



## Coast Dispatcher September 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

**September 12, 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 ..... Changes in Soldering 2010 by John Marshall  
 11:00 AM ..... Model Railroad Electronics by Dave Falkenburg  
 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: Diesel 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

**December 5, 2010**

**Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St, Mountain View, CA**

Model Contest: "Favorite model" (open category)

Photo Contest: Railroad Structures

Clinics: TBD

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## 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](mailto:Crawford.Tom@sbcglobal.net)

**Super Notes**  
**By Mark Schutzer**  
**Coast Division Superintendent**

As I write this the national convention in Milwaukee has just concluded and one of PCR's own, Bill Kaufman has been chosen as a new Vice President of the NMRA. Those who know Bill know that he has been a vocal voice for changing the status quo of the organization. Bill is one of two Vice Presidents and part of his responsibilities include reaching out to all the various special interest groups (SIGs) and railroad prototype modeler (RPM) groups.

There is a large community of model railroaders out there and only a fraction of them are members of the NMRA. We all owe it to ourselves to ask why this is. We often hear the question "What does the NMRA have to offer to me?" Each one of you that are members have formed your own opinion on this but we always have to ask what can we do to better attract the rest the model railroad community?

This is part of what Bill will be doing at the national level, but we at the division level also need to look at what we can do. Along those lines there have been some recent discussions on the PCR Yahoo group discussing some ideas as to what we can do to better attract more NMRA members and these other modelers to our PCR and Coast meets.

There was some interesting and sometimes passionate discussion as to how we might think about making some changes to attract folks who don't normally show up. There were several interesting ideas raised and we will be discussing these ideas further at the Coast Board of Operations meetings.

I'll give you an update at the September meet as to any ideas that we may come up with.

Speaking of the meets we are still looking for more suitable meeting sites. Our June meet was at the Masonic Center in Mountain View and this site was facilitated for us by Paul and Kathy Martin and the Job's daughters. I really appreciate their efforts in getting this wonderful site for us.

We do not yet know whether we will be able to continue to have the use of the Masonic Center for future meets so we continue to look for more meeting sites. If you know of a possible meeting location that we can use please get let me know.

I hope to see all of you at our next meet on September 12<sup>th</sup> at Buchser School.

**Editor's Note:**  
**New NMRA Logo**

The NMRA has a new logo. Click on <http://www.nmra.org/> for more information.

**The Director's Cut**  
**By Rod Smith**  
**Coast Division Director**

During the last Board of Director's meeting, we discussed the lack of growth in our membership. Know anyone you think would like to join us? Ask them to come to the next Coast meet with you and see what we do, meet some new friends in the hobby, learn a new technique in the clinics, and just have some fun. They will enjoy it and we meet some new folks. What's not to like?

At the NMRA National convention in Milwaukee, PCR member (Redwood Empire Div.) Bill Kaufmann was appointed a Vice President of the NMRA. Bill is filling the unexpired term of Allen Pollock who resigned for reasons he explained in his letter printed in the July, 2010 issue of Scale Rails magazine. Speaking of Scale Rails, you will soon find it renamed as "NMRA Magazine." In addition, the old familiar Driver and Coupler logo we all know has also been replaced with a new logo. I wonder how long before we receive new updated return address labels from Chattanooga? Bill will be handling Special Projects for NMRA. One being discussed currently, and dear to my heart, is the recent decision by Kalmbach Publishing to remove the Index of Magazines from their website. Bill, and others, are in negotiations with Kalmbach about having the index become a property of the NMRA and making it once again available to members, and perhaps, the public. I often found this index handy for locating an article from older magazines about a subject I needed references about. Such as a track plan, a painting technique, a particular freight car, a construction article, etc. Now it is gone and those articles are much more difficult to locate, if indeed they can be located. I recently was in conversation with another modeler about making custom figures, and remembered an article about this subject appeared in a magazine but could not recall what issue of which magazine. I knew the author and the index would have revealed it instantly. I miss it. Hopefully, Bill and Co. will soon have this resource back on-line. Bill has other ideas to improve the NMRA experience to the members and I expect his new position will have beneficial results for all of us.

One major downside to Bill's appointment is he will no longer be able to serve as editor of the PCR Branch Line – a job he has done admirably for years now. The PCR Publications Department will be working to find a new editor. If you are interested, contact Gus Campagna at [campgus@earthlink.net](mailto:campgus@earthlink.net)

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## Coast Division Layout Tours

### By Dave Parks

### 2010 Coast Tours Schedule

Below is the remaining 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.

The X2011 West NMRA convention in Sacramento will have an Advance Section based in the bay area Friday July 1 through Sunday July 3, 2011. Each of these days there will be self guided layout tours covering all the Coast Division territory. Prototype operating sessions, railroad tours and industrial tours will also be offered in the Bay Area during the advance section.

#### 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?)

September 18 – 19, 2010 - North West Bay - Pete Cressman coordinator.  
 December 11 – 12, 2010 - South East Bay - Bob Osborn and Don Marenzi coordinators  
 January 28 – 31 Selected Sig Layouts in all bay areas - PCR/Sig Meet  
 July 1 – 3, 2011 All bay areas – X2011 West Advance Section

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Web Coordinator	Steve Williams	<a href="mailto:spwilliams@gmail.com">spwilliams@gmail.com</a>	(408) 857-6787

### Auction Report

By John Marshall

Our March Division Meet held some new and interesting challenges for both our committee and the membership in general. The facility was kind enough to provide a large number of tables for our auction items to be displayed and the seating was much more comfortable than ever before. The only down side was that we had one of the lowest turnout of items to be auctioned off since the beginning of the event. Only 187 auction cards were passed out but only 169 items actually showed up on the tables and passed over the auction block. Participation in the auction was excellent with a low number of no bids. Much of this can be attributed to the improved cushioning of the gluteus maximum of the membership and the shortness of the auction itself. The auction staff performed at their typically high standard and the auction proceeded at a fast pace. I want to thank all of those who entered items and ask the membership to dig thru those boxes of items that they have stashed in or under the layouts in their hobby area to move those old and unneeded items to where they can bring their railroad new financial support. The Coast Auction!

## Publicity Report

By Steve Weslowski  
Hello Fellow Coast-ers!

Well, this issue I was at a bit of a loss for anything to write since I'm not involved/volunteering with our next PCT Convention, PCR's 2011 Sonoma Shortline, or the next PCR resident NMRA Convention, X2011--which I keep confusing with the X-10 Home Automation System (Go Figure...) I DO Hope to see you at both, which I will be eagerly at next year when they happen!

We had a good turnout of Coast-er Volunteers for the Great Train Expo at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in San Jose last month. But, we are always looking for fresh faces if you want to help at the next Coast Division GTE, which will be on November 27-8, once again at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in San Jose, which has replaced Pleasanton's Alameda County Fairgrounds this year. We all met some nice new Train-ers, and our Latest TimeSaver Volunteer, Steve Peters,

really demonstrated he knows how to reel in unsuspecting First Timers to play the TimeSaver at Train Shows! The Timesaver almost overheated from such heavy continuous usage; he did have to fix a coupler Saturday!

It occurred to me: If any Coast-ers have a favorite social location you frequent where you could try posting a Coast Meet flier (or, even better, if possible, multiple fliers) for our next Coast Meet, just email me. I'll email you a JPEG file so you can print & post our fliers in your favorite area.

I'm thinking our current posters have pretty well covered most Train Friendly Hobby Shops in our Division, but maybe you frequent a coffee chop, supermarket, theater, church or ANY place that allows or encourages their customers or members to post notices for upcoming events?

In earlier columns I've encouraged Coasters to bring a new/old friend or acquaintance to meets and I hope others continue to do so. I also know, for some reasons i understand and some others i will never fully understand, some of us Train Lovers, Train Nuts, Foamers feel awkward, wierd or may even apologize if/when we ever mention to any relative, friend or total strangers "I enjoy trains!", even though we're long past our 10th birthday....Only by ignoring this wierdly irrational and totally silly awkwardness do some people I know in non-train contexts learn I am rather heav-

ily committed to trains (I know, Some say I should be committed, but ignore them). Some say I'm Train Obsessed.

To mention you enjoy model trains, seems almost like admitting (to strangers!) membership in a secret barely legally tolerated sect for wierd-ohs or Foamers like me ;-)) Well, I don't have any reluctanc or feel embarressmant, but I understand when someone tells me "I like your(my) train themed T-shirt.", they are already prepared for rejection, in case I don't share their like of trains: maybe the only reason I wear a 'train shirt' is it was a gift from my Crazy Very Rich Uncle Elmo since I don't want Elmo to write me out of his will...

So, If you can handle being open, honest, even proud with others about your love/like of trains, you might find the 8 year old next to you on a plane knows more about GP-40s than Thomas, or the 40+ year old grocery clerk you've seen for years wishes he could leave his Xmas Lionel Train set up all year, but has a wife who's too into total neatness. IF You let him know about the nearest Model Train club, he might live happily ever after!

Until Next Time: Happy Trains to You!

### Model Contest / Photo Contest / Show Tell Report by: John Sing

We had another good show at the June 2010 meet, and here are the results.

By Popular Vote:

Alf Modine received 1st place in Traction for "Chicago CSL MU car" in O scale:



(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

Ken Martin received 2nd place in Traction for "Burlington Gas-Electric RPO/Baggage":



George Friesleben received 3d place for "Streetcar Named Desire". George scratchbuilt this model back in \*1975\*:



First place in structures to Ken Martin for "Forks Creek Station":

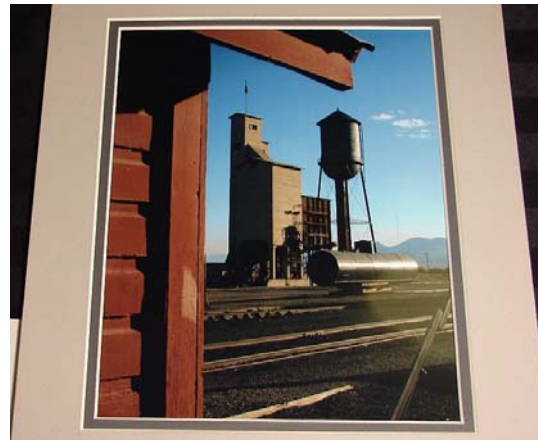


For Photo Contest, by \*very close\* popular vote in "Railroad Structures", went to:

1st place to Stanley Keiser for "Stockton Tower":



2nd place to Ken Martin for "Coal/Water Tower, Ely NV":



3d place to Stanley Keiser for "Davis Station":





Excellent entry by Steve Wesolowski for "Niles Station":



We also had great models for Show and Tell:

Mike Blumensaadt's N scale Circus Wagons:



Mike Blumensaadt's N scale Heavy Equipment:



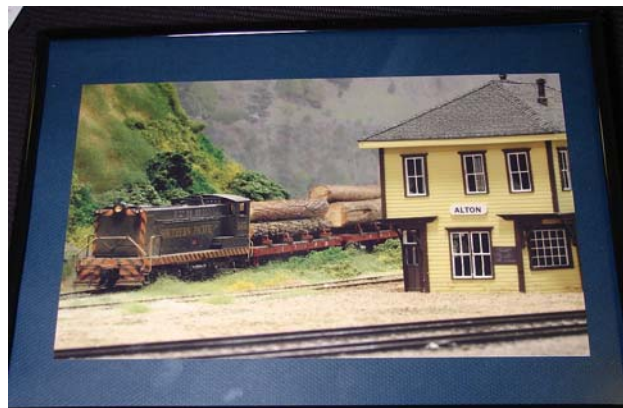
Terry Hurley's stucco "3d Avenue Houses



Alf Modine's C&NW Diner in O scale (received a Merit Award!):



Two excellent photos (I didn't get the owner, can someone help me?) Great shots:



(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

Switching Contest winners:

Youth category, 1st Place - Kevin Renner  
(12:30)

Brakeperson category (5 car problem):

1st - Steve Williams (7:25)  
2nd - Steve Wesolowski (7:39)  
3d - Stan Keiser (7:39.5)

Senior Brakeperson category (6 car problem)!

1st - Bill Burket (5:16)  
2nd - Alan Haven (5:21)  
3d - Mark Schutzer (6:02)

If you haven't tried the Allen Fenton Memorial Switching Contest, you got to try it! See how much fun it is:



This was our first meeting at the Masonic Center Mountain View:



And we were blessed with visits by Sierra Division Superintendent Jim Long and PCR



President Ron Plies:

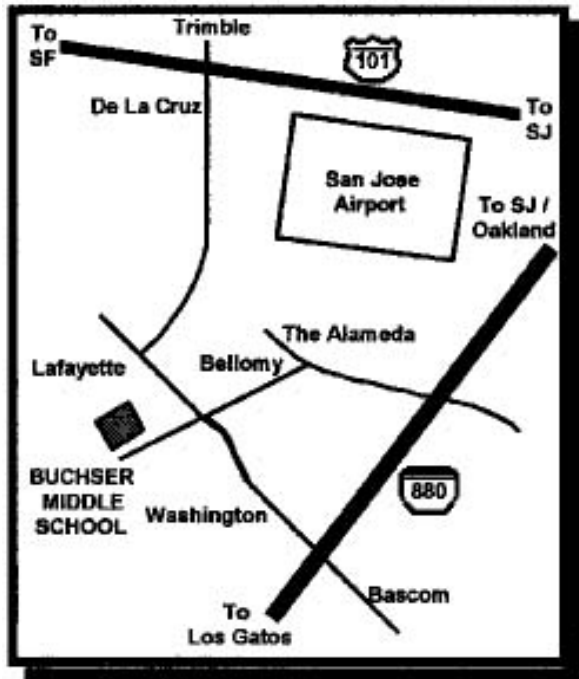
For September, the Model Contest categories are:

Steam Locomotives  
Diesel & Other Locomotives  
Passenger Car

The Photo Contest category is: "Diesel"

See you in Sept 2010!

The next meet will be on September 12, 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 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.

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