



## Coast Dispatcher December 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.**

### Layout Tours

December 4 – 5, 2010

North West Bay - Pete Cressman coordinator

Details on Page 5

### Division Meet

December 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 ..... Backdrops and Beyond by Dave Biondi. Dave will take us to the backdrop and show us how to really make the most of it.

11:00 AM ..... Roads Less Traveled by Brad Lloyd. Brad makes making tracks fun and illustrates how to enhance our layouts with multiple types of road surfaces

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: Favorite Model

Photo Contest: Trains in the Seasons

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

\* Auction actually starts as soon as Business Meeting ends.

### Division Meet

March 6, 2011

Location TBD

Model Contest: Caboose, Freight Car, Maintenance of Way

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**

Another quarter has gone by and it's time for another edition of the Dispatcher. As I write this column I want everyone to think about what it takes to run an organization like the Coast Division. Everything in the Coast Division is run by volunteers. Like most volunteer organizations everything is run by a very small minority of the members, in the Coast Division virtually everything is done by less than a dozen core volunteers.

Prior to the September meet your Coast Board of Operations held their quarterly meeting and one of the topics on the agenda was to talk about some of the ideas that were raised concerning what might be done to make Coast meets attractive to more people. At the September meet I reported that the Board decided that we should call for a volunteer committee to study and recommend ideas. I made a call for volunteers at the September meet. I had a grand total of one member say they were interested in helping on the committee and this person wasn't even a Coast member, but rather a guest from the Sierra Division. People have suggested that they want to see changes, but change will not happen if we cannot even get volunteers to look into this. If you have some free time and you are a creative thinker we would like your help on the committee, please get in touch with me.

You may have noticed the absence of a Coast Division report in recent Branchline's. In the past it was customary to have a report of happenings in Coast in a Branchline column. Like everything this only happens if a volunteer steps up and agrees to write up something. If you attend Coast meets and you think you can help write up a Branchline column please let me know as we need a volunteer to step forward.

We also need a volunteer to act as a meeting sites coordinator. This job involves finding and coordinating meeting sites for Coast Division meets. I have been trying to act as a fill in with limited success and could really use some help in this area.

As most of you already know we are desperately looking for more meeting sites so that we are not completely dependent on using Buchser School. Don Shortt has graciously offered the use of the School again for this Decembers' meet. I have been soliciting the membership for meeting sites for several months now and I have received several suggestions and some offers but none of the leads are suitable for a Coast Division meet.

For a Coast meet we need a site that can accommodate approximately 100 people with seating for 80 people or so. In addition to the seating space we need space for the approximately 20 to 25 tables for the auction. We also need one or two separate rooms or areas that we can use for clinics. And lastly we need a site that is affordable (\$150 to \$200 dollars). Please get in touch with me if you know of a site that we might use for a Coast meet.

Elections are coming up for all the Coast Directors and we are always looking for more volunteers who are willing to run and serve in these positions. If you think that you might be interested in running for a position please get in touch with Dave Connery.

At the last couple of Coast meets we did not have a lot of items in the auction. The Coast division funds its activities and the meets with the proceeds from the auction. The auction is a good way to clear out all that excess stuff that all modelers have, you can make a little money off your stuff and help out the division at the same time. Christmas is coming and we all need to make room for new toys, please consider bringing in your extra stuff for the auction.

I hope to see all of you at the meet on December 12<sup>th</sup> at Buchser School.

## The Director's Cut By Rod Smith

On October 23, the PCR Board of Directors met in Santa Rosa at the Mid-year meeting. While our financial holdings are not growing, neither are they falling at a precipitous rate. The Board continues to follow a conservative stance on expenses and no large outlays are anticipated. We met at the Finley Community Center – site of the PCR convention in May, 2011. I think you will really enjoy the abbreviated program planned for us by the convention staff. This will be a weekend convention so as not to tire you out just before the grand extravaganza (Extra 2100 West) in Sacramento come July. The facilities in Santa Rosa are nice and a special Sunday morning breakfast has been arranged for us.

Have you ever thought about how our Coast meets work? There are some aspects involved in holding these meets you could help with. Notice how the same faces appear each meet behind the tables for registration, auction card handout (both for buyers and sellers), contest entry, timesaver contest, and especially the auction tables. If you come early enough you will see them setting up tables and chairs; stay to the end and they put everything back in its place. Those folks you see there every meet could use some help. Many of them give up the chance to attend clinics because they can't leave their post. There is no one to give them a break for an hour or so. They aren't complaining, but wouldn't it be nice if they too could enjoy some of the offerings at the meet?

Now, how can you help? By just giving an hour or two of your time to relieve them at one meet a year you can enhance their experience at little cost to your own. How, you ask? Just walk up to one of them, express your interest in helping, and they will welcome you, show you how to do their job, and give you some hands on experience. Not only will they get help, but you will have a chance to get involved in the Coast Meet production. And, you will meet some of the best folks around. Form new friendships – get involved. Our Superintendent, Mark Schutzer, is always there and will help you get involved, as is our Membership Chair, Darrell Dennis, but you can choose any person behind the tables to ask about participating beyond just sitting in the audience. Come join us. It really is fun.

Rod Smith – Coast Division Director

**Tom's Trackside Trains**  
**558 Santa Cruz Ave**  
**Menlo Park, CA 94025**  
**(rear of Cindy's Flowers, side door on right)**  
**Tom Van Horn**  
**tomstracksidetrains.com**

**Hours:**

**Thu & Sat: 12-5**

**Fri: 12-8, Sun: 10-1**

**Phone 650-692-9724**

**Fax 650-321-1764**

**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**

## Coast Division Layout Tours

### By Dave Parks

### 2010 – 2011 Coast Tours Schedule

Below is the current 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 National 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 both mini-bus and self guided layout tours that collectively will cover all the Coast Division territory. All layout owners are invited to host tours for these visitors who will be coming from all over the US and many foreign countries. Contact the Area Coordinators below to sign up your layout. In addition to Layout Tours, Prototype Operating Sessions, Railroad Tours and Industrial tours will also be offered in the Bay Area for those registered for this event. [x2011west.org](http://x2011west.org)

#### 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.

December 4 – 5, 2010 - North West Bay - Pete Cressman coordinator

January 29, 2011 Southeast Bay area layouts will be open Saturday evening in conjunction with the PCR/Sig - Bob Osborn and Don Marenzi coordinators

July 1 – 3, 2011 All bay areas – X2011 West Advance Section NMRA National Convention.  
 July 1 Friday evening – South East Bay area  
 July 2 Saturday morning – South West Bay area  
 July 2 Saturday afternoon – North East Bay area  
 July 3 Sunday – North West Bay area and on-the-way to Sacramento

Chair	David Parks	<a href="mailto:bearwestern@comcast.net">bearwestern@comcast.net</a>	(650) 961-7644
North East Bay	Andy Schnur	<a href="mailto:schnur@netzero.com">schnur@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>	(650) 728-7681
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
Web Coordinator	Steve Williams	<a href="mailto:spwilliams@gmail.com">spwilliams@gmail.com</a>	(408) 857-6787

## Timing is Everything, They Say

By Steve Wesolowski

I began typing this between Giants World Series games.

As usual, not knowing what to write, I woke to SlowMo images of batters swinging, and began thinking "Timing is Everything", like when a 100 MPH ball flies past a full bat swing. "Timing" recalled Friday's "short" stop at Tom's Trackside Trains in Menlo Park. Before I could come and go, a first time visitor walked in. Tom Van Horn welcomed him & learned he wanted to 'get started' with trains. While explaining and answering many questions, Tom encouraged him to attend our next Coast Meet, and to consider joining NMRA so he could enjoy our next Coast Layout Tours & maybe our 2011 PCR and NMRA Conventions. I said meeting local modelers is the best way I learn about Train Fun in this area and increase enjoying our hobby; that riding with Tom to see layouts at Napa PCR Convention was how Tom & I became friends. Tom also invited him to 'his' Menlo Park Club across the street before their layout is remodeled, real soon. As he left I said I hope I'll see him at our December's Coast Meet.

Another first timer walked in and the scenario repeated:

Tom answered many of the same questions, invited him to our next Coast Meet, Menlo Park Club's Open House, again explained NMRA membership benefits, and more.

(It was Deja Vu all over again, as someone once said!) After the others left, I spoke with Tom for 5 minutes about why I came, and left only an hour after I came, sped to my next stop, arriving 1 minute before closing: Timing!

So, what's my point? Actually, several: If you can, attend Sonoma Short Line, May 13-15, '11. PCR conventions, starting with SLO 2001, have always been where I've made new (and enjoyed 'old') friends responsible for most train fun I've had since re-entering Model RRing in 2000: way too many new Friends & Fun to list here -- including a Shay cab ride in the Sierras; trains to/from Virginia City, Roaring Camp, and much more! For similar reasons I look forward to my 2nd NMRA Convention, X2011 in July (July, in Sacramento?) I also hope you enjoy X2011 if you can: an NMRA Convention this close is much less costly.

If you read this before Turkey Day, a GTE in San Jose is Sat/Sunday, Nov.27/28. I encourage you to enjoy new train friends volunteering with us at the PCR/NMRA tables.

Contact me or Darrell Dennis for some fun with trains. Also that Fri/Saturday, Sierra Division will be at Small Train Weekend at the California State Railroad Museum

Nov. 26 /27. Similar to the GTE, modular railroads are on display, Jim Long et al will have NMRA promotional materials and a Timesaver Switching Layout to let kids enjoy hands on experience running trains, 10AM to 5PM.

Jim is looking for volunteers to help him, in exchange for CSRRM Admission And lunch. Contact Jim at (530) 676 -

1798 or jimclong@ sbcglobal.net for info We are Very Lucky, with so many fun train every week no one can enjoy them all! See PCR Calendar: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.htm> To connect with local modelers, attend Coast Division's Winter Meet Sunday, Dec. 12th and the Layout Tours.

To enjoy our hobby even more: Volunteer to help with at any event you attend. Every fun train event or activity Always needs more volunteers. Every added volunteer makes it more possible for every volunteer to have some time to enjoy the event, too. We can Always use more volunteers, even if just to stand in a few minutes so a volunteer can enjoy a short break to eat or drink. You will make a new friend and help create a more relaxed, fun and friendly train event for ALL to enjoy. TAnd, if you meet a new/returning modeler, encourage them to attend to a Coast meet and tell them about our web sites if they can't make it this time. Inviting, meeting and encouraging new people to enjoy our fun train increases all our opportunities to enjoy trains. We never know what resources each new person may add to increase our train fun together unless we invite them to join us first.

Thanks for listening; Happy Trains to you until we meet again!

## Auction Committee Report

By John Marshall

The totals for the September meet were as follows:

Silent	39 items
Live	204 items

The auction committee did a superlative job in handling this *tremendous, mind boggling* number of items.

We plan to continue our excellent service for the Division at the December meet.

In the past I have asked the membership for volunteers to assist at our auctions. It seems that rather than volunteer, they have proposed to lighten the load of our committee by bringing fewer items.

That works but it sure doesn't help our finances.

John

## Bill Nichols Passes

Bill Nichols, who was my predecessor as the Coast Dispatcher Editor has passed away. Here is what his friend, Pat O'Conner, gave me about Bill:

William "Bill" Nickels  
Resident of Sunnyvale  
5/27/33 - 8/27/10

Bill heard the whistle blowing as it rolled around the bend. He saw the sun a'shining on his train ride to the end.

Bill was a native of Beatrice, NE, served 3 years in the Army, attended college in Southern California, where he met the love of his life Dottie. Bill was a pioneer in the computer software industry, from which he retired after 45 years.

His real passion was trains of all types, designing model railroads and sharing this enthusiasm with friends of all ages. For his younger friends he would stage games of "I Spy" looking for the hidden Dragon or other object on the layout.

Bill was the Editor of the Coast Dispatcher newsletter for a number of years. He was also the Editor and Publisher of the Bay Area Engine Modelers newsletter, The Crank Calls.

Rest in peace, Bill.

## Model Contest, Photo Contest, Show and Tell Report by John Sing

We had a stellar turnout at the September 2010 Meet! You can see the meet report and entries online at:

[http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest/Contest Sept 2010.shtml](http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest/Contest%20Sept%202010.shtml)

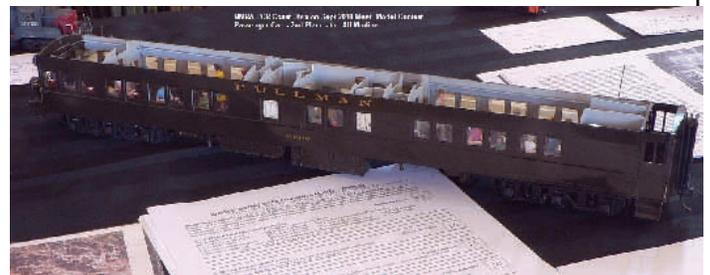
### Model Contest

By popular vote, here are the winners:

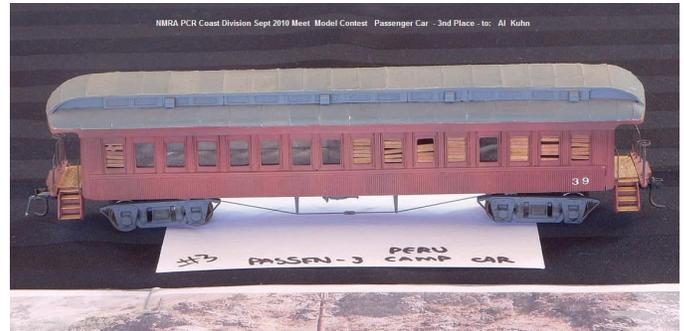
### Passenger Car: 1st Place to Al Kuhn:



### 2nd Place to Alf Modine



### 3d Place to Al Kuhn:



### Steam Locomotive: 1st Place to Andrew Merriam:



(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

2nd Place to Mark Schutzer:



3d Place to Andrew Merriam:



**Diesel Locomotive:**

1st Place to Andrew Merriam:



2nd Place to Mike Raposa :



3d Place to Steve Wesolowski:



**Honorable Mention:**

Passenger Car to Stanley Keiser:



Diesel to Paul Ingraham:



(Continued on page 9)

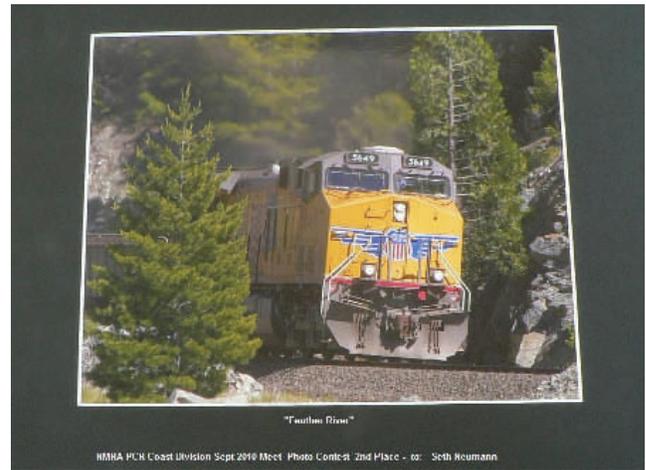
(Continued from page 8)

### Show and Tell:

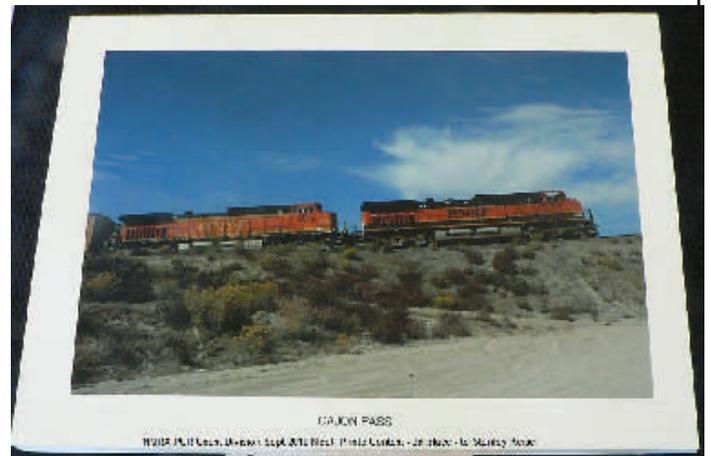
Howard Lloyd:



2nd Place to: Seth Neumann for "Feather River":



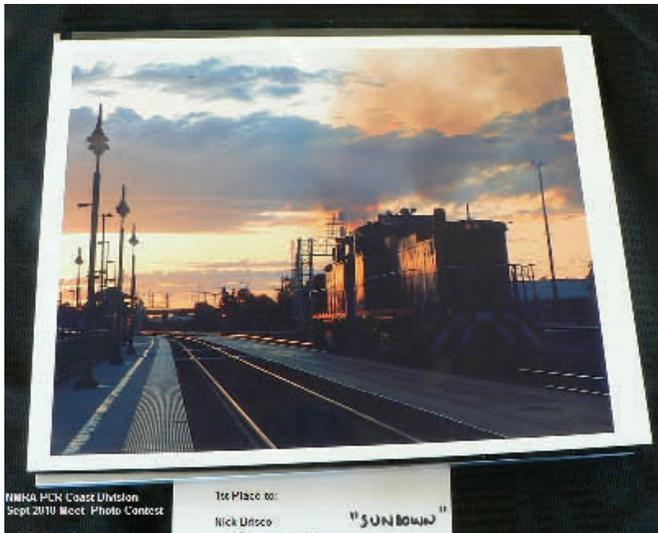
3d Place to: Stanley Keiser for "Cajon Pass":



=====

### Photo Contest:

1st Place to: Nick Brisco for "Sundown" "



A great turnout for Photo Contest!:

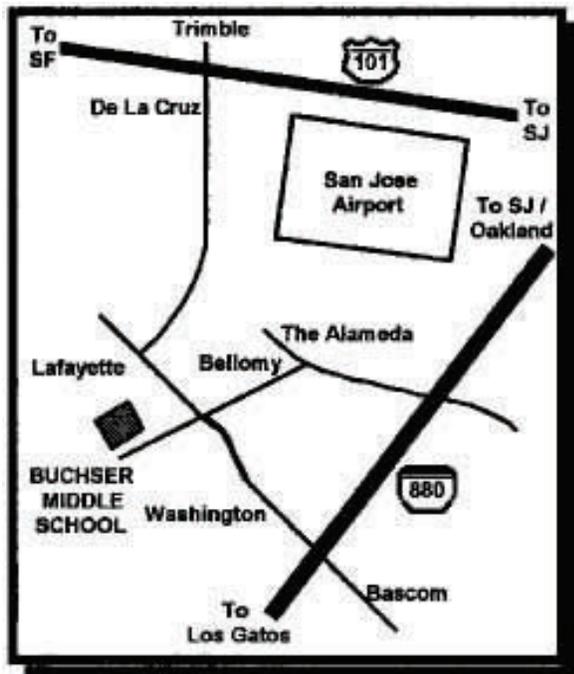
Unfortunately, due to space limitations, we could not include all of the entries. See the E-Dispatcher for all the pictures.

**The categories for December 2010 Meet are:**

Model Contest: "Favorite Model" (open category)

Photo Contest: "Trains in the Seasons"  
See you there!

The next meet will be on December 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.

Coast Dispatcher  
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