



## Coast Dispatcher September 2009

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 13, 2009**

**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 ..... Layout Signaling – an update for today's modeler by Kermit Paul  
11:00 AM ..... The UP in Niles Canyon – a progress report on his layout by Seth Neumann.  
11:00 AM ..... Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Jerry Littlefield  
12 Noon ..... Business Meeting  
1:00 PM ..... Auction starts, Roundtable continues  
1:30 PM ..... 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: Railfans I Have Known**

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

### **Layout Tours**

**September 19 & 20, 2009**

**South East Bay—Bob Osborn Coordinator  
Details on Page 5**

### **Division Meet**

**December 6, 2009**

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

**Model Contest: "Favorite Model"**

**Photo Contest: TBD**

**Clinics: TBD**

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The full color 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  
[Crawford.Tom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Crawford.Tom@sbcglobal.net)

## ***Super Notes*** ***By Mark Schutzer***

The meet in June at the Computer History Museum was a bit of an adventure for all. Due to some last minute scheduling changes by the CHM we had to make due with a much smaller space that we are accustomed to. I want to thank everyone who stepped up and made it work. All the auction and accounting committees did a great job of adapting and working with the space we had. I also want to thank all that attended for their patience.

Other than the space issues we had a good meet, we had 105 attendees and 12 first timers! I hope to see all you June first timers come back at the September meet.

We have had some changes in our group of volunteers that make everything work in the Coast Division. Ted Stephens has taken over at registration after Randy Homan moved out of state. Keith Wandry has taken over the photo contest from Pat LaTorres (and Ronnie), and Darrell Dennis has volunteered to be out membership chairman. Thanks to Randy, Pat, and Ronnie for their years of help, and thanks also to our new volunteers!

While I'm on the topic of volunteering I want to say that we can always use more help. At the last Board of Operations meeting we were discussing membership and we all agreed that we can do more to make first timers feel at home. If you are an outgoing person and like to meet new people we can use your help. We would like to pair up each first time visitor with a volunteer who can show him or her around the meet and introduce the first timer to other members who share the same interests. This would not take a whole lot of time, but we feel it is important to make our first time visitors feel welcome. If you think you can help us please get in touch with Darrell Dennis.

We have a couple of great clinics planned for the September meet along with all the other usual activities. I hope to see all of you at Buchser School on September 13<sup>th</sup>.



## **Nominate Your Friend for the NMRA Golden Spike Award!**

**By John Sing**

Do you know that most of your Coast Division friends probably qualify for the NMRA Golden Spike Award?

If your model railroading NMRA friend has built a basic layout and can run 2 trains at same time, he probably qualifies.

Any non-Master Model Railroader NMRA member in good standing can qualify.

Why Nominate Your Friend For the Golden Spike?

Gift of friendship  
Give recognition of your friends' model railroad achievements  
Good excuse to get together and talk trains  
It's Fun!  
Awardee receives national certificate, name printed in Scale Rails

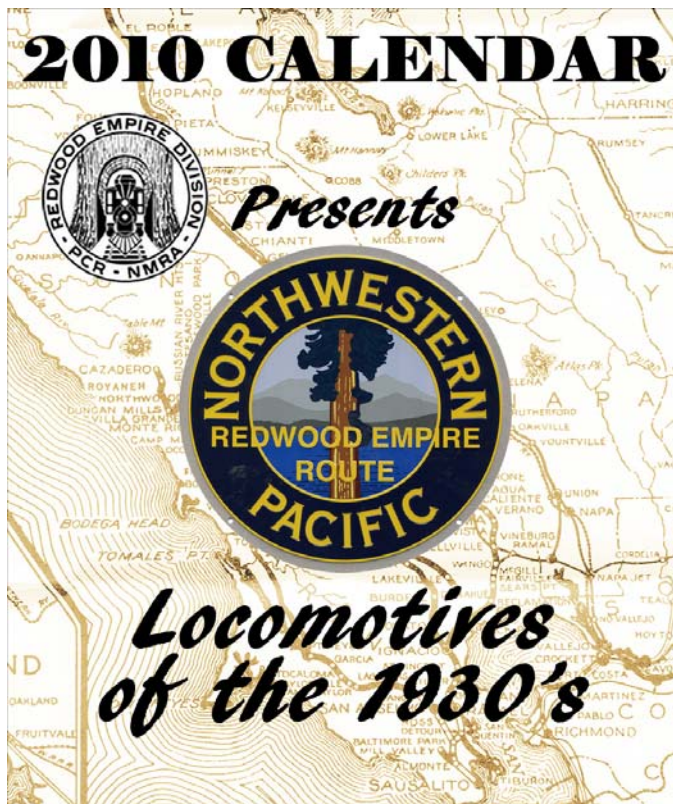
See me, John Sing, at the September Coast Division Meet for more details.

Here's our brochure:

[http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/Golden\\_Spike/Nominate\\_Your\\_Friend\\_For\\_Golden\\_Spike.pdf](http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/Golden_Spike/Nominate_Your_Friend_For_Golden_Spike.pdf)

You can go online at the NMRA web site for full info at:

<http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement/gold.html>



It's not too soon to think about 2010. A new desk calendar produced by RED presenting North Western Pacific Locomotives of the 1930's is ready. It features never before published photos from the Harold B. "Dusty" Miller collection. The calendars are packaged in a 4.5" x 5.5" clear plastic holder that sits on a desk or table. Price is \$8.50 (tax included) or 2/\$15.00. To order contact Steve Skold 707-539-1782, saskold@att.net. All proceeds from sales go to RED.



Miss January

## Auction Committee Report

John Marshall, Chairman

We had 368 actual items in the June auction. The number of no sales was very low, under 20 I believe. The auction went very quickly and we were able to get thru all items before the scheduled door prize and raffle drawing time.

The auction had strong participation from the membership and they are to be complimented for responding to my request that they pay after 3 wins. It really helped in the cramped quarters we had to work in. Our Membership deserves a big hand of applause for helping us keep things on and even keel.

I personally want to thank each member of the auction committee for their hard work and efforts in getting all of the items in the correct order ahead of the auction and really hustling once the auction started. Clark, Chuck and Don did a bang up job as auctioneers and really kept things moving through even though we were short on personnel but that didn't seem to deter the crew for working extra hard to make it a success.

As always, the auction committee is looking for willing people to help us out. Interested parties should contact me by e-mail.

### Tom's Trackside Trains

1675 Rollins Rd. Suite B-1

Burlingame, CA 94010

Tom Van Horn

[tomstracksidetrains.com](http://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 Railroad Appraisals Estate Planning and Disposal John Marshall

8211 Moller Ranch Drive

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Ph: 925-461-0206 Fax: 925-461-9061

Email: [ntrak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ntrak@sbcglobal.net)



## Coast Division Layout Tours

By Dave Parks

### 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 via links from the Coast Division <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/> web site. Hard copy map sets are available only by pre-ordering from a member of the Coast Tours committee (contact below). The hard copy map packet cost is five dollars per tour weekend and distribution is at the Coast Division meeting preceding each tour weekend.

March 7—8, 2009 - Monterey Bay and Salinas – Robert Bowdidge coordinator

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

September 19 – 20, 2009 - South East Bay - Bob Osborn coordinator.

September 27, 2009 North Beyond the Bay - Ernie Simard coordinator.

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

North Beyond the Bay includes Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties. Other tours outside the Coast Division boundaries are being planned. Please let us know if you would like to have your layout on a tour. There are no minimum layout standards, just an accurate description of what you have.

### Coast Tours Coordinators:

Chair	David Parks	<a href="mailto:bearwestern@comcast.net">bearwestern@comcast.net</a>	(650) 961-7644
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South East Bay	Bob Osborn	<a href="mailto:bob@cmrailroad.com">bob@cmrailroad.com</a>	(925) 484-4136
	Don Marenzi	<a href="mailto:donmarenzi@aol.com">donmarenzi@aol.com</a>	(510) 794-3469
North West Bay	Pete Cressman	<a href="mailto:gabi2pete-friends@yahoo.com">gabi2pete-friends@yahoo.com</a>	(415) 641-9379
South West Bay	Steve Williams	<a href="mailto:spwilliams@gmail.com">spwilliams@gmail.com</a>	(408) 857-6787
North Beyond the Bay	Ernie Simard	<a href="mailto:esimard@yahoo.com">esimard@yahoo.com</a>	(707) 762-9163
Monterey Bay/Salinas	Robert Bowdidge	<a href="mailto:bowdidge@earthlink.net">bowdidge@earthlink.net</a>	(408) 723-1925

## June Meet Recap—Show and Tell

At the June meet, instead of clinics we had show and tell (separate from the model Show and Tell). We had several displays:

Dave Connery showed us “Killer Red” an 8 mil double sided clear acrylic tape available at Tap Plastics.

Jere Ingram demonstrated the Sprog II DCC decoder programmer.

Pat LaTorres displayed a subset of his extensive railroad china collection.

Mike Mickens and Chuck Ellison of the San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association brought one of their modular displays to show us.

## **Reach Out & 'Touch' Someone: Make a New Train Friend**

**Steve Wesolowski, Coast Publicity**

As you read this, my fliers for our next Coast Division Quarterly meet September 13th at Buchser Middle School in Santa Clara should be at your local train oriented hobby retailer. If you don't find any, please email me, at swezz at comcast dot net, so I/we can put some there. Thanks!

One fact I've learned from some years producing Coast Meet Fliers: almost no 'newbies' pick one up themselves. The vast majority are handed to 'newbies' by Coast members who invite them. It usually happens when a member, usually at a store or train show, mentions how much fun attending our meets are and why they come.

Remember: YOUR enthusiasm and passion for seeing and talking about trains at Coast meets can be contagious to Anyone you meet who also enjoys trains. If you only mention the next meet to a stranger, they might also come and enjoy trains even more. Perhaps your Mom said "don't talk to strangers".

My Mom definitely encouraged me to talk with 'strangers'; Mom enjoyed meeting 'new' people in line or where-ever. One thing I Know, inviting someone you meet and enjoy talking trains with to the Coast Meet will Not cause Identity Theft (or worse). So, give it a try; the 'new' train friend you make may become a life-long buddy.

I've learned the more train loving friends I know, the more fun train events I hear of and am invited to. Every 'New' train friend brings/gives you new ideas and possibilities; none of us can do them all, but learning about more train fun possibilities may open the doors to more train fun!

So, the next time you meet someone enjoyable at your local train store (or anywhere else) invite them to our next meet. If you don't find a Coast Meet flier handy, tell them about [www.pcrnmra.org](http://www.pcrnmra.org) where PCR's events calendar is.

If someone you invite or you see another new face at one of our meets, please introduce yourself. Ask their interests & scale(s); introduce them to others you know who share their interests and/or scales. When a "new" or returning modeler comes to a Coast Meet (or visits a local hobby shop) the first time and NO ONE encourages their train interests, we all may lose their future contributions, keeping us from enjoying trains even more.

Although the 'job' of greeting Newbies at a Coast meet is our new Coast Membership Volunteer's, Darrell Dennis, he can't do this alone, so if you see someone new at meets or hobby shop visits, introduce yourself and ask if they might enjoy meeting other modelers with similar interests, then try to help them. As "acting" Membership Volunteer since someone dumped on me several boxes at a GATS show, I'm ecstatic Darrell Dennis volunteered! All I tried to do was coordinate Coast's Train Show Membership Recruiting.

While Darrell gets up to speed as Membership Volunteer, Darrell will have much more on his plate than I ever tried to do, and we all can help him succeed. In the spirit of helping Darrell, I remind everyone the next GTE Train Shows are September 26-7 at Santa Clara County Fairgrounds and November 28-9 at Alameda County Fairgrounds. Mark your calendars and contact Darrell or I if you want to help. I thank Bennet Woll, Chuck Mitchell and James Eckman for volunteering at the March GTE Cow Palace show I was unable to attend. I find train shows rewarding because we can help new & returning modelers find more resources to sustain & grow their train interests. I especially enjoy helping Non-Rail parents (like mine) helping their kid(s) to enjoy their train passion with no idea where to go or how to help their kids; recommending Helpful hobby shops who spend time with them, local clubs and our meets.

Come join us at shows: meet new trainiacs; share your enthusiasm and knowledge with them! We all benefit!

See you Sept 13, if not b4!

## Model Contest / Show Tell Report for June 2009 Coast Division Meet by: John Sing

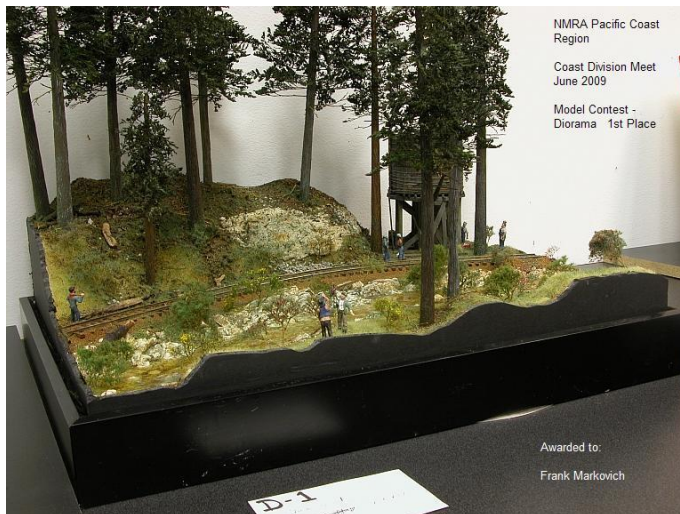
We had another great turnout for the March 2009 Coast Division Model Contest / Show Tell / Photo Contest.

As always, \*Thank You\* to \*all\* the participants who entered and put on such a good show for the rest of us. Thank you to Mark Schutzer for the photos, to Steve Wesolowski, Ronnie LaTorres, and all who helped out to run the Model Contest and Show and Tell.

### Model Contest

#### Winners by popular vote.

Diorama 1st Place to Frank Markovich:



Diorama 2nd Place to Jim Eckman:



Traction 1st Place to Alf Modine:



Traction 2nd Place to George Friesleben:



By popular vote, George's unique style and consistent participation over the past several years was recognized by the members.

Traction 3rd Place to Bruce Battle:



Note: we did not have any entrants in Structure this time.



(Continued from page 7)

## Show and Tell

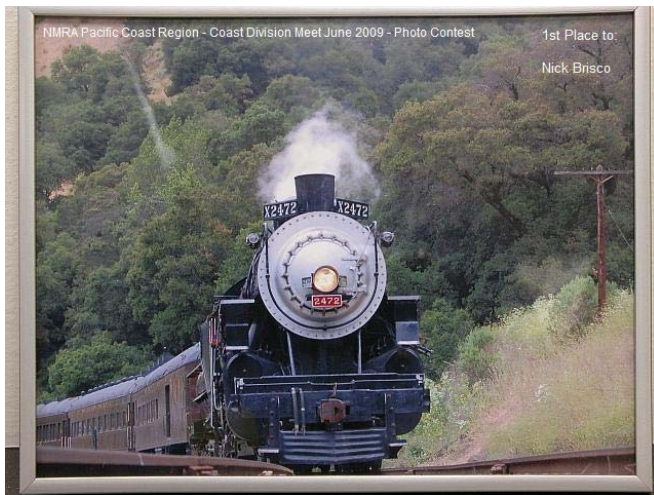
Welcome to Alvin Ho who shared with us this super-detailed N scale SD40-2:



## Photo Contest

Winners by popular vote:

1st Place: "SP 2472 on Niles" by Nick Brisco :



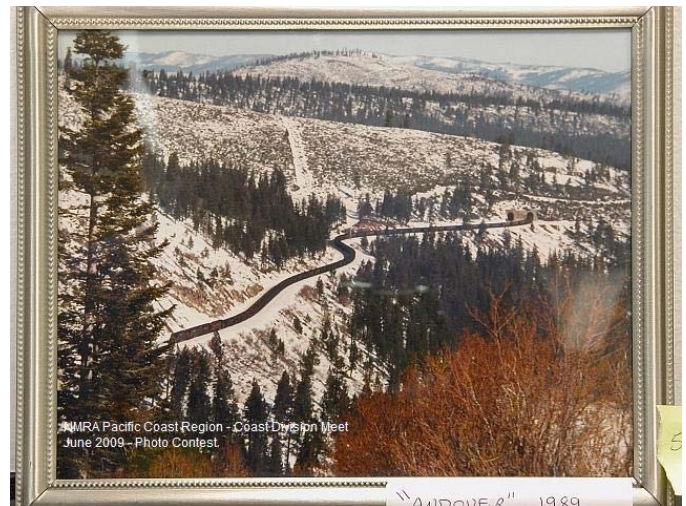
2nd Place: "Couplers" by Steve Wesolowski:



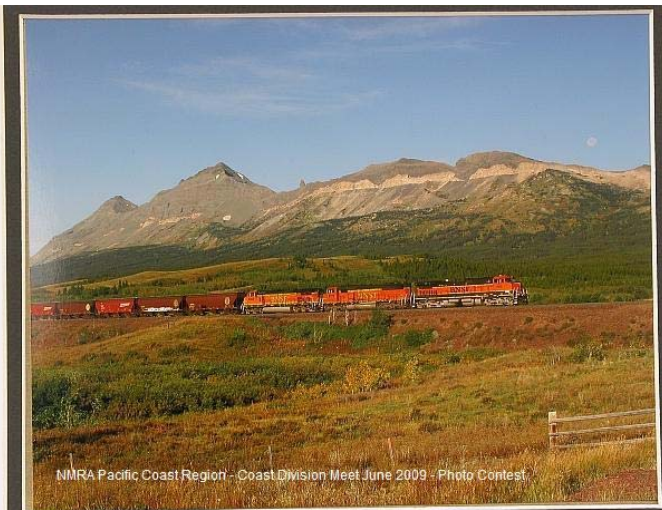
3d Place: "Heisler #1" by Gus Campagna:



We had great entries all. Here are the rest:







The Photo Contest theme for September 2009 Coast Division Meet is: *"Railfans I Have Known"*

Winners are by Popular Vote.

Model Contest categories for September 2009 Coast Division Meet are:

- *Steam Locomotives*
- *Diesel & Other Locomotives*
- *Passenger Car*

Winners are by Popular Vote.

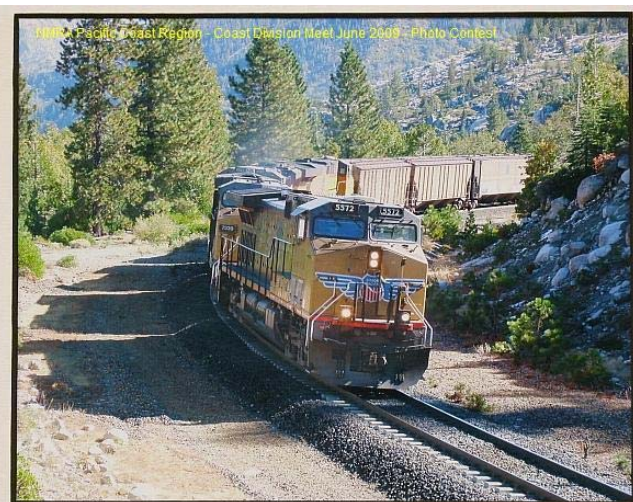
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 NMRA Judging is available at the Coast Division Meet to any Model Contest participant for:

- Achievement Program Merit Points
- Regional/National Contest entry preparation 'dry-run' and friendly expert advice
- Or, just to see how you would have done (smile!)

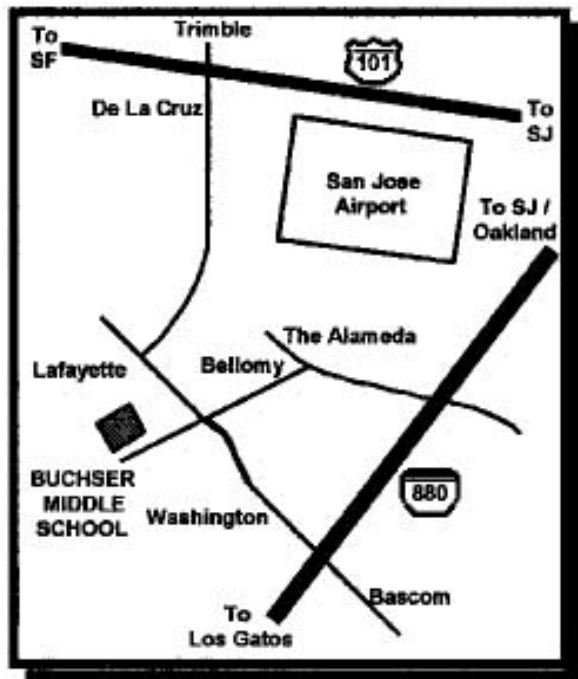
Please contact the current Coast Division Model Contest Chair, John Sing, or the current Achievement Program chair Kermit Paul, if you would to have your model judged at the upcoming meet.

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Come on out with and participate, whether for the Contest or for the Show and Tell. We look forward to seeing you there!



The next meet will be on September 13, 2009 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  
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Fremont, CA 94536