down. I will mark this 40 years by leading the auction one last time at the September 2008 meet. For me this is the appropriate time to step down.

I want to express my thanks to all of you, to all those I've known through the years who have passed on and to my wife Rosalie for her support putting up with a life of trains both scale and prototype. I give my best wishes to Coast Division for the future and wish well to the next auction chairman that John Marshall will appoint. I will not be able to attend the December meet or the meet next March due to other commitments. Thanks to all and may all your rails lead to happy places. Always remember that old engineers never fade away they just lose track! Thanks one and all.

### Bill Burket – John Dennis Coast Division Auction Chairman.

(Editors Note: I'm sure I speak for the entire Board when I say I would like to personally thank Bill for his many years unselfishly supporting this organization. Forty years is a long haul. His demeanor has always been friendly and respectful of others. He has always been a true gentleman and a good leader.

Bill, you will be hard to replace.)

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## ***Super Notes***

By John Marshall

At our March quarterly meeting, I was pleased to introduce our new Layout Tour Chairman, Bob Parks. I know he will do a great job in this position and have already seen him enlist a 'staff' to get the layout tour program back in motion after stalling on the grade. We need that kind of 'pusher service' in many other areas as well.

One that spring to mind is our Youth Program. At the March meet we were given a presentation on the current BSA Railroading Merit Badge Program by Matt Stephens. This would be a great way for us to put some steam back into our Youth Program. It is an opportunity for us to act as mentors and advisors both in the support of that worthy cause and be open our doors to these young and potentially future model railroaders. Would it be so terrible to host a group of young men to visit your layout for a few hours one evening or weekend? You could be the key factor in their future interest and in so doing, the future of this hobby. Could you share an hour or two every week to work with a scout leader and help develop the interest in railroading and modeling in these young men? Guys, I'm talking about payback time here. Ok, I'll admit that those comments sound a bit sexist. I don't mean to be and don't want to be branded an oinker. Bill Swindell reminded me that there is a like program with the Girl Scouts. We shouldn't overlook the young ladies. Some of the best and most creative modelers I have ever met were women and they deserve a place in this hobby as well. We don't have a glass ceiling here.

I am sure that each and every one of us can look back to someone, your dad, and uncle or neighbor who was a model railroader who spikes your interest in trains and the modeling hobby. Maybe it was even a railroader who waved to you from the passing locomotive or caboose while you stood by the tracks. I am sure that if you think about it, there was someone who gave you the interest. This is your opportunity to do the same for the next generation. In addition, the Coast Division has had a position open for a very long time and we need to do something to fill it. Which one you might ask? Well, it is that of Youth Chairman. More correctly it should be titled Youth Activities Coordinator. If we truly want to see Model Railroading continue to exist, we need to be pro active about getting young people involved. What would that take, well, putting together a program of youth clinics, bringing in the scouts (both kinds), youth

groups from middle schools and/or church youth groups. We have always been good about providing kits for this activity in the past but instruction and supervision are also needed. Remember, those youngsters are the future of our hobby.

Another great Coast Division Banquet is history. This year's banquet was a great success and we owe a special vote of thanks to Tom Crawford for putting it together for us. I know that those of us who were able to attend had a really fun filled evening with lots of great clinics and a great meal. If you couldn't make it I encourage you to plan on attending next years.

If you haven't visited the Coast Division web page recently, you are really missing out. John Sing has done a fantastic job updating it and we owe him a special round of applause for the great job he has done. John has unique talents in this area and I am glad to say we are fortunate in having him assist us in keeping this website up to date and looking sharp.

Coming up on us very quickly is another great PCR Convention. They just seem to be getting better and better. I sincerely hope that you are planning to attend and enjoy yourself at this convention. It will be a great time to get together with old friends from around the region, to attend the clinics offered and visit some home layouts we haven't seen before. Where else can you have so much fun for so little money?

And close on the heels of our own PCR is the NMRA National Convention in Anaheim. This one is going to be a really great convention as well and having it in our backyard, well actually the south 40, couldn't be easier for us to get to. You can even take the train if you want. It isn't all that long of a ride but it is a beautiful one. I hope to see you all there too.

## Coast Division Layout Tours

### By Dave Parks

The PCR Coast Division has initiated a new program of layout tours called Coast Tours. The 2008 tours will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 14 - 15 and September 20 - 21. Most layouts will be open for visitors only one of these days with the layouts grouped geographically. Some layouts may also be open the preceding Friday evening. Although a function of the Coast Division, the Coast Tours extend to include Marin County and other areas of the greater bay area which are a part of PCR, but outside the Coast Division boundaries. Coast Tours will host the layout tours for the 2009 PCR convention Wednesday, April 15 to Sunday, April 19, 2009 and based in Fremont, CA. The PCR convention tours will extend about 25 air miles from the convention site.

Coast Tours coordinators and their geographic assignments are:

Chair	David Parks	bearwestern@comcast.net	(650) 961 7644
North East Bay	Andy Schnur	Schnurae@netzero.com	(925) 283 4476
South East Bay	Bob Osborn	bob@cmrailroad.com	(925) 484-4136
North West Bay	Pete Cressman	pete_cressman@sbcglobal.net	(415) 641-9379
South West Bay	Steve Williams	spwilliams@gmail.com	(408) 857-6787

#### Tour Schedule for 2008

North East Bay	Saturday June 14
South East Bay	Sunday June 15
North West Bay	Saturday September 20
South West Bay	Sunday September 21

There are no minimum standards for opening a layout for tour. There are those who want to visit only completed layouts with full scenery. Others are more interested in carpentry and infrastructure. An open layout could include an empty room with a detailed plan to show visitors. It is important that all layouts be accurately described so that visitors may choose the types of layouts they are interested in. Hopefully, a picture will supplement each layout's description. Layout owners do not have to be a member of PCR. Layout descriptions will be online and publicly accessible. However for security reasons, tour and location information will be accessible only by PCR members. Periodically check the PCR [pcrnma.org](http://pcrnma.org) and Coast Division [pcrnma.org/coast](http://pcrnma.org/coast) web sites for updated tour information.

Coast Tours is actively soliciting layouts for inclusion in the tour program. If you or someone you know would like to have a layout open for tour, please contact the coordinator who is handling your area.

#### Please Send Us Your Email Address

In order to notify our members of last minute tour information we are assembling a data base of PCR and Coast Division email addresses. The use of email is much faster, less time consuming and will save a significant expense as opposed to using the US Mail. Please help us assemble this data base by sending an email with your name and the words "PCR Email" in the subject line to Steve Williams at [spwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:spwilliams@gmail.com). We hope to do all tour notices via email and the web sites. The email address database will be only for the use of PCR and Coast Division event communications and not distributed to any third party.

## Intermodal Trains & The Queen Mary? Not bloody likely, you say? Well....

April 2nd, Robin & I checked into The Queen Mary Hotel in Long Beach Harbor about 9AM, after a 6AM (ugh: up at 4AM) JetBlue flight from OAK to LGB (no way! a "G Scale" Airport? Well, Long Beach terminal is almost that Small : Intimate, like San Jose's airport 30 years ago). Two nights on The Queen preceded a Carnival Paradise 3-Nite Cruise/Convention to/from Ensenada, BC. BUT, I had just spotted a train track on my sleepy taxi ride over a bridge into LB harbor: THAT woke me up! Of Course, dumb Me: Long Beach HARBOR = Intermodal Trucks & Trains! WOO HOO! Maybe I'll not just enjoy my first cruise since 1959 & The Queen Mary, I might just see TRAINS! Most Days, IMHO, Life is Good, this looked to be one!

Before Robin left for her first convention related meeting at Noon on The Queen Mary (that's why she came; i came to see what I could find), we rode an elevator to a upper deck on The Queen, and I saw more tracks: across the street from The Queen is the Long Beach Container Port!

After a hearty lunch (Planes, Trains, Ships AND Autos all make me hungry), I called Tom Van Horn at Tom's Trackage Trains to tell him I'd found trains! Tom looked in some book & told me the types of locos I could see. Tom hung up for a customer & I began exploring with my camera....

I also found the Queen Mary very interesting: I learned The Queen was so fast (32 knots!), it could outrun WW2 torpedoes (top speed:14 knots), even U-boats! I never knew any ship could outrun torpedoes. I learned this and more during, before & after two tours we took the next day, and lots of wandering until my feet screamed: while converted to a troop transport in WW2, "The Grey Ghost", as they called QM in The War, set the record of 16,200+ passengers on one ship! The Queen normally carried about 2,000 guests and 1,000 crew. I was glad I wasn't on board with that many!

Anyway, to the trains...after I called Tom, I decided the best point to watch and photograph trains was the 5th/Top level of the Carnival parking garage, the nearest highest public spot to the port. I spent over an hour enjoying both harbor & port views, taking as many pictures as I could while becoming frozen from the cold rainy front slowly moving in. Finally, a guard walked up to tell me to leave: BUSTED! Oh well, I started to leave and said i understood: I'm just a train nut, on The Queen until we sail in 2 days & i was starting to freeze anyway. Then he asked to see my room key, so I showed him. He said, as a guest of The Queen, I could stay! I think Maybe he radioed his Dispatcher, but I wasn't bothered again! I took lots of pictures, but w/only a 3X telephoto on my camera, I'm sure most would excite just me. I saw a RoadRailer move loaded & empty cars. Later from on The QM, I saw 3 diesels haul a

pretty long intermodal train out. A problem with my photos are the many big trees planted along the port street edge to hide its 'ugliness' from view, so taking clear pictures even from five stories up and a couple hundred yards away is difficult. But, HEY, I saw trains from The Queen Mary AND that garage top! I didn't expect to see any trains, so I was happily surprised. I know, I'm easy to please: Train=Happy!

We enjoyed our nights on The Queen Mary and Carnival Cruise to/from Ensenada, BC. In Ensenada, our tour to La Bufadora, which our guide said is just one of 3 tidal blowholes, the others are in Australia and Hawaii ( i think I saw it as a kid in Hawaii, but I'm not sure). Our guide showed us Jack Dempsey's Casino built in Prohibition and introduced us to the best vendors and free Tequila, Cerveza & Coca Cola ( Of Course I drank all 3!).

So, this trip proved once again: you may see trains anywhere you travel, so keep a camera handy and your eyes open.

Now, a short "commercial": When you read this, Sierra Memories in Fresno may/should be fresh in your memory, Today is not too early to register to see your Sierra Memories friends again at the Marriott Fremont Silicon Valley Hotel at 46100 Landing Parkway (510) 413-3700 in Fremont on April 15th--19th, 2009, at Rails Across the Bay, your 2009 PCR Convention, where you'll learn and enjoy more about trains, renew old friendships & make new ones while enjoying self-guided layout tours, more clinics, model & crafts contests, sharing ideas and fun with fellow modelers!

The \$85 Early Registration includes all the above, plus a Swap Meet (table rentals are extra), and Awards Banquet with Special Guest Speaker. More Planned Extra Fare fun includes Speeder Rides, a Steam Train in Niles Canyon, and Brightside Yard tour. Visit our website for updates: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009> Single/Double Rooms are \$89.00/night (plus taxes/fees). Register by January 31st, 2009, for \$85! First Timers (anyone not registered for the last 5 PCR conventions) pay \$75, so encourage your 'First Timer' friends: PCR conventions are our best investment to enjoy modeling more, while making new friends and learning new ideas. Our \$99 Full Fare begins February 1, 2009. You can register via credit card at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009>, print & mail a Registration with your check to the address on the form, or get a form at the next Coast Meet.

I'll tell you more in upcoming Coast Dispatchers...

L8R G8Rs,Happy Trains to You Until We Meet Again!

**Steve Wesolowski, your 2009 PCR Convention Publicity Hack (I'm BAAAACK!)**

## Registration Report By John Ameling

Attendance at the March meet was good with 107 attendees compared to 92 for last March. Raffle income was \$123 compared to last March's \$116.

Unfortunately, Raffle income per attendee was \$1.15, which is the lowest since March and June of '04. Is this an election thing?

On the good side, the raffle lost \$24 this month compared to \$54 last March (For those who don't know, the door prizes are paid for with the proceeds from the last month's raffle, but we put a \$50 floor on the amount of door prizes.)

**Prizes**

**Raffle**

- Hobbies Unlimited (purchased)  
\$50.00 Gift Certificate
- Tom's Trackside Trains  
\$50.00 Gift Certificate
- Superintendent (Donated)  
Gift certificate from Just Trains \$50

**Door Prizes**

- Train Shop (purchased)  
Square  
Flush cutting saw  
Scale Ruler  
Blacken It  
Hobby Lube  
Knife  
Tweezers

**Donations**

- Shay Blue print
- Video tapes
- Roof sign

**Attendees**

Coast Division	88
Sierra	5
Redwood	6
Daylight	4
Other	1
First time	3
(Included in division count)	
Guests	1

Total attendees 105

## Auction Report By Bill Burket

Our March meet was well attended and the extra help with set up and clean up was greatly appreciated. Don Shortt does a great job getting us this facility. If we didn't help it would be up to him to clean up everything. So, a big thank-you to all who helped. Also, thanks to Tony Sapienza who brought in another 50 items from the estate of Ralph Marcus. This really helps. Remember that if you would like to make a donation to Coast Division all you have to do is enter #1 as the owner and the entire proceeds will go to Coast Division. We had about 405 items in the auction. This was a nice showing and a good variety of items. Remember that you should clean those closet shelves off and bring the kits and other trains that you will never have time for to the Coast Division Auction. Here your seller sees the item, can look it over, and take it home the same day. Don't forget that cards 51 to 100 are reserved for your brass items. If you plan ahead to sell brass before this article goes to print for the September meet we can mention what brass will be there for the next auction and start the interest rolling. The auction is only successful with your participation. So be there in June and bring a friend who has never come before and earn your self an extra door prize ticket. May all your trails lead to happy rails and we'll see you at the June meet!

## Timesaver Corner By Mark Schutzer

The winners of the Allen Fenton Timesaver switching contest for the March meet were:

**Brake Person**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Ronnie LaTorres	3:48
(promoted to Senior)	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place : Peter Savoy	5:51
(promoted to Senior)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place : Steve Williams	7:23

**Senior Brake Person**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Tom Crawford	3:46
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Ronnie LaTorres	4:30
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Alan Havens	4:49

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!"

### Model Report By John Sing

We had many beautiful models displayed at the March 2008 Meet again for all of us to enjoy. Thank you to \*all\* the participants who entered and put on such a good show for the rest of us. See below for photos of many participants and the lucky Popular Vote Contest Winners. You can always see all of our Quarterly Meet Results on the internet at:  
<http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest.shtml>

Also, you \*got\* to see Bob Booth's Show and Tell "Dollar Cars" in the Show and Tell - incredible!

### Model Contest

\*Congratulations\* to the Model Contest winners by Popular Vote. Thanks to \*all\* who participated - you are all winners by making a great show for us all.

By Popular Vote, the **Model Contest** lucky winners were:

### Caboose

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Andrew Merriam  
Pacific Coast #2, in HO



2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Bob Booth

Freelance early 1920's branchline service, in HO



3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Jim Eckman  
Yosemite Short Line, freelanced, based on Westside Lumber, in On30



### Freight Car

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Tom Vanden Bosch  
Pere Marquette Covered Hopper #20054 in HO



2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Tom Vanden Bosch  
Canadian National refrigerator car #209523 in HO



3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Kenneth Martin  
Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy boxcar #23347 in HO





(Continued from page 8)

## Maintenance of Way

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Bob Booth - MOW Tender, scratch-built in HO



**In the end, NMRA contests are not about winning, rather, they are about the fun of *participating*, about sharing your pride and joy in modeling, and having fun self-inspiring yourself. **You are all winners for participating.** We hope you enjoyed our admiration of your work.**

For June 2008, bring an entry and participate! Bring something to share, and enter for the **Fun** of it in the Coast Division Model Contest.

## Show and Tell

**Editor's Note:** Due to extreme space limitations, we were unable to include the Show and Tell Section. It is included in the E-mail version of the Dispatcher, the E-Dispatcher, which you can get by free subscription or going to our website, <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/>

## Upcoming Model Contest categories

Coast Division Model Contest categories are rotated annually according to the following schedule. Therefore, the categories for the Coast Division Model Contest June 2008 are:

### June 2008: Structure, Display/Diorama, Self-Propelled Cars & Traction

September 2008: Steam Locomotives, Diesel & Other Locomotives, Passenger Car

December 2008: "Favorite Model" (open category)

March 2009: Freight Car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way

## Photo Contest

By Pat LaTorres

The theme was: "Prototype Diesel Locomotives" By Popular Vote, the lucky Photo Contest winners were:

First Place

Pat LaTorres - "Western Pacific GP20"



Second Place

Stanley Keiser - "BNSF Diesels Under Load"



Third Place

Seth Neumann - "BNSF Diesel and Geese, Headed South"



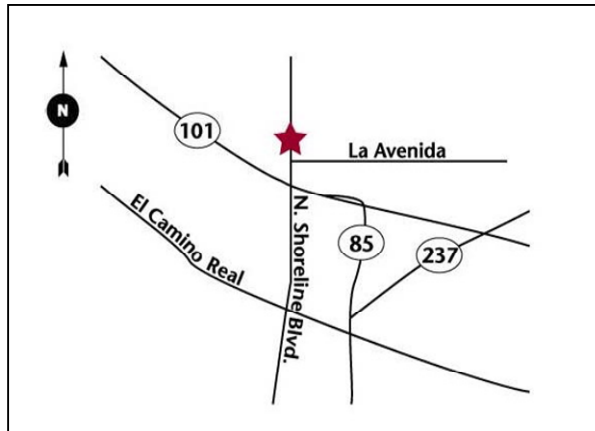
Upcoming Photo Contest Categories

June 2008: Prototype Railroad Structures

Sept 2008: Prototype Steam Locomotives

Sorry Guys. We ran out of room. See the E-Dispatcher for more and bigger pictures and more details.

The next meet will be on June 1, 2008 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 locked but will be manned.**

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