



Coast Dispatcher March 2010

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

March 7, 2010

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 Decoder Hardware (selection and installation) by Mark Gurries
 11:00 AM Decoder Software (programming and software support) 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:

Model Contest: Caboose, Freight Cars, Maintenance of Way

Photo Contest: Steam Locomotives

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

* Auction actually starts as soon as Business Meeting ends.

Layout Tours

March 13 & 14, 2010

North East Bay - Andy Schnur coordinator

Details on Page 5

Division Meet

June 13, 2010

Location TBD

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

Photo Contest: Railroad Structures

Clinics: TBD

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In This Issue

Upcoming Events	1
Call Board.....	2
Superintendent' Report.	3
LPConnell Collection.....	3
Director's Cut.....	4
Layout Tours.....	5
Auction Committee.....	5
Silver Rails	6
TCSME	6
Publicity.....	7
Model Contest.....	8
Show & Tell	8
Photo Contest	9
Webmaster's Tip.....	9
<u>Meet Location Map.....</u>	<u>10</u>

Editor's Notes:

Again I had to scrunch and squeeze and edit out stuff to get it all in, and a lot of things ended up being only in the E-Dispatcher.

The E-Dispatcher is the full color and full size version of the 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

Super Notes

By Mark Schutzer

As I write this I am looking forward to the LDSIG/OPSIG meet coming up this next weekend. This promises to be a great weekend full of presentations, layout tours and operating sessions. In the last issue of the Dispatcher I suggested that everyone get out and try something new such as attending an activity like the LDSIG/OPSIG weekend. This event will be over before you read this but I hope that I see a lot of you there as this is a wonderful event that is jointly sponsored by PCR and the SIG groups.

On a more serious subject the Coast Division needs your help in finding a new meeting site. We have been fortunate to have the benefit of two very nice meeting sites in Buchser School and the Computer History Museum. Due to upcoming remodeling projects and changes in business we no longer have the Computer History Museum available to us and we need to find a new meeting site.

We need the help of the membership in finding a new site!

Here are our requirements for a meeting site:

- Building needs to accommodate up to 125 people
- Needs to have a couple of extra small rooms/areas for holding clinics
- Needs to have chairs for up to 100 people
- Needs to have lots of tables for accommodating the auction activities
- Needs to be available on Sunday's, normally the first Sunday in June and December
- Needs to be affordable

While there are many buildings/rooms that can be rented most want lots of money and the Coast Division has a limited budget available for meeting sites. We typically provide a donation of \$150 dollars per meet to each of our meeting sites to cover expenses and utilities.

Your Coast Board of Operations has been searching for new meeting sites for some time and we have almost exhausted all of our leads and now we need your help. If you have any leads on a possible meeting site please contact me at: mark.schutzer@sbcglobal.net or (650) 369-0481.

On a lighter note I hope to see all of you at the March meet at Buchser School. Mark Gurries will be presenting two DCC clinics discussing the selection, installation, and programming of decoders. Jerry Littlefield will also be hosting his always popular Model Railroad Round Table.

I hope to see you all in March!

Lloyd. P. Cornell Collection

In September 2009, life Member L. J. Cornell of Lafayette, CA passed away. His instructions to his son were to donate his railroad collection to the Coast Division. This collection will be presented at the March 7 Coast Division Meet. The collection includes approximately 45 complete years of MR and Scale Rails, complete set of LDsig Journals/newsletters, many timetables, rolling stock, buildings (kits and built or partially built), modeling supplies, and a large supply of paints. All sales will be a 100% benefit to the Coast Division.

The Director's Cut By Rod Smith

At the October Board of Director's meeting in Sparks, we had the opportunity to preview the convention site. You will really enjoy these facilities as well as the activities planned for the convention. Read about it in the Branch Line you recently received, or go on-line to <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2010/> and view the fine convention planned for us.

No Coast Division member should fail to see the Golden Gate Express exhibit at the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. The garden railroad folks have done one outstanding job putting together this exhibit, and it will be open through April 18 this year. There is a cable car climbing the hill, automobiles actually move across the Golden Gate Bridge, a train or two running through the entire scene and many recognizable structures built from unlikely materials. Those familiar with San Francisco will recognize most of the buildings, but the challenge is to decipher what was used to construct them. And, if you are there at the right time, the fog will actually roll in under the bridge! The conservatory has a very interesting collection of vegetation too, so spend an hour or so seeing the whole display. I went on public transit, and the 5, 21 and 33 MUNI bus lines all run close by.

Another worthwhile trip in Coast Division is the new Disney Family Museum at the Presidio of San Francisco. Lots of FREE parking there, something rarely found in The City. This is not about Disneyland, but the life of Walt Disney and has a smattering of railroad interest. Walt was a great modeler and his own live steam train is exhibited there, along with some home movies of it in action. They said to allow an hour, but it took me three, and I doubt I saw it all. This one isn't closing in April, so you can schedule a visit at your leisure. But, it is very interesting if you have any interest in animation, or are just curious how they do those things.

Don't forget the March Coast Layout Tours put together by Dave Parks and his crew. One of the best values of being an NMRA member is the chance to invade someone's home and see their layout. I always come away with several ideas for improvements to mine and new techniques I never thought of to reach some goal. We have great layouts here in this Division and you owe it to yourself to see them. There is information about them in the Branch Line recently delivered to you. And, while you have that copy in your hands, why not exercise your right and vote in the election. The ballot is in the magazine. Sure, I am on the ballot running for re-election and you may think I am being self serving, but I believe we should all vote in any election we have the chance to. Past elections have had sparse participation – let's set a new record this year.

See you at the March 7 meeting. Directions and a map are elsewhere in this issue.

Rod Smith

Tom's Trackside Trains

1675 Rollins Rd. Suite B-1
Burlingame, CA 94010
Tom Van Horn
tomtracksidetrains.com

Hours:

Wed & Fri: 12-8 Thu: 12-5
Sat: 12-6; Sun: 12-3

Phone (650) 692-9724
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Model Railroad Appraisals Estate Planning and Disposal John Marshall

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Coast Division Layout Tours

By Dave Parks

2010 Coast Tours Schedule

Below is the 2010 schedule for Coast Tours. The layout list and description are available on-line in advance of the tour date. Maps and address information are available using your email address as your ID and your NMRA number as your password. If we do not have your current email address, please contact one of the coordinators or Web Coordinator Steve Williams.

Let Us See Your Layout

Let us know if you would like to offer your layout for touring. There are no minimum standards for completeness, just an accurate description to help tourists evaluate their level of interest. An empty room with a detailed plan may hold the attention of many in a similar mode. Others will be only want to see a finished layout (has anybody ever actually seen a finished layout?)

March 13 – 14, 2010 - North East Bay - Andy Schnur coordinator.
 June 19 –20, 2010 - South West Bay- Steve Williams and Robert Bowdidge coordinators
 September 18 – 19, 2010 - North West Bay - Pete Cressman coordinator
 December 11 – 12, 2010 - South East Bay - Bob Osborn and Don Marenzi coordinators

Chair	David Parks	bearwestern@comcast.net	(650) 961-7644
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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
Monterey Bay/Salinas	Robert Bowdidge	bowdidge@earthlink.net	(408) 723-1925
Web Coordinator	Steve Williams	spwilliams@gmail.com	(408) 857-6787

Auction Committee Report

By John Marshall

Auction at the December meet:

Once again, the Auction Committee was faced with the daunting challenge of limited space and a large number of items presented for auction by our membership.

We had 338 items in the live auction with an additional 25 estate items at the end for a total of 363 items.

There were 21 items in the silent auction as well.

The March auction is already proving to be larger.

There will be at least 50 lots in the silent auction and a large number of estate items in the regular auction. These items were donated to the Coast Division and the proceeds go to our operations.

Silver Rails 2010 PCR Convention By Jim Long

The 2010 PCR Convention Silver Rails will be April 28 – May 2 at the Nugget Hotel in Sparks, NV.

On Thursday we will have the Donner Summit and Tunnel Tour. There is no cost for this tour. On Friday the group will be going to the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola. The admission is free

On Saturday we will tour the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City, the small railroad in Mills Park and take a round trip ride on newly expanded V&T RR. This tour cost \$60 and includes a lunch.

All tours will be self guided and we will be setting up car pools for those that don't have a car.

There is a form on the tours page where you can sign up to help drive a car pool.

We have set the menu for the Saturday Night Banquet. The cost of this is included with registration.

Herbed Entrecôte of Beef

Chicken Wellington

Poached Filet of Halibut

The PCR Breakfast will be on Sunday morning and is included. Please tell us if you plan on attending as we have give them this count as well. The Hobo Breakfast will be Saturday Morning in Rosie's Café in the Nugget. We will have a separate area. We will be ordering off the menu and each of us paying for what we order. The food is reasonable and good. I will most likely eat there several times during the convention. We will have a signup sheet at registration in Registration so we know how many will be attending.

For the first time we are offering a series of Modeling With The Masters clinics. There is a limit of 15 people in each clinic. These are all make and take clinics where you get to build a project under the direction of a MMR and then take it home. The clinics are Scratch Building a Styrene Structure, Building a DPM Kit, Building a Laser Structure Kit and Building a Turnout Using a Commercial Fixture. These clinics cost between \$28 and \$50. They will be taught by Clark Kooning MMR from Canada. Please sign up for

these so we have enough people to put on the program.

There will be a full slate of regular clinics that have no cost. A preliminary list is on the website. It looks like we will have 12 layouts open for tours during the convention and a couple for driving back home on Sunday.

There will several operating sessions at local layouts.

There will be a swap meet on Friday evening.

There is more information on the web site at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2010/index.html>.

If you have any questions please ask me at jimclong@sbcglobal.net or 530-676-1798

Jim Long

Silver Rails Registrar

Fremont Train Club Seeking New Members

The Tri-City Society of Model Engineers (TCSME), a Fremont, California based model railroad club is seeking new members to help build the club's new N-scale and HO-scale model railroads. Effective February 2010, the TSCME will be moving back into the newly restored former Southern Pacific Niles Passenger Station and Freight House, now located near their former original locations alongside the Union Pacific railroad tracks. The N-scale train layout will again be housed inside the Niles Passenger Station, while the HO-scale train layout will be housed in the newly rebuilt Freight House.

Our HO-scale model railroad has been designed by Byron Henderson. It will represent the Southern Pacific from SP's San Jose passenger station to Niles Jct., then through Niles Canyon and points east. The Western Pacific line through Niles Jct., Niles Canyon and points east will also be modeled.

The N-scale layout will model the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific from the Warm Springs Yard in Fremont north to Oakland, plus, both railroads' lines through Niles Canyon to points east.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

If you are interested in joining our model railroad club, please contact: Mike Oberg at (650) 207-4397 or Stan Keiser at (510) 797-4449 and please leave a message and phone number to call you back.

PCR Publicity is Mostly You, not Me, by Steve Wesolowski

As Coast Division's Publicity Volunteer, I've been writing Coast Meet fliers awhile. With other member's help, those fliers get where Model Railroaders go, mostly hobby shops & train shows.

I'm not sure when I began writing and distributing those hundreds of flyers for Coast Division meets but I'm certain fliers don't get many to attend a meet. What brings 'new' people to our meets is when a Coast member explains how meetings increase their hobby enjoyment and hands them a flier or our web URL to remind them when/where our next meet is. Our best Coast Publicity depends more on what YOU do and say than what only I write or do. Try inviting someone to our next Coast meet; if they come, most, maybe all will benefit from their new ideas and fresh energy.

Lately, Live Steamers have been urging "Every One Teach One": urging us all to 'mentor' at least 1 person, to teach anyone interested Basic Steam Safety, to ensure Safe Live Steam fun and help our Live Steam community to grow and prosper, so we all continue to enjoy future Live Steam safely.

Although most of us model alone (like any models for AP), I/we find enjoying Model Railroading most fully includes many group activities. Unless we want to build everything (from scratch), we need others to attract and retain a 'critical mass' of manufacturers and suppliers of track, models, kits, scenery, etc, indeed, for ALL the stuff we need to build and run model railroads in any scale. It's our combined purchases which encourage new products to be developed and marketed for us, books and hobby magazines written & published, all the rest. If we want new model stuff to continue growing our train fun (and, lightening our wallet?), we all need "Every

One to Teach at least One".

I strongly encourage you, as my Mom taught me as a kid by her actions, to Talk to Strangers. Mom showed me waiting in line can be fun if you talk with others. Even better, do this at a train store or other train venue: ask if they want to enjoy trains more? Talking with strangers is easier the more you try. To learn and practice easily, volunteer for the PCR Membership table at a train show. It's easy & fun; I guarantee 99.9% of people there enjoy talking trains! I mostly say "we're not selling anything, just here to answer questions, explain the Timesaver, give you a free magazine" and a meeting flyer if they live locally. Some just want to sit a few minutes to rest: that's fine. Our hobby fun grows when someone joins us to enjoy trains, whatever that means to them.

Coast meets are opportunities to meet, connect and share with others who enjoy trains. We learn new ways to enjoy trains from each other: Railfanning, Operations, Modeling, Scenery, Photography are ways we enjoy trains; not just in clinics, but talking and sharing 'new' ideas elsewhere.

Although I assume someone else mentioned this elsewhere in the Dispatcher, Coast Division is looking for new sites to have quarterly meetings. The Computer History Museum is unavailable because of remodeling. Thanks to Don Shortt's continuing relationship with Buchser School, our March 7th Coast meeting WILL again be there. Similarly, Jim Manley's Volunteering with CHM enabled Coast Division meets there when Jim Long's relationship with Fremont School for the Deaf ended when Jim retired. One commonality to Coast Meeting sites has been a trusted relationship between one Coast member and a non-profit org's Management and Facilities personnel; this allowed them and Coast through them to access/use their site for less than normal cost. Coast Meets also were at churches (on Saturdays), clubs and other sites: where Coast members had contacts.

See Mark Schutzer's Super Notes for details on how you can help.

Happy Trains to you until we meet again: Daly City 2/27-8, Buchser 3/7; Bakersfield 3/13-4.

Model Contest / Show and Tell Report By John Sing

Our December 2009 Model Contest had another great set of displayed models. The theme was "My Favorite Model".

As always, you can see these results and pictures online at:

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

By popular vote, the 1st place Winner was **Jim Eckman**, with his amazing scratchbuilt "Spreckel's Station", made out of *paper*.



See and learn all about Jim's techniques for scratchbuilding structures out of *paper* at his web site: http://home.comcast.net/~ronin_engineer/buildings.html

One of the greatest things about NMRA - the great model builders we all get to meet, and the willingness with which these skills are shared with us all.

George Friesleben, 94 years young, was 2nd place with his model, built in *1965*, of Pacific Electric #1356. We can all learn from George's excellent NMRA Model Contest documentation:



Terence Hurley, a new member to NMRA and Coast Division (but a longtime modeler), was awarded 3d place for his Stucco Building in San Francisco on the Judah Line:



Go to the Coast Division December 2009 web site to see full photos of all participants - wonderful work by all and well worth seeing.

- John Houlihan's scratchbuilt O scale turnout
- Steve Wesolowski's Favorite Model, "Curves"

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Show and Tell

At the September 2009 Meet, we had another excellent Show and Tell display. This time, we had:

- Jim Eckman's amazing printed paper models - more of what Jim is doing - amazing
- John Stutz's scratchbuilt lattice girder bridge spans
- Eugene Brichacek's photos of Union Pacific #844's visit to the San Francisco Bay Area in April 2009
- Ronnie LaTorres's photos of "Railfan Paparazzi"
- Steve Anderson's "Model of his future Sn3 Layout" - his model of his future layout has more scenery and detail than many full sized layouts '

The E-Dispatcher has the full set of photos.

(Continued on page 9)

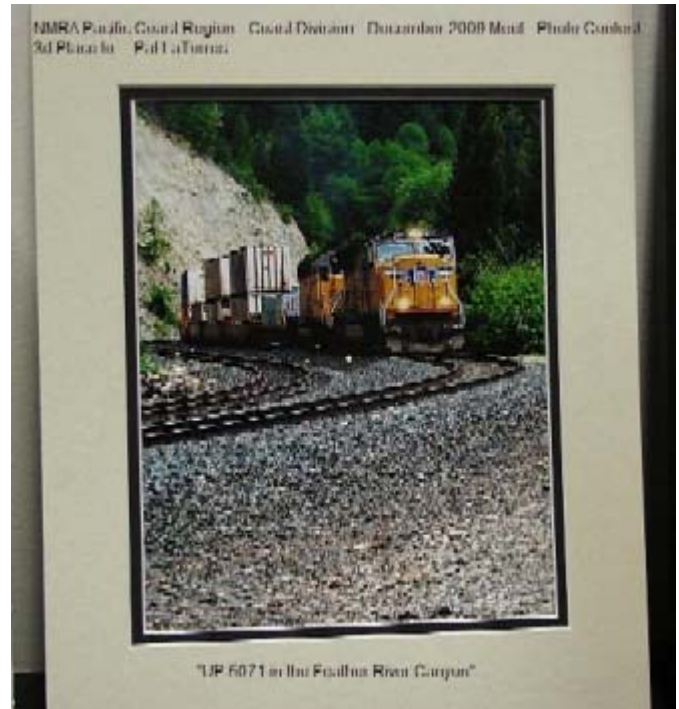
(Continued from page 8)

Photo Contest

Congratulations to our 1st place winner,
Ronnie LaTorres:



and 3d to Pat LaTorres:



2nd to Eugene Brichacek:



More great photos by all the participants are in
the E-Dispatcher.

Coast Division Webmaster's Tip

We do track and make available to all of you,
the ability to see who visits our web sites.

On the web site, look for the link: " View Visitor Statistics ".

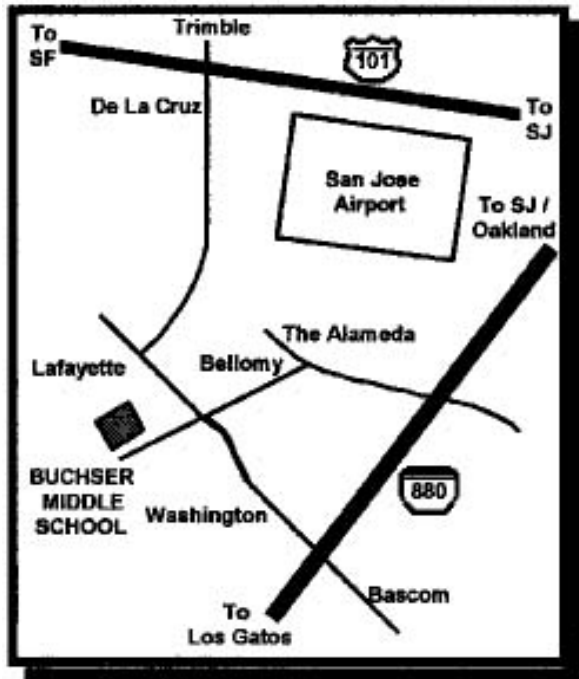
The E-Dispatcher has a picture of what you can see.

It's *really fun* to see that we have web site visitors for all over the US and worldwide.

Drill down on the 'Visitor Statistics' menus and you can even see what city, state, and computer they were using.

Fun, eh!? :-)

The next meet will be on March 7, 2010 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 Lafayette. 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