



## Coast Dispatcher March 2011

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 6, 2011**

**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.....DCC installations by Mark Schutzer  
11:00 AM.....My Entry into Garden Railroading by Bill Allen  
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 Car, Maintenance of Way**

**Photo Contest: Railroad Structures**

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

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

### **Division Meet**

**June 12, 2011**

**Location TBD**

**Model Contest: Structures, Traction and Self Propelled, Diarama**

**Photo Contest:**

**Clinics: TBD**

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## Editor's Notes:

As usual, I had to scrunch and squeeze and edit out stuff to get it all in, and a couple 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***

Well another three months has gone by and we are just a few months away from having a National Convention in our own backyard. X2011 West in Sacramento promises to be a great convention and many of our Coast Division members are busy working on the convention. With any National Convention there is a lot to do and we will need volunteers to make things run smoothly. If you are planning on attending the convention please consider volunteering a few hours of your time to help out.

More information about X2011 West can be found on the convention's website at:

<http://X2011west.org>

I know that I'm starting to sound like a broken record but here comes the usual pitch for meeting sites where we can hold Coast Division meets. We have been very fortunate to be able to hold meets at Buchser School but we need to find additional meeting sites.

We need the membership's help to find other places where we can hold meets.

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 25 to 30 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.

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.

The next meet will be on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at Buchser School, thanks again to Don Shortt. Please bring all your extra treasures to put into the auction. You can sell them for a little money and help out the Division at the same time.

I hope to see you all at the meet.

## **COAST OFFICER ELECTIONS**

### **By Dave Connery– Nominations Committee Chairman**

At the March 6<sup>th</sup> Meet we will elect officers to serve Coast Division for the coming two years. Nominees are Superintendent: Mark Schutzer; Chief Clerk: Darrell Dennis; Paymaster: Bob Ferguson. At the meet nominations will be open to the floor. Anyone nominated must either be present and affirm their desire and willingness to be elected to the position or a letter signed by the nominated member must be provided to the Nominations Chairman in order for their name to be included in the election. Elected officers will take their office at the end of the Meet.

## The Director's Cut Rod Smith

Well, the Christmas holiday is over. Gift shopping is done. Garden chores are at low ebb, and the weather is pretty cold outside. Now is a good time to spend more time indoors and working on your layout. You must have a stash of kits which need building or track to be laid. Perhaps there are some decoders to install? Most of our layouts could benefit from some scenery work, don't you think? We have to keep those hobby juices flowing and each train magazine has numerous suggestions of products available to do just that.

I have recently been reading some of the NMRA Region and Division newsletters on line. Many are available as pdf's downloads on the website of each group. You can access them on your computer by going to the NMRA homepage, <http://www.nmra.org/> and click on regions and divisions under Community in the left column. Try any region you want. There are fascinating tips and techniques covered there. Many are small magazines in themselves. The SouthEast Region one runs around 90 pages each edition! Give some a try on a cold evening when there's nothing on TV.

How about thinking of presenting a clinic at one of our meets? A story in the latest nmra magazine tells of one persons experience with his first clinic. He tried it out at his division meet and then presented it at the Milwaukee National. Pretty much any train or modeling topic is OK, and our clinic chair would welcome your volunteering. How about that tourist railroad you recently visited? Maybe pictures from a museum (one or more) or a fan trip you have made. Keep it railroad oriented and we will all enjoy it. Another idea is your methods of building structures or rolling stock. Even layout construction. You may have a way of doing things we haven't thought of. A clinic need only fill 45 minutes or so at the meet and you can earn credits toward the author achievement award.

Have you noticed Kalmbach Publishing has brought back the Magazine Index to the Trains.com website? It reappeared in January in a new format. It appears at the bottom of each page as the fourth entry under Resources. Many magazines from 1933 to 2010 are included, so finding where that article you remember reading years ago can be found is easier now. You may recall they ended the index back in 2006, but a quick check finds it now is more current and hopefully will continue to be updated regularly. The NMRA also has shown a beta test of an index they are working on. VP Bill Kaufman, a PCR member from Redwood Empire Division, has charge of coordinating this effort. Personally, I hope NMRA continues to develop our own index. Once we had the Periodical Index every year. It was not as complete as we have now and had a rather convoluted index system, but it was maintained by NMRA volunteers and could be quite thorough. Today's search engines make subject information very accessible.

Lastly, don't forget, our election of officers will be held at the March 6 meeting. There is election information elsewhere in this edition. Please come out and show your support for those folks willing to lead our group for the next two years. Their task is much easier when we help.

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  
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**Hours:**

Thu & Sat: 12-5

Fri: 12-8, Sun: 10-1

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## Coast Division Layout Tours

### By Dave Parks

#### 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.

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

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## Meeting, Meeting, Where's our Next Meeting? and/or Why Have Meetings?

By Steve Wesolowski

As Super Mark laid out our site needs in his Super Notes, Coast Division is still looking for Quarterly Meeting sites. The Computer Museum which Jim Manley arranged for several years was remodeled and no longer fits. Buchser School which Don Shortt has arranged for many years (Very BIG Thank Yous to Jim & Don!), is being remodeled this year and not available after the March 6th meet for a while. Only yesterday, I heard we may have a Synagogue for June: Great! But that still means we need to find a venue for September and December. So, If you also enjoy meeting to enjoy sharing ideas, clinics, models, photos and time together with other local train friends, please keep looking & asking around to help us find some new places to hold Coast Division meets in our future. We still need to find new places to meet. Thanks!!

Last month I renewed my NMRA membership mainly because I enjoy learning & sharing new ideas with YOU, my local train friends, during our quarterly Coast Meets, annual PCR Conventions and, this year's NMRA Convention in Sacramento! In 2010, thanks to PCR friends, I also enjoyed the National Narrow Gauge Convention, because a PCR friend had a room with 2 beds AND an SUV to tour layouts. I KNOW you've read/heard this before, but it IS the friends I've made mainly through Coast and PCR events who've turned me onto 95+% of the Train Fun that's kept me interested, active and happily enjoying Train Fun for 10+ years. You should know who you are & Thank You, Train Friends!

My fun included Sunday's Mini-Meet hosted by Bennett Woll & The North Beach Model Railroad Society: a talk on the SF Belt Line RR by Bill Kaufman, presented in SF across the street from the Belt Line Engine house! Bill entertained a couple dozen with his talk & pics on the SF Belt Line RR, which he models. The SF Belt RR ran along the Embarcadero from 1889 until 1993 connecting SF Port's docks to industries near the waterfront and the outside world, switching cars from four other railroads along its 67 miles of track. In the street today in front of AT&T Park the Belt Line connected with the SP and via a train ferry slip at Pier 43 it interchanged with the NWP, WP, & the AT&SF. Through a tunnel under Fort Mason it reached its northern end in the Presidio after passing Fisherman's Wharf & Aquatic Park. See Bill's web site at [www.statebelt.org](http://www.statebelt.org), for more info.

As a Narrow Gauger I came with fairly low expect-

tations: The State Belt RR was Standard Gauge: I left enthused & energized about the Belt Line! Bill's 2+ hour Clinic really got me interested! I don't usually attend Coast Meeting Clinics; I'm just too busy with other things, but I really enjoyed Bill's talk. After Bill's talk, we went to the roof atop the 9th floor of Bennet's condo. Even with fog lingering in the distance, we could SEE the roundhouse below, as Bill, Bennet and others pointed out the former Italian Swiss Colony warehouse and other buildings served by the Belt Line we had just seen pics of during Bill's presentation: it was like looking down & around at someone's Full Scale Model RR which included a 'model' of Coit Tower, the Golden Gate & Bay Bridges, Angel, Alcatraz & Treasure Islands and the Ferry Building: What a Way Cool 'diorame'-- the detail and animation looked so REAL! I was also very lucky to ride there with Tom Van Horn, who drove while pointing out former Belt Line & other RR landmarks during our drive across SF from AT&T Park, the Belt Line's former South End.

I made some New train friends at the Mini-Meet along with seeing familiar Coast Division ones . Thank You, Bennett & Robin Woll for arranging this Mini-Meet. Now I've been to my 1st Mini-Meet, I've a better idea of what it takes to do one: if I can help future Mini-Meets happen, just ask: What FUN!

I also want to Thank ALL Auction, Officers & other Coast Volunteers who make our Coast/PCR/NMRA Events, Pubs and Websites happen: because of ALL of Your efforts I've really enjoyed 10+ years of Train Fun! I look forward to enjoying your company at these 2011 PCR events: Coast Meets/Mini Meets, PCR's 2011 Sonoma Short Line & NMRA's X2011 West Sacramento conventions.

DO YOU want to Enjoy MORE Train Fun in 2011? Volunteer: you get to work with the nicest people!

### Steve Wesolowski, Coast Publicity guy

Pictures from the Mini Meet, taken by Rod Smith, are in the E-Dispatcher.



## Auction Report by John Marshall

Silent Auction cards issued 9  
 Live Auction cards issued 343  
 Total sold items 310  
 Total NO BID items 42

A large block of items were provided by Don Shortt acting for the estate of a member, the funds from which were donated to the Coast Division.

Thank you Don for your assistance and please thank the donor.

## Model Contest / Show Tell / Photo Contest Report By John Sing

The excellent turnout to Coast Division Meets continues, and we are always happy for more. Enjoy the inspiring participants and winners below, and bring out your models, photos, for the March 2011 Coast Division Meet.

You can always see the results online at:

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

### Model Contest

The category was "Favorite Model" (open to any category).

#### First Place:

MB&T Well Car with Tunnel-Bore equipment load  
by: Al Kuhn



#### Second Place:

Southern Pacific Bay Window Caboose  
by: Eugene Brichacek



#### Third Place:

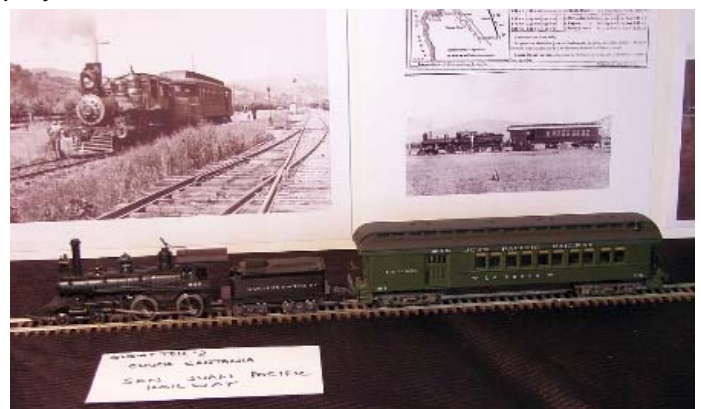
Kansas City Southern caboose hop  
by: Tom Vanden Bosch



Tom is building models for his son's under-construction 40' x 60' HO Kansas City Southern layout. What a great collaboration - the son having his father build great models for the KCS layout!

### Show and Tell

Chuck Cantania's San Juan Pacific Railway display:



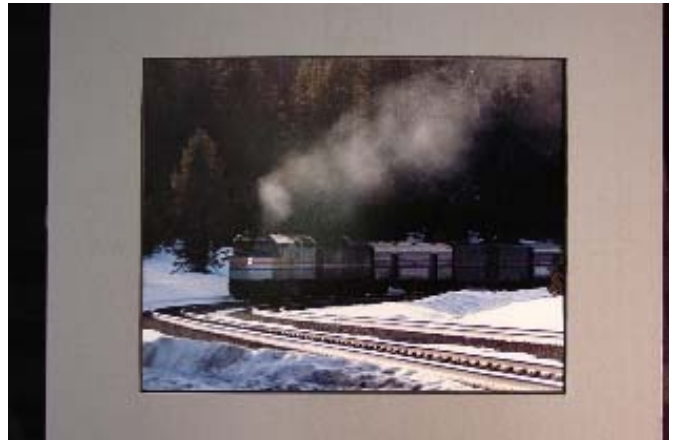
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**Ken Lunder's Dolly Varden Mine Car kit**, available from Ken's company Stevens Creek Models:



**2nd Place (tie):**  
"Amtrak California Zephyr on Donner"  
by Pat LaTorres



**John Sing's six-axle N scale Santa Fe diesels:**



**2nd Place (tie):**  
"Flanger Train at Truckee" by Ronnie LaTorres



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**Photo Contest**

**First Place:**  
"UP 844 on Altamont Pass July 2010"  
by Eugene Brichacek



**Other Entries:**  
"Alaska RR Coal Train" by Steve Wesolowski

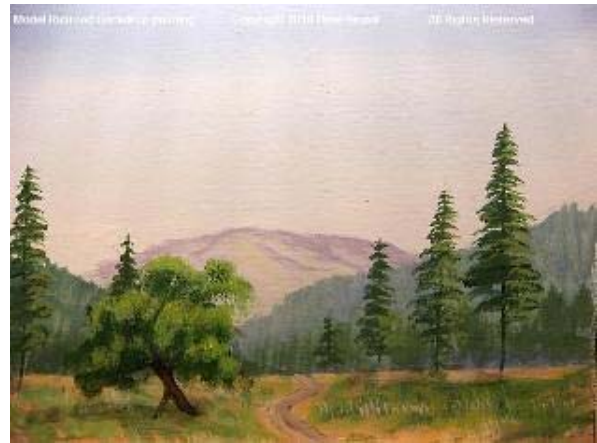


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GTW 4-8-2 Christmas 1958 by Tom Vanden Bosch



And another clinic "Roads Less Traveled" by Brad Lloyd, showing how he makes great roads and other scenery:

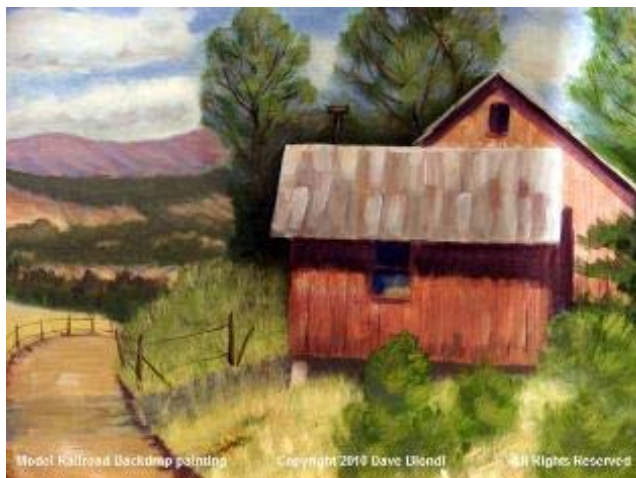


### Clinics

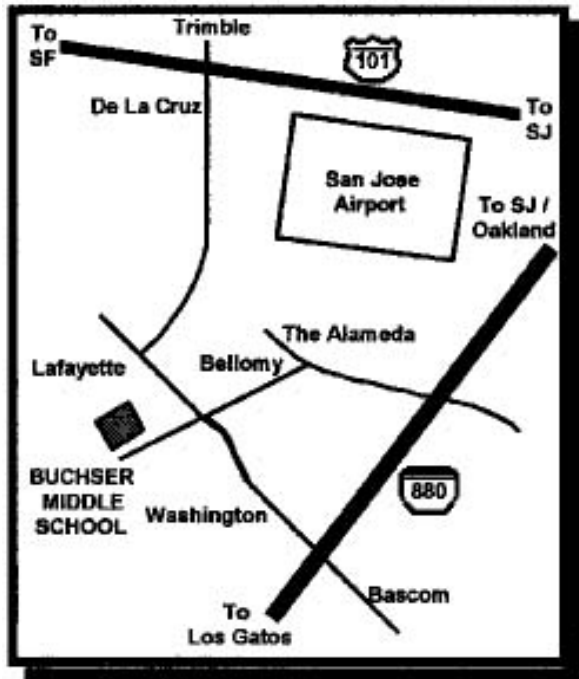
We also had a great clinic on "Backdrop Painting" by Dave Biondi:



See all of you soon in March 2011 for the next Coast Division Meet!



The next meet will be on March 6, 2011 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.

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