



## Coast Dispatcher December 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

December 6, 2009

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 "Photographing Railroad Models" by John Sing (see page 4)
- 11:00 AM ..... "In the Roundhouse at Railtown" by Dave Tadlock
- 11:00 AM ..... Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Jerry Littlefield
- 12 Noon ..... Silent Auction ends, Business Meeting Begins. Live Auction starts 5 minutes after Business Meeting ends.
- 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: "Your Favorite Photo"

Model Contest: "Favorite Model"

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

#### Layout Tours

December 12 & 13, 2009

North West Bay

Details on Page 4.

#### LD/Op SIG Tours and OP Sessions

January 29-31, 2010

Details on Page 4.

#### Division Meet

March 7, 2010

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

Photo Contest: "Steam Locomotives"

Model Contest: "Freight Car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way"

Clinics: TBD

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I apologize for the stuff that was cut out of this Dispatcher to maintain our 10 page limit. Also, the pictures in the Dispatcher are very small and are in black and white. To see the full stories, all the pictures in full size, in full color and in a reasonable size, you need to get the E-Dispatcher, which 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 theme of this installment of Super Notes is “to reach out and try something new”. As I write this I am preparing to depart to San Luis Obispo for this year’s Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society meet. It has been a busy fall and hardly a weekend has gone by without some kind of railroading activity going on.

We are truly fortunate to live in this area as there are lots of different railroading activities going on all the time. In addition to the Coast meets there are open houses, layout tour weekends, Op sessions, and LDSIG/OPSIG events.

Dave Grenier our PCR webmaster has done a wonderful job of capturing all these activities on the PCR Master Calendar. If you haven’t yet seen it I would encourage all of you to review it for activities that may interest you. The calendar is continually updated and can be accessed online at this web address:

<http://www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.htm>

Some notable events coming up include the Sierra’s Division “International Railfair” show in Roseville on the weekend of November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. We also have a Great Train Expo show in Pleasanton on November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. These are just a couple of the events that are happening in November.

If you have ever been interested in Operations and/or Layout Design there is a great PCR/LDSIG/OPSIG weekend event coming up on January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at the Santa Clara Depot. In addition to clinics there are op sessions and layout tours to occupy the entire weekend. If you have ever been interested in learning about operations this is a great opportunity to get your feet wet. For more information about this event see:

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

And of course we can’t forget about the next Coast meet on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Computer History Museum.

But the point to all of this is to make you more aware of all the activities going on in addition to the Coast meets. I encourage everyone to get out and try something new. Whether it’s an open house, a layout tour, a train show, or the SIG weekend there is a lot that this hobby has to offer.

## **The Director’s Cut**

**By Rod Smith—Coast Director**

The mid-year PCR Board meeting was held at the headquarters hotel for the 2010 Silver Rails convention; John Ascuaga’s Nugget in Sparks Nevada on October 24, 2009. The hotel has excellent facilities for our clinics and contests, plus the south facing rooms in the tower overlook the Sparks yard of the former SP! The convention chair gave a report of planned activities and it just sounds like a convention not to be missed. Read about it in the Branch Line, or go to the website <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2010/> for more information. I’m certainly looking forward to it.

Our meeting went well. PCR continues to run a small budget deficit from income, but our financial standing is secure. Some changes were approved to the contest guidelines. A popular vote for the contests was added with appropriate awards. These are in addition to the judged awards. Some categories of entries were clarified or added, such as non-revenue vehicles being added to the MOW category and a Working on the Railroad category being added to the photo contest. We also recognized the lack of interest in the locomotive performance contest and deleted it from the contest list. Crafts is a new category to recognize the advances and changes to our current rules. The category of slides was deleted and digital photography has been recognized with some rules on manipulation of digital images included.

We also discussed the need to provide outreach to retain our members as well as encourage new members when they first join the PCR. Doug Wagner, the Membership Dept. manager is working on a brochure we can use as a recruitment tool and there will be a new emphasis on contacting members we don’t see often. We must all keep working to make the advantages of PCR membership obvious to modelers.

John Houlihan from the Daylight Division showed us a display of past convention cars he has assembled. Not every convention is yet included but I was amazed at the variety of cars we have had over the years. If you have some in a box somewhere, how about donating them to fill the collection. They are nicely displayed in some cases which provide security. See them yourself at the 2010 convention. We also visited two layouts which will be on tour during next year’s convention and they are spectacular. Don’t miss them next April. I’ll be there, will you??

## **Photography Clinic**

*By John Sing*

At the December 6 meet at 10 AM John Sing will give a clinic on photographing model railroads.

John is one of the Coast Division's prolific photographers of local model railroad layouts and models. Examples of his work can be seen on the Coast Division Model Contest web site and at his own personal model railroad web site.

In this clinic, John will discuss the his easy to follow methods for making digital model railroad photos, using today's very affordable digital cameras. Specific recommendations for equipment will be included, as well as ideas and recommendations for simple composition, lighting, and exposure.

Post-processing of the digital image is then covered (this is just as important as the original image itself) by using free simple but powerful photo editing software that can be downloaded off the Internet.

The format of this clinic will be 'photo to web-site'. We'll follow the steps of how a Model Contest / Show and Tell photo goes from it's picture being taken at the Meet, to creation of the final digital photo ready for publishing on our Coast Division Web site.

This clinic is aimed for the "everyone" in all of us - we're not going to go into the professional level details.

So, if you just want to make better model railroad photos - come on out and hear what John has to say about "Everyone can do digital model railroad photos!!!"

**Model Railroad Appraisals  
Estate Planning and Disposal  
John Marshall  
8211 Moller Ranch Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
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Email: ntrak@sbcglobal.net**

## **Nominations for Coast Division Director**

*By Dave Connery*

At the December Coast Division Meet nominations will be open to the floor for additional nominations for the position of Coast Division Director – our representative on the Pacific Coast Board of Directors. Our current Director, Rod Smith is eligible for a second term and has agreed to have his name placed on the ballot. Nominees must desire and be willing to serve before they will be placed on the official ballot. The term of office runs from the Spring of 2010 to the Spring of 2012. The election will be conducted by PCR, the ballot appearing in the Branch Line that is sent to all members by mid-February, 2010.

## **Coast Division Layout Tours**

*By Dave Parks*

The next four Coast Layout Tours are shown below. All NMRA members are eligible to attend. The layout list, description, addresses and maps will be available from the Coast Division web site

<http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/> approximately a week before each tour. Your NMRA number and your email address are your ID and password. If we do not have your email address, please forward it to Steve Williams at [spwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:spwilliams@gmail.com), the Coast Tours Web Master or your area coordinator.

December 12 – 13, 2009

- North West Bay - Pete Cressman coordinator.

January 29-31, 2010

- LD/Op Sig Tours and Op Sessions - David Parks coordinator

March 13 – 14, 2010

- North East Bay - Andy Schnur coordinator.

June 12 – 13, 2010

- South West Bay including Monterey Bay/Salinas - Steve Williams and Robert Bowdidge coordinators.

The PCR Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Group meet in January 2010 will have layout tours and guest prototype operating sessions. The Web site for this event held at the Santa Clara Depot is <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sigs/>. Advance registration is required.

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

Coast Tours Coordinators:

Chair	David Parks <a href="mailto:beaerwestern@comcast.net">beaerwestern@comcast.net</a> 650) 961-7644
North East Bay	Andy Schnur <a href="mailto:schnurrae@netzero.com">schnurrae@netzero.com</a> (925) 283-4476
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

## ***The Coast Division Auction*** ***By John Marshall***

Since taking over the chairmanship of this group a few quarters ago, I have come to realize that there was a lot going on that someone sitting out in the audience didn't know about. What impresses me the most is how dedicated and how hard working this group of guys and gal really are. Sure you see them standing or sitting up there but so much is actually going on, it can be hard to visualize it.

Their first priority is making sure that all the items are displayed in order on the tables. This often means chasing around looking for things that someone put on the wrong table or out of order. This has to occur even before the auction can start and, sellers are continuing to add their items to the tables so the auction workers have to continually watch for misplaced items and get them in the correct order. While this is going on, others are getting the computer system set up, checking it to make sure everything is working and be ready to enter the information from the silent auction when it arrives at noon. The silent auction

requires a lot of moving and lifting of the bundles of magazines, getting the seller and buyer information data entered and the items put in buyer order. They have only 30 minutes to get that done during the business meeting. When there are a couple of tables full of items, that can be a real squeeze!

Then the fun begins. The auction is off and running. Items have to be moved on the front table, auction cards have to be taken from the items and handed to the auctioneer, the line keeps moving and new items moved to the front table. The item has to be displayed then given to the recorder who has to match the card with the item and note the buyer number and selling price on the card and pass both to the next person for data entry. From there one of the other workers takes the item and puts the card with it and takes it to the staging area and places it in seller sequence. Get the picture? This is like a tank tread in constant motion. This goes on for 3 or more items. Then while the crew is busy doing all that, we have buyers coming up to pay for and collect their won items. This requires someone to go and fetch the items, bring them back to the table, match the items and cards to make sure they are all there and are correct, hand them to the person doing data entry to confirm that the right items are being handed over to the buyer, log the sale, take the payment and issue a receipt. This goes on continually too.

My point in all this? Yes it is a lot of work, often very thankless work. I want to recognize each of these people for the valuable job that they are doing for the division. They are a major part of our quarterly activities as well as often being called upon to assist at regional and national conventions too. They deserve our thanks and admiration for their work and their dedication to the Coast Division.

### **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

## And Now for Something Completely Different ....

...my thanks to Monty Python!

I'll bet you're as happy as I am I'm NOT trying to convince you to attend our next PCR Convention in Sparks! While I hope I'll see you having fun in Sparks too, that's not my 'job' this year! I get a break & so do you: Oh, Yeah!

Instead, first I'd like you to consider Volunteering with me and help staff our Coast Division Information and Recruiting tables at the GTE Show in Pleasanton over Thanksgiving Weekend, November 28 & 29.

You are welcome to Help us spread the word about how Coast Division, PCR, and NMRA 'fellowship' (aka NMRA Membership) enriches and enhances YOUR Modeling/Train Fun (and fun in the rest of your life?).

After all, it IS our enjoyable friendships with other modelers & train lovers which motivates most Volunteers! Think about that and you'll realize that is true: we volunteer so we can enjoy each other's fun company even more.

My 'standard' greeting at GTE shows is: "Hi! We're NOT selling anything. We're handing out fliers about our next Coast Division Meet, which is also Free, and inviting you to come join us, if you want to enjoy Model Railroading even more."

Our GTE Volunteers have fun meeting other 'train' people, Demo-ing/Explaining/Letting them enjoy John Allen's Timesaver, trying to answer train questions they have and encouraging them to take 1 or 2 Free model train mags. We also alternate taking breaks to enjoy the GTE shows, have lunch, and we also discuss modeling with each other when we aren't informing others how much we enjoy especially our Coast Division NMRA membership benefits.

If you're planning to enjoy Pleasanton's GTE show, please consider joining us for 3 or more hours from 10 AM to 4PM one or both days. I'm pretty certain you'll have fun: ask Chuck Mitchell, Pat or Ronnie LaTorres, Stan Keiser, Rod Smith, Don Stewart, Darrell Dennis or anyone who's volunteered lately. Plus, Volunteering counts towards your AP Volunteer certificate. Please email me if you are interested-- I'm listed in the Callboard.

If you're already too busy Thanksgiving weekend, please consider Volunteering for any other role/job within the Coast Division or PCR. As I've said before, the more of us who Volunteer, the less 'work' we each have to do, so we have more time for mod-

eling and other fun! As just one example, I know John Marshall is looking for more Auction Volunteers and you don't have to volunteer as an Auctioneer Unless You Want To; which I'd like to try sometime.

Perhaps you've seen me up front during some Coast Auctions: sometimes I've spelled Stan Keiser so he can get off his feet & give his back a rest. As I have back issues too, I don't mind helping Stan enjoy Our Auction, also!

There are Always Many Volunteer positions available in our organization; many, maybe even most don't require much time: e.g. helping straighten up before/after a meeting; running the Timesaver or helping with Contests or Registration for a few minutes. All you have to do is ask any Volunteer if they want/need some help, they'll either say "Yes! Thank You!" or refer you to someone else they know could use some help. It's that easy; you just ask.

After Volunteering fairly often since I rejoined NMRA in 2000 at Coast, PCR and NMRA events, I KNOW Volunteers always try to help each other learn, but even more importantly, to Succeed as volunteers. Every Volunteer I've ever known wants other Volunteers to succeed and have some fun: we always help each other since we always appreciate help ourselves. We each have strengths AND some less strong skills; but whenever we help each other improve, we both grow and 'win': you never fully understand anything until you can explain it to another person.

So when you Volunteer, from all my experiences, you will succeed, learn something unexpected, grow new and/or existing skills, and you'll also earn AP Volunteer credit. Bottom Line: Volunteering is a Big Win/Win/Win!

Next time, Whatever I write about, I guarantee I won't be trying to convince you to enjoy Reno/Sparks during PCR2010! But, I hope you and I both register soon to save \$, and so I'll see you there having fun with trains too!

Happy Trains to You, Until we Meet Again/Keep Smilin' until then!

Steve Wesolowski  
Coast Division Publicity Volunteer



## Coast Division Webmaster's Report By John Sing

As all of you know, we live in amazing times, where the Internet brings together model railroaders and our stories, photos, and information in incredible ways.

Your Coast Division web site is doing our best to provide you online information about your Division. The web site home page is at

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

It always has:

- The next quarterly Meet information, including dates, times, maps, and contest categories
- Online viewing or download of our quarterly Coast Dispatcher newsletter
- What's coming up for Clinics at the Meets
- Info on your division such as the Callboard, time/location/minutes of Board of Operations meeting, the Coast Layout Tours (thx Steve Williams!), and much more
- Links to the Pacific Coast Region, the Regional calendar of activities (So Many Activities, So Little Time!), and much more

And of course, the quarterly online Meet Report, with lots of digital photos. The September 2009 Meet Report is here:

[http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest/Contest\\_Sept\\_2009.shtml](http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest/Contest_Sept_2009.shtml)

One cool thing with the web - we can see a map of how many visitors and \*where they came from\*. Here's the Oct 2009 visitor map for our Coast Division Home Page - cool, eh? :-)  
(*editor's note—only in the E-Dispatcher*)

On the quarterly meet web pages, you can see this info for yourself, look for the "View Visitor Page Statistics" link just under the "hit counter".

These web pages are excellent resources to show prospective members what's up with our Division and Region. Please share the web address URLs with anyone.

(We take privacy seriously and all photos are used with express permission of the model owners, and no personal addresses or personal information is ever displayed, unless with full prior permission and nec-

essary (such as the Callboard).

Please let me know how you'd like to see your Coast Division web site improved or expanded.

Hope you enjoy!

John Sing  
Coast Division Webmaster-dude

## Model Contest and Show and Tell Sept 2009 By John Sing

We had many beautiful models displayed again in the Show and Tell for all of us to enjoy - Show and Tell continues to be just wonderful.

### Show and Tell participants:

Jim Eckman's amazing printed paper models:



Alf Modine's beautiful Harrison Avenue station platform in O scale – received an Achievement Merit Award:



Rod Smith's photos of historic John Allen locomotives saved from the ashes of the fire:



John Sing's review of Coast Division Model Contest / Show and Tell for the past four years – 564 photos in a computer slide show!



Bob Booth's "Dollar Models" – making 60' Camino & lake Tahoe contest quality cars out of only \$3 in former junk models!



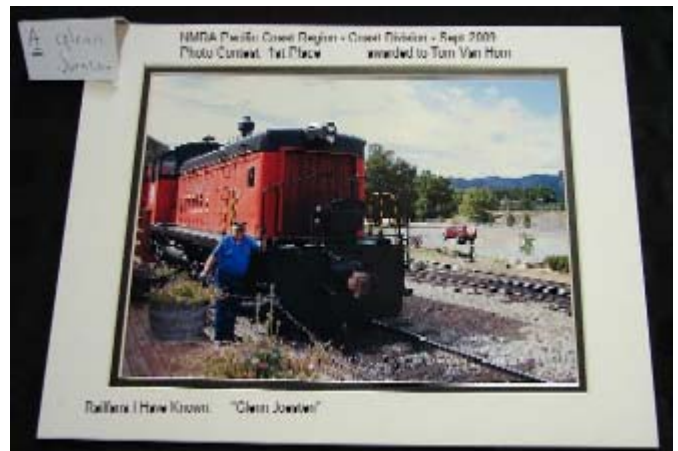
### Sept 2009 Photo Contest

Was again great and interesting - the theme was "Railfans I Have Known" - thx Steve Wesolowski for helping out as Keith Wandry was out of town:

The winners, by popular vote, were:

First Place: "Glen Joesten" by Tom Van Horn

John Sing's "State of the "Off the Shelf" N Scale Sound Locos" display. QSI and LokSound systems in N Scale locos





Second Place: "Pat LaTorres" by Seth Neumann:



Third Place: "Ellen" by Brian Boota:



worth of September Model Contest entries for Steam, Diesel and Passenger Car have been stellar. Therefore, this issue we review 2006, 2007, and 2008 September Meet Model Contest 1st place winners (all by Popular Vote); and please go see *all* the participants in September Coast Meet Model Contest at our Sept 2009 Meet Report web page (all of whom are just great and worthy of fame!):

[http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest/Contest\\_Sept\\_2009.shtml](http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest/Contest_Sept_2009.shtml)

*(Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, we had no room for the historical pictures. See the E-Dispatcher for the full picture set.)*

Thank you to all who participated in Sept 2009 Show and Tell, Photo Contest, and in past Model Contests - we love seeing these wonderful models.

The Coast Division NMRA Meet Contests and Show and Tell 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.

Thx and hope to see a wonderful Holiday 2009 feast of participation at the December 2009 Coast Division Meet!

First-timers always welcome, we love to see and share what you have.

## ***Timesaver Report*** ***By Dave Loveless***

### ***Model Contest Sept 2009***

Unfortunately, we had a situation in the September 2009 Model Contest that hasn't happened for many years - **we had no entries in the Model Contest, in any of the categories!**

We encourage everyone to remedy that by bringing out a model, and make participation for the December 2009 Meet's Model Contest a record-breaker. The category is "Favorite Model", i.e. any category.

So, come on out and share with us your model rail-roading pride and joys. We really look forward to seeing you :-).

We have much to be thankful for; the past 3 years

#### *Brakeperson:*

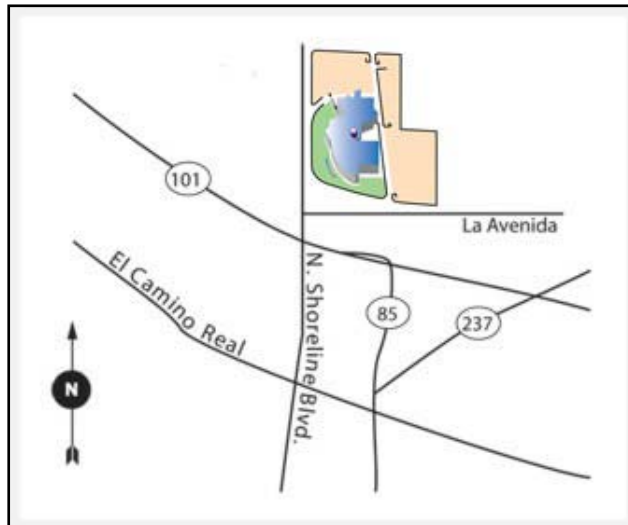
1st Place	Steve Anderson (first time)	6:29 *
2nd Place	Steve Peters (first time)	9:25
3rd Place	Dave Payne (first time)	9:38

#### *Senior Brakeperson*

1st Place	Tom Crawford	4:45
2nd Place	Tom Van Horn	5:42
3rd Place	Steve Anderson	7:11 *

\* Steve was promoted to Senior after his 6:29 run, and then placed third as a senior.

The next meet will be on December 6, 2009 at the  
Computer History Museum 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View  
Details are on Page 1. Here is the map.



**From San Francisco: Take US-101 South toward San Jose. Take Shoreline Blvd exit. Turn left onto Shoreline Blvd. Cross through intersection, Museum is on your right. You are there: Museum Entrance faces Shoreline Blvd.**

**From San Jose: Take Highway 101 North. Exit Shoreline Blvd. At the light, turn right onto N. Shoreline Blvd. Cross through intersection, Museum is on your right. You are there: Museum Entrance faces Shoreline Blvd.**

**Coast Dispatcher  
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Fremont, CA 94536**