



Coast Dispatcher September, 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

September 7, 2008

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

(map on last page)

This is Bill Burket's last Coast Meet as our auction chairman. Come and say farewell to Bill.

- 9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.
- 9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.
- 10:00 AM Clinic - Seth Neumann—Layout Design from Prototype to Operations WP-UP Milpitas to Radum
- 11:00 AM Clinic - Jon Miller—DecoderPro, The DCC Modeler's Greatest Tool
- 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:

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

Photo Contest: Prototype Steam Locomotives

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

Layout Tours

September 20 & 21, 2008

North West Bay Saturday September 20

South West Bay Sunday September 21

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

December 7, 2008

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

Model Contest: Favorite Model (Open)

Photo Contest: Model Photos

Clincs: Dave Falkenburg—Freemo-N Nscale Modular System

Bill Blum—AARP Driver Safety Program Overview for Seniors

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Membership: (vacant)

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(There is no Superintendent's Report in this issue. Thanks to John Marshall for giving us the room we needed to get everything else in.)

This September 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. (Does this sound familiar yet?) I apologize for again doing a meat cleaver job on the contests.

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

The Director's Cut

First, I would like to thank the members for their confidence in electing me to the position of Coast Division Director. I will be your conduit to the PCR Board and I encourage all of you to let me know any issues you wish the Board to address. I intend to represent Coast Division to the best of my ability.

Next, I think we all need to recognize Kermit Paul, my immediate predecessor, for his work these past four years as the Coast Director. Thank you Kermit; you have left big shoes to fill.

I will be at the September meet in Santa Clara so please let me know of anything I can do to make your enjoyment of this great hobby better. The next Board of Director's meeting will be in October, so let me know if you have an issue you want me to bring to that meeting. I represent you. My e-mail is in the callboard should you prefer to communicate via e-mail.

Rod Smith
Coast Division Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE From NMRA

June 6, 2008

NMRA Patent Challenge Update: Real Rail Effects fails to respond to NMRA DCC-sound patent challenge

The deadline for Real Rail Effects, Ltd. (RRE) to respond to an NMRA patent challenge has passed, with no response from RRE.

RRE was granted a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) based upon a claim that the technology for using sound with DCC was invented by RRE. The NMRA, with the technical and financial support of a number of DCC manufacturers and hobbyists around the world, filed a challenge to the RRE patent.

The NMRA filed the challenge because we believe that the claims in the RRE patent application were not supported by the facts. The NMRA was aware that prior art and other evidence existed which negated RRE's patent.

The NMRA felt that, should it remain in force, the RRE patent posed a threat to modelers and manufacturers of DCC equipment because it would both increase the costs to modelers and unfairly restrict manufacturers who provide decoders with sound. Therefore, the NMRA coordinated an industry- and hobby-wide effort to have the patent overturned. The NMRA submitted evidence from a number of sources raising substantial questions about the validity of the patent.

On February 11, 2008, the USPTO issued a ruling granting the NMRA's patent re-examination request. The examiner stated in the ruling that there was a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art important in determining the patentability of the application of RRE.

After the examiner at the USPTO determined that the position of the NMRA had merit and compelled a new analysis of the patent, RRE had two months to respond to the re-examination request. The deadline for a response has come and gone, and RRE made no reply. The NMRA is now very hopeful that a favorable decision will be announced and that the position of the NMRA and its supporters will be vindicated.

The NMRA considers this a clear triumph for the modeler and the model railroad industry. We are proud to have led the challenge team that has made this victory possible.

www.NMRA.org

Contact:
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General Counsel, National Model Railroad Association, Inc.
514 Dover Place
Saint Louis, Missouri 63111-2338
(314) 353-9131 (Telephone)

Come to Rails Across The Bay! Bring Your Models, Photos & Crafts!

By Steve Wesolowski, Publicity

Only weeks ago was PCR 2008, Sierra Memories, with Clinics, Layouts, Operating Sessions, SIGs, Prototype Tours and a great variety of models, photographs & crafts brought to share. Last week was NMRA 2008 in Anaheim--more Model Railroading Fun! Thanks to the many volunteers who made possible gathering together with new/old friends. Now start planning for Rails Across The Bay, PCR's 2009 Convention, April 15-18, 2009, in Fremont at the Fremont Marriott Silicon Valley. Why Now?

A few reasons:

#1: To enjoy ALL the convention, Finish your 2008 taxes BEFORE the 15th, or you'll miss the 1st day of Rails Across The Bay -- Definitely: Not Fun/Zero Flags! (as the Marine World guy on TV yells). You want to BE there April 15th: Most Fun/Six Flags!

#2: Our preferred room rate of \$89/night (plus tax) is available Only until March 27th, 2009. I encourage everyone to stay at least a night at the Fremont Marriott Silicon Valley to avoid traffic/for more fun. For Reservations call 1-800-228-9290 or reserve On-Line at

<http://marriott.com/sicfm?groupCode=nmrnmra&app=resvlink>

#3: Early Registration is only \$85 until 1/31/09 (\$99 after). ALL Full Registrations (including Spouses \$70, Youths \$50) INCLUDE Saturday Night's Banquet with Guest Speaker. The 1st Timer Discount Registration is \$75 (if you've missed the last 3 conventions), .

#4: Our convention theme: our Bay Area's urban & interurban railroad /transportation history Across the Bay (and beyond), including ship, bridge & land (especially rail) passenger & freight transport which built and sustains our lives in the Bay Area.

May 27th marked 71 years of Golden Gate Bridge use. Before & after May 27, 1937, freight & passengers moved across/around our bay everywhere within our area and the world beyond. The South Pacific Coast RR hauled passengers & freight via steam loco, ferry & horses from the 1880's to 1900s: from SF via ferry to the East Bay, then to/from Santa Cruz, carrying lumber to re/build SF and after the '06 quake. SPC was one of many Rails Across The Bay, including SP, WP, Santa Fe, Muni, BART, et al.

Our committee is still looking for more clinics/other activities about Bay Area railroad/transport history: any PCR members with special knowledge/interests in Bay Area Transport History should consider contacting our

Clinic Chair, Jim Long, about presenting a clinic on any subject related to our theme (earn Volunteer/Authoring Cert credits). Contact Jim Long at jimclong@sbcglobal.net.

We also are planning (at additional cost), Speeder Rides through Niles Canyon on Thursday & a Steam Train on Friday. More fun stuff is planned: a Convention Car, Proto & Non-Rail tours. cf: later Dispatchers/Branchlines/our website:

<http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009/>

Today I want to cover the items with the longest lead-times: Clinics and Contest Entries. Now for Contest Entries: With only 9 months 'til April '09, I encourage everyone to begin building models, gathering photos & working on craft entries Now. After entering models, photos & crafts and helping judge them since 2002, I know any entry worth entering is not completed overnight. I enter models to become a better modeler: the feedback I get has helped me improve; I learn new & old weaknesses. Every "mistake" taught me something and improved later models. I want to be the best modeler I can be. I also learn in clinics, by judging other's models, photos & handicrafts, and being judged: I learn with others how to fairly and consistently judge all work.

I hope everyone at Fremont brings some work to show or be judged, especially anyone who has Never done this before. Another volunteer, entering his first model for judging in Fremont after helping judge in Fresno, asked me about filling out forms. I said begin as he builds his model/take pictures of unusual techniques used. While Judging in Fresno he saw problems with entries being harder to judge when entrants provided much more info than judges had time for. Writing concisely may be more difficult than building models. I directed him to recent Scale Rails MMR articles, plus a couple excellent articles at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/contest/contest.shtml> I said bring his model & forms to a Coast Meet for others to review. I mentioned I'd left some facts off my forms in Fresno which would have helped, because I hadn't filled them out before the convention, a common mistake I still make. Start today to prepare entries for PCR 2009; if you prefer to have your work not judged, bring it for display. We All learn from each other: bring something to share, and you'll learn even more.

Remember, April 15 2009 Rails Across The Bay begins in Fremont.

Coast Division Layout Tours

By Dave Parks

Tour Schedule for 2008

The PCR Coast Division is sponsoring layout tours on Saturday and Sunday, September 20 – 21, 2008. The layouts are grouped geographically in the west San Francisco Bay area. The tours extend north to include Marin County. The dates below reflect the geographic focus. However, some layout may be open other than the specified day such as Friday evening.

Saturday September 20, 2008 - North West Bay - Pete Cressman coordinator.

Sunday September 21, 2008 - South West Bay - Steve Williams coordinator.

The description of layouts will be available on-line thru the PCR Coast Division Web site. The layout description site is updated as the tour composition changes. Periodically check the PCR pcrnmra.org and Coast Division pcrnmra.org/coast web sites for updated tour information. Layout addresses and maps will be available on-line about one week prior to each tour weekend. In order to download the maps it is necessary to log-on using your email address as a user name and your NMRA membership number as a password.

Coast Tours is actively soliciting layouts for inclusion in the tour program. Layout owners do not have to be a member of PCR. 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

Please Send Us Your Email Address

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. 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.

Coast Tours 2009 Schedule

The 2009 Coast Tours will be the weekend following the Coast Division quarterly meetings. The preferred distribution of tour maps is on-line and free. Hard copy map sets are available only by pre-ordering from a member of the Coast Tours committee (contact below). The map packet cost is five dollars per tour weekend and distribution is at the Coast Division meeting preceding each tour weekend. PCR convention tours maps will be distributed to convention registrants.

March 7 – 8, 2009 - Monterey Bay and Salinas - Steve Williams coordinator

April 15 - 19, 2009 - PCR convention tours. Layouts tours will extend about 25 air miles from the convention site in Fremont, CA. Bob Osborn and Don Marenzi coordinators.

June 13 – 14, 2009 - North East Bay - Andy Schnur coordinator.

September 12 – 13, 2009 - South East Bay - Bob Osborn coordinator.

December 12 – 13, 2009 - North West Bay - Pete Cressman coordinator.

In addition to the above tours we intend to sponsor a tour of the southern part of the PCR Redwood Empire Division with Ernie Simard coordinator. This includes Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties.

Coast Tours Coordinators:

Chair:

David Parks bearwestern@comcast.net (650) 961-7644

North East Bay:

Andy Schnur Schnur@netzero.com (925) 283-4476

South East Bay:

Bob Osborn bob@cmrailroad.com (925) 484-4136

Don Marenzi donmarenzi@aol.com (510) 794-3469

North West Bay:

Pete Cressman gabi2pete-friends@yahoo.com (415) 641-9379

South West Bay

Steve Williams spwilliams@gmail.com (408) 857-6787

North Beyond the Bay:

Ernie Simard esimard@yahoo.com (707) 762-9163

Registration Report

By John Ameling

Attendance at the June meet was down, but generosity was up. There were 94 attendees compared to 105 in March, but \$158 worth of raffle tickets were purchased in June compared to \$123 in March. This put us \$2.75 over break even, which is a good thing.

Once again John Marshall was a significant contributor to the raffle. Half of the raffle prizes were donated by John.

Raffle Prizes

- Train Shop (purchased)
\$50.00 Gift Certificate
- Tom's Trackside Trains
\$50.00 Gift Certificate
- Superintendent (Donated)
\$50.00 Gift certificate from Just Trains Book

Door Prizes

- WS Tweezers Beagdon Weathering Chalks
- Hob-E-Lube Floquil weathering pens
- Zona square Zona Triangle
- Mascot drill chuck Mascot Tweezers

Bill Burkett donations:

- HO Boxcar Book
- Badges

Attendees

| | |
|---|-------|
| Coast Division | 80 |
| Sierra | 6 |
| Redwood | 7 |
| Daylight | 0 |
| Other | 0 |
| First time (Included in division count) | 1 |
| Guests | 0 |
| Total attendees | 94 |

Auction Report

By Bill Burket

The last meet found everyone present in good spirits and Steve once again did a great job getting us the facilities at the Computer Museum. Also, my compliments to the excellent job done by the young ladies running our snack bar. We had a nice variety of items in the auction with some nice brass pieces in the mix. Enough of the regular committee members were not able to attend and I want to personally thank those who stepped up to the plate to pitch in. September is always a well attended meet so don't forget to bring a friend who is in the hobby as a guest and clean out the older kits and projects from the closets that

you know you will never get to. 10% benefits the Coast Division so that we can better serve you the member. Always remember that items 51 to 100 are reserved for brass. Now to the main point. This is it! The final curtain call or in railroad terms I've made it to the last stop at the final station. At the September meet after 40 years of working on the auction committee I have reached the bumper at the end of the track at the final station. I really want to give a special thanks to two people: Don Shortt who has always been beside me through all these years with the thick and the thin of the auction and to John Dennis, rest his soul, who was my close friend and model railroad mentor. Coast Division will always have a special place in my heart and often I think of the members who are no longer with us. I sincerely thank all of you for all the support. I will not be able to make the December or March meet due to other commitments that are already promised. It all started in August of 1968 and it is a perfect finish to conclude with the September 2008 meet. As I said before, "Happy rails to all of you." Never forget that old engineers never fade away they just lose track. Highball and farewell!

Bill Burket - John Dennis Coast Division Auction Committee Chairman

Editor's Note: Alan Havens has informed me that he will be placing a Precision Scale, On3, SP Narrow Gauge 2-8-0 #1 brass loco in the auction. Worth a look.

The End of an Era, the Gavel is Passed: Where DOES the Time Go?

by Steve Wesolowski
Coast Publicity Chair

When I first heard Bill Burket decided to retire as our Volunteer Auction Chair, I was shocked, until I asked "Why?" and Bill said he'd been an Auction Volunteer for Forty Years since he was "drafted" as a kid to help (by some fellow I never met (Editor's note—John Dennis)), and that was long enough.

I was speechless. Wow! 40 years! I was amazed. The only things I think I've done in my life for 40 years are Live, Eat, Breathe, Sleep (& other stuff not worth mentioning). I was humbled; I was in awe, I felt sad, and, finally, I felt grateful.

Some time later, after the last auction ended at the Computer History Museum in March without my hearing anyone (including myself) STOP our meeting to get everyone's attention for a moment to Thank Bill Burket, I was determined to Thank Bill in the next Dispatcher. And, even I almost forgot! Thanks to our Editor for squeezing this in at the last minute before "the presses" roll (the bytes flow?).

I think anyone who has ever Volunteered may begin to appreciate how much Volunteering for 40 years means: Enormous is too small a concept. I've volunteered nearly 20 years, only once a year to co-host a Silent Auction at a family gathering, so I have some idea...but 40 times 4 at least means 160 plus auctions.

I know I have only been attending auctions since I re-joined Coast Division in late 2001, and in 7 years, I have seen Bill handle many difficult people, problems and situations with what my Catholic Aunt Doris calls "Natural Grace", always honestly and fairly. If I EVER have the misfortune to face a jury, I CERTAINLY hope it is composed of 13 clones of Bill Burket!

I can only imagine all the auction novices, fools and bo-zos Bill has gently, patiently & politely encountered and dealt with during 40 years of auctions, some of whom may have later volunteered to help with the auction, perhaps even after Bill set them straight, gently, for some breach in auction etiquette. I'm sure Bill has chided me at least once for some breach, probably talking or having my Orange side visible (who? me? probably), blissfully unaware until Bill called out to me; "Are you bidding?".

I'm sure others who have Volunteered with Bill and the Auction Crew longer/less sporadically than I have, probably have many more and better stories to tell, but I especially recall an auction when Bill got a phone call during the auction. His wife had been in a car accident and was on her way to the hospital. While waiting for another phone call to hear more, Bill took a quick break, apologized for interrupting the auction, but still did his calm, level best to keep the auction running until, thankfully, Bill later heard from his wife she was mostly OK, and he didn't need to rush to the hospital. I think you'll find Bill's picture in the Dictionary, under Composure, Trooper & other good adjectives.

The Bottom Line is this: If you have ever bid, bought or sold anything in the Coast Division Auction, Perhaps you should, please, remember to stop and Thank Bill when you see him (and, the other auction volunteers?) at a future meet. Thanks to Bill and all the other Auction Volunteers, we each received what we paid for, and what others paid for our "treasures" we sold (minus 10%, of course, which mostly funds our division and makes our meets possible), and we all had some fun times thanks to the auctions.

The good news? After he returns from taking care of

business, we should still have Bill around to thank for awhile.

The 'Bad' news? Bill will have more free time to play the Timesaver at meets, so I may never earn a First Place. But, at least I always have a chance to improve by watching a Timesaver Master Jedi.

Thanks, Bill, for all that you do and have done! I hope you will help out, when you feel like it. You have more than earned your rest.

Timesaver Corner

By Mark Schutzer

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

Brake Person (5 car)

| | |
|--|------|
| 1 st Place: Dave Falkenburg (promoted to Senior) | 5:05 |
| 2 nd Place : Norm Morris (promoted to Senior) | 5:29 |
| 3 rd Place : John Sing | 8:32 |

Senior Brake Person (6 car)

| | |
|---|------|
| 1 st Place: Tom Crawford | 4:00 |
| 2 nd Place: Steve Wesolowski | 6:31 |
| 3 rd Place: Norm Morris | 8:18 |

Expert Brake Person (7 car—only for masochists)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 st Place: Dave Loveless | 8:59 |
| 2 nd Place: Tom Crawford | 10:00 |

This is the winning masochist at work:



Congratulations to all our winners!

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

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
Sat: 12-6; Sun: 12-3

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

Model Contest / Show and Tell Report

by John Sing, Model Contest / Show Tell chair-flunkie

We had another good show at the June 2008 Coast Division Meet for the Model Contest and Show and Tell. By all accounts, all of us are pleased that you and all our fellow members are enjoying sharing their pride and joy of modeling efforts with us.

In Model Contest, by Popular Vote, the lucky winners were:

1st Place Structure - Kenneth Martin of Sierra Division for his HO Hilltop Station:



1st Place Traction - Kenneth Martin of Sierra Division for his HO Burlington gas-electric:



2nd place traction - George Friesleben, for his HO "Streetcar Named Desire":



We also had a great Show and Tell table.

Due to space limitations the Show and Tell Pictures are only available in the E-Dispatcher.

Volunteers: We also like to recognize our volunteers who all help us out so much:

The food volunteers from the Job's Daughters:



Our Auction volunteers



led of course by our star-struck Auction leader for nearly 40 years now, Bill Burket:



We all are fortunate to have the opportunity to come together. Remember, the Model Contest is not about winning, it's about participating and having fun doing it. Show and Tell is great anytime, come out and show us what you're working on.

Come on out to the next Meet's Model Contest or Show and Tell, we'd love to see your work. Hey, your model is better than you think it is, we all would love to see it. And who knows, you may even win a ribbon or placque as a bonus:

I will be out of town at the September Meet, so the other characters (Steve Wesolowski, Mark Schutzer, Pat LaTorres) will all pitch in to help out. The categories are always on our web site, and again are:

- Steam locomotive
- Diesel locomotive
- Passenger car

See you soon.

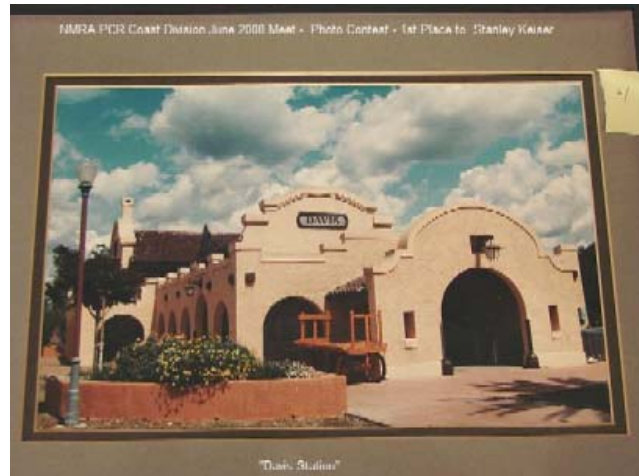
John Sing :-)

Photo Contest

Unfortunately, we do not have room for all the pictures of the photo contest results. They are in the E-Dispatcher.

The winners were:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1st Place | Stan Keiser | Davis Depot |
| 2nd Place | Ronnie LaTorres | Keddie Wye |
| 3rd Place | Pat LaTorres | Fairfield MOW Building |



National Convention In Anaheim

At the National Convention, Coast Division brought home some hardware for the photo contest.

Stan Keiser took first (and second place) in Prototype Black & White Prints.

Ronnie LaTorres took first place in Color Prototype Prints.

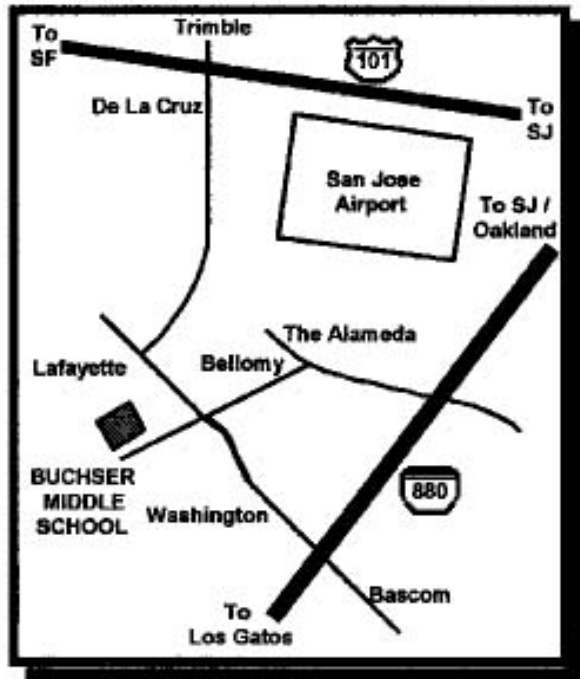
Pat LaTorres took first place (and Mark Schutzer took second place) in Model Black & White Prints.

Take a look at this picture of the photo contest room, especially on the right hand side. Do some of these pictures look familiar?



All in all, not a bad showing for the Coast Division.

**The next meet will be on September 7, 2008 at the
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
4337 La Cosa Ave
Fremont, CA 94536