



Coast Dispatcher December 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

NOTICE:

This is the last hard copy issue of the Coast Dispatcher. In the future the Coast Dispatcher will be only sent as an Electronic copy. See the article on page 3 "The Evolution of the Coast Dispatcher" for more information about this.

Division Meet

December 4, 2011

**Boy Scouts of America Headquarters,
1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA.**

Notice new location

(map on last page)

9:00 AM.....Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.

9:30 AM.....Get Auction Cards.

10:00 AM....."Operations, Plain and Simple" by Seth Neumann. An initiation into the wonderful world of operations with a view to the simple.

11:00 AM....."Building a Resin Car Kit" by Dave Connery . Dave will walk us thru the steps, share his tricks and techniques for constructing a resin molded freight car.

11:00 AM.....Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Jerry Littlefield

12 NoonBusiness 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: Favorite Railroad Related Photo

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

* Auction actually starts as soon as Business Meeting ends.

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Editor's Notes:

Starting with the March 2012 issue the Coast Dispatcher will only be available on-line or through a Yahoo group. It will be in full color and will not be limited to 10 pages. (It is currently called the "E-Dispatcher.") It is also available on the Coast Division Website.
<http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/>

You may subscribe to the Dispatcher for free by contacting Tom Crawford at Crawford.Tom@sbcglobal.net or by going to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Coast_Dispatcher and signing up.

In the future, in place of the hard copy Dispatcher, you will get a postcard with information for the upcoming meet.

More on this on page 3.

The Evolution of the Coast Dispatcher

As most of you are aware the attendance at Coast meets has been dwindling and our income from the auction is declining. Your Board of Operations met on October 10th and reviewed this year's finances up through the end of September. We discovered what we all suspected; the auction income is no longer sufficient to cover our current expenses.

The income / expense sheet for the Coast Division is pretty simple; on the income side we have the auction proceeds, raffle income, and a \$1 dollar per year per member rebate from the national organization. Our expenses include meeting site costs, raffle / door prizes, and the Dispatcher costs.

For the first three quarters of 2011 our expenses are running about \$250 dollars per quarter more than our income. For this year so far we are in the red for over \$700 dollars. Our biggest expense is the Coast Dispatcher as it costs about \$500 dollars per issue for printing and mailing costs.

While the Coast Division has healthy financial reserves we cannot continue to operate at a loss. At the Board of Operations meeting we discussed how we could remedy the situation. The only feasible solution was to make the Dispatcher an online newsletter. To advise every one of upcoming meets, a postcard will be mailed containing the normal information about the location, a map, the meet schedule, clinic subjects, contest categories, and any other information that will fit on the card.

This will be the last printed version of the Coast Dispatcher. Prior to next year's March meet we will transition over to the postcard notification. Converting to a postcard notification and online Dispatcher will save the division over \$300 dollars a quarter and will bring our expenses back in line with our income.

There are some advantages to having the Dispatcher as an online newsletter. The online version will be in full color and will be free to have more pages of content. We can and will welcome articles for publication from you authors looking for credit toward the Model Railroad Author achievement award.

The on-line Dispatcher will be posted on the Coast Division web site as it is now. You may join the Yahoo Group ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Coast Dispatcher](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Coast_Dispatcher)) if you would like an email notification with a direct link to each issue online.

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

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Super Notes

By Mark Schutzer

The theme for this version of the Super Notes is that "times are a changing". For the first time in quite a while we actually have several meeting sites available to host our meets. In September we had our first meet at the Janet Pomeroy Center in San Francisco and this new facility worked out great. December's meet will be at another new site, the Boy Scouts Headquarters' in San Leandro. March will be back at the Pomeroy Center, and we will hopefully set up next June's meet at Buchser School in Santa Clara. We all need to say a big "Thank You!" to Don Shortt, Edwin Ness, and John Marshall as they found and facilitated these meeting sites.

As you have read elsewhere in this issue "times are a changing" with the Coast Dispatcher. At the Board of Operations meeting we reviewed and discussed the Coast finances. Over the past year the size of the auction has been shrinking, and our income stream is shrinking along with the auction. Our expenses are now more than our income stream.

The board discussed several different possible solutions to the problem. Some ideas that were discussed included charging entry fees to meets, charging a subscription for the Dispatcher, and several other ways to improve the situation. By far our largest expense is the printing and mailing costs for the Coast Dispatcher. After a good discussion the board decided that in January we will to convert the Coast Dispatcher to an online newsletter. To keep the members informed of meets we will send out a postcard which will include all the details of the upcoming meet. Converting to the online format will save us over \$300 dollars a quarter and bring the finances back to a net positive.

And in keeping with the "times are a changing" theme I hope I see all of you in December at our new meeting site in San Leandro. This is a chance for all you East Bay members to attend a meet in your own backyard.

New Fun Coast Meeting Sites; Enjoy More Train Fun!

Steve Wesolowski
Coast Publicity Wonk

Besides writing this column, usually when I have no clue what to say, my Coast Publicity gig includes creating and distributing meet fliers, which is always more challenging every time we find new places to meet. New meeting locations have other benefits: I'm (slowly) improving at writing terse directions (me??) and (sometimes) at pasting maps; we've met in some fun new places (last meet I called Wild Animal Rescue because of a crying

baby raccoon); our meeting volunteers get to figure out how to make each new site work for our needs, sometimes using virtual shoehorns. I do believe Change IS Good, but I still grumble about (some minor complaint) most times we meet somewhere "new".

Anyway, Please Keep looking for new places for Coast Division meets. Your Bonus: If you find one near where you live, you'll probably travel less to get to and enjoy a Coast meet! FYI: September's meet by the SF Zoo was my Northernmost meet; December's in San Leandro will be my farthest North in the East Bay since the '60s in Emeryville when I was a NMRA teen! Hey! I/we can even ride BART to December's meet if we want to, and That

is Like Totally Cool!

Wherever we meet, I always enjoy some train fun: usually I get soundly (at least 1 minute) beat at the TimeSaver; some meets others like a model or photo I bring enough for 4th, 3rd or 2nd Place, or 1st, if no one else enters. I usually spot something (more likely, several) I want in the Auction.

But, what I Really enjoy the most about our meets is the company of fellow model railroaders, who usually teach me something new and interesting about trains, and usually Charlie Getz says something that makes me laugh AND Think. Thanks, Charlie! Your interesting company is why I attend Coast meets. I thank all of you who attend, even those who bid against me, for helping increase both my enjoyment and knowledge of trains.

I've been volunteering a decade at Coast Division Model Train Shows, plus several times at Roseville's Railfair, explaining the benefits of PCR and NMRA membership to anyone willing to listen. Mostly, I invite new and returning modelers to Coast meets, or meets in other Divisions if they live outside Coast Division. And, somehow, just like during every Coast Meet, I manage to find some rare special train 'treasure' to buy; usually, more than one.

But the real treasure I've found volunteering for train shows is how much I enjoy meeting 'new' train friends while also enjoying the company of 'old' train fiends, usually those volunteering for PCR/NMRA plus my friends in modular groups and some vendors I've also come to know and enjoy.

On Saturday, October 1st, I enjoyed the company of Stanley Keiser, Steve Peters, Darrell Dennis and Ted Moes who all volunteered for the Coast/PCR/NMRA Information Tables; and Sunday the 2nd I also enjoyed with Steve Peters, Darrell Dennis and Michael Marriner. With the Yosemite Valley Shortline, the Bay Area Z Boyz and other modular groups there, there were more than a dozen other 'old' Coast Division train friends at the Richmond GTE show I knew there: Rod Smith, Charlie Getz, Ronnie & Pat LaTorres, Jim Eckman and several others stopped by to visit and help answer questions.

Sunday was Michael Marriner's 1st time

volunteering, after attending his very first Coast Division Meet in September! Before Sunday, Michael emailed me he wasn't sure, as a new NMRA member, what questions he could answer. I replied that sharing his interests & enthusiasm with those who stopped by our tables was plenty. We all enjoyed getting to know Michael better and learning about his train interests. As always, I learned some more stuff about trains and other important stuff in life talking with Michael.

Craneway Pavilion in Richmond was built in the 1930's as a Ford factory with mostly natural lighting (lots of windows). It's the most beautiful train show location I've ever enjoyed, with its lovely views of SF Bay, plus sail & power boats cruising by only a few feet away, creating very nice visual breaks even from watching model trains.

Besides the many boats we saw, several industrial shortline yards, working sidings, and even a container port were within 5 minutes drive of the pavilion, along with the beautiful Golden State Model Railroad Museum in Point Richmond, with 10,000 square feet of World Class modeling in most of the gauges and scales I enjoy modeling in (those I can't also ride on), including On30, N, HOOn3 and others.

Steve Peters and I visited the Golden State Museum on Saturday, the first time for both of us, and we agreed we wished we lived closer than Santa Clara Valley, so we could both more easily join and enjoy it more often. What a wonderful layout! We both encouraged everyone we spoke to Sunday to visit the museum, too.

If you want to enjoy even more train fun than you already enjoy just attending Coast Division meetings, consider joining other volunteers at International Railfair, November 12-13 in Roseville (contact Mary C. Moore-Compagna) and/or at the Great Train Expo (Contact Darrell Dennis) in San Jose, November 26-27.

Although Volunteers also receive Free admission, your biggest reward likely will be enjoying trains with other volunteers and the others you meet. We'll be glad for your company, and you earn credit towards your Association Volunteer AP Certification.

Happy Trains to You, Until We Meet Again!

Auction Report by John Marshall

Here are the auction results from the Coast Division meet of 9/11/11

Silent Auction 40 Lots

Live Auction 181 Lots

Total 221 items listed 40 no bid items

John

Show Tell / Photo Contest Report By John Sing

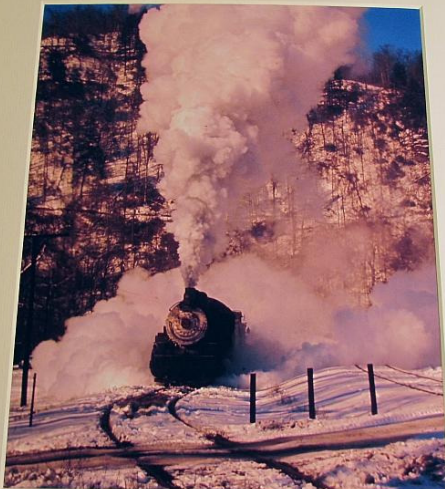
Note: There were no Model Contest Entries in September.

Photo Contest

1st Place

Day after Christmas by Tom Vanden Bosch

NMRA PCR Coast Division Sept 2011 Meet Photo Contest 1st Place



"Day after Christmas" by Tom Vanden Bosch

2nd Place Ardenwood Doubleheader by Steve Wesolowski

NMRA PCR Coast Division Sept 2011 Meet Photo Contest 2nd Place



"Ardenwood Doubleheader" by Steve Wesolowski

3rd Place 4449 At Martinez by Pat LaTorres

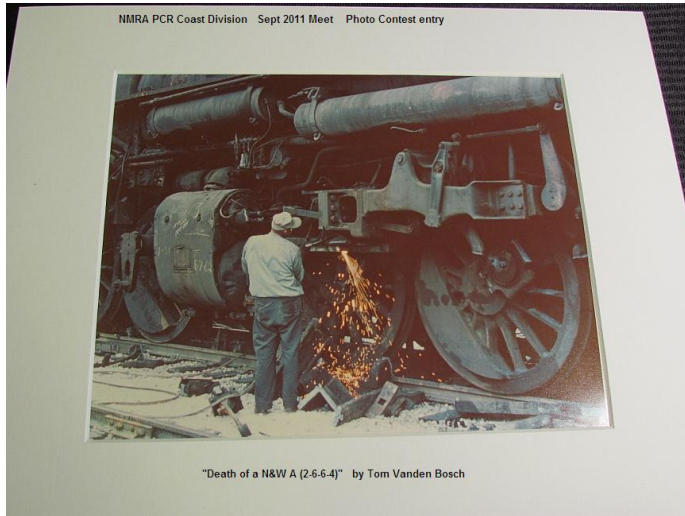
NMRA PCR Coast Division Sept 2011 Meet Photo Contest 3d Place



"4449 at Martinez" by Pat LaTorres

Other entries

Death of an N&W A 2-6-6-4 by Tom Vanden Bosch

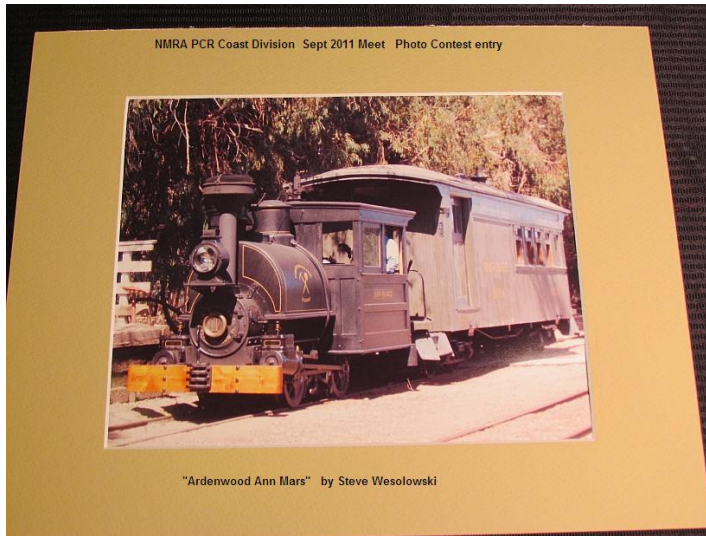


Show and Tell

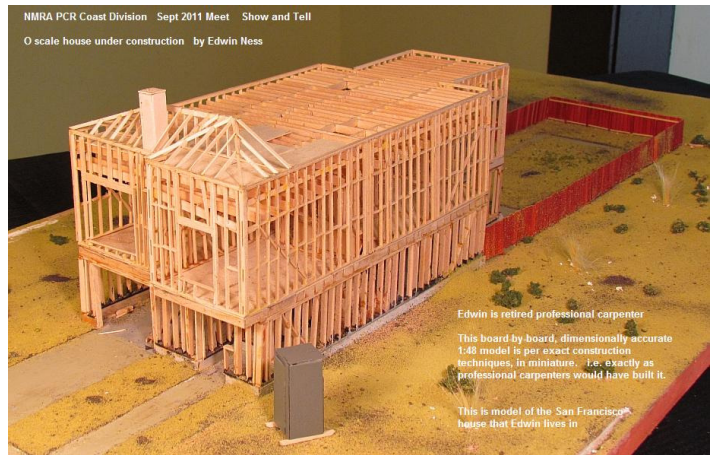
N scale SP SD50 by Dominic DiMaio who is 12 years old



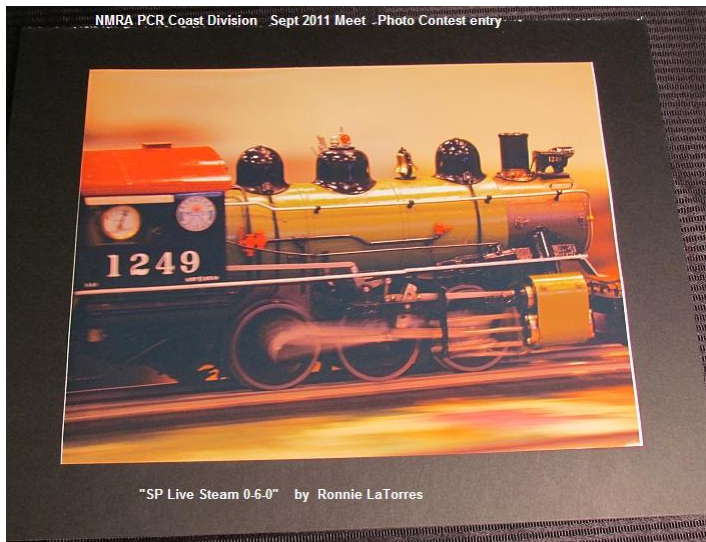
Ardenwood Ann Mars by Steve Wesolowski



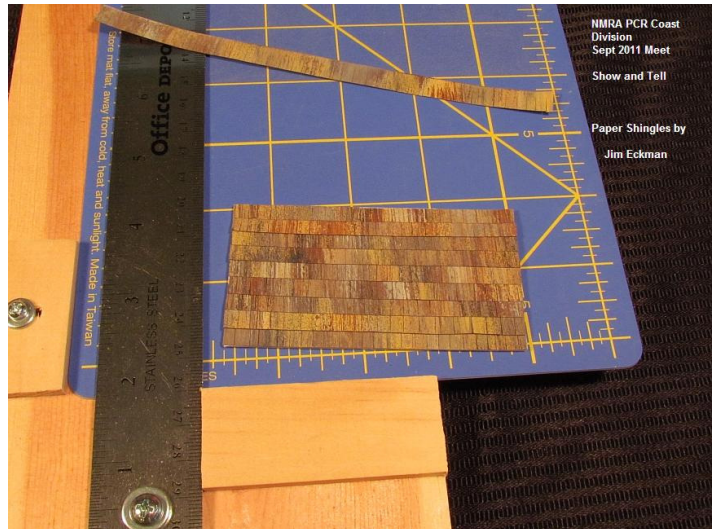
Scratchbuilt SF House under construction by Edwin Ness



Live Steam 0-6-0 by Ronnie LaTorres



Paper Shingles by Jim Eckman



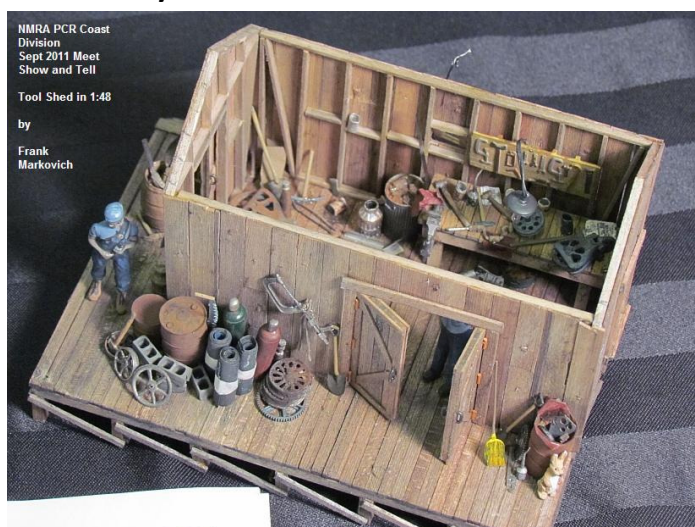
(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Nationals Winner GM&O Ingalls diesel by Tom Vanden Bosch



Tool Shed by Frank Marovich



The December Photo Contest category is :
Favorite Railroad Related Photo

The December Model Contest category is:
Favorite Model.

Join us and bring your favorite model or photograph to show.

Coast Division People

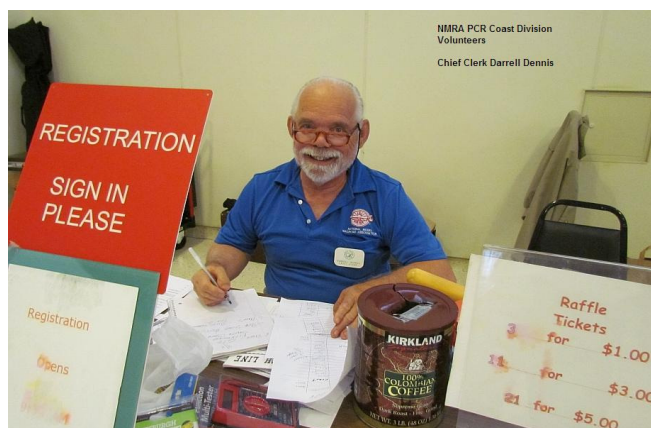
Photo Contest Chair Keith Wandry



AP Judging Bob Wirthlin and Tom Vanden Bosch



Chief Clerk Darrell Dennis



NMRA InfoNet

Here's all the news that's fit to print for October:

- In order to ensure the financial wellbeing of the NMRA into the future, there will be a **dues increase on January 1, 2012** for U.S. members and overseas members served by the Chattanooga office. Regular memberships will increase by \$5 to \$44, and subscriptions to *NMRA Magazine* will increase by \$3 to \$22. Sustaining memberships (including the magazine) will increase by \$13 to \$110, and student memberships (including the magazine) will increase by \$4 to \$32. In addition, our highly successful RailPass trial membership program will continue at \$9.95. The current RailPass conversion rate to regular memberships is around 65%. **Memberships administered by the A, B, and C offices are not affected.**

- Di Voss, who's heading up the Cruise Convention committee, continues to receive **results from the survey published in the October issue of NMRA Magazine**. To date he's received around 200 responses, and estimates those "in favor" to be about 75%. In addition, Di would like to remind those who think there won't be enough time on a Cruise Convention for layout tours, OPSIG meets or other activities, that the ship will be in port from about 8:00 a.m. until about 10:00 p.m.

- For some reason, the story that the NMRA membership has been declining over the past few years continues to persist. **IT AIN'T TRUE. NMRA membership is holding steady** at around 19,500. According to the latest "Membership Thermometer" figures compiled by Marketing, Advertising and Promotions manager Tom Draper, the NMRA lost 104 members between August 2009 and August 2011, but gained 91 members between August 2006 and August 2011. Please help us set the record straight by mentioning this to your membership!

Convention news: Even though Grand Rails 2012 will have dozens of top notch model railroads open for self-guided tours, the convention committee wanted to make sure everyone has a chance to see some of their great layouts. So there will also be several bus tours to some of the area's best layouts. Layouts include every scale from Z to G, and every level of completion. They're also offering a very special, exclusive seven-hour limo layout tour for groups of 6 to any of the six layouts on the self-guided list. The price for the limo is only \$120 per person. Get all the details and registration info at www.gr2012.org.

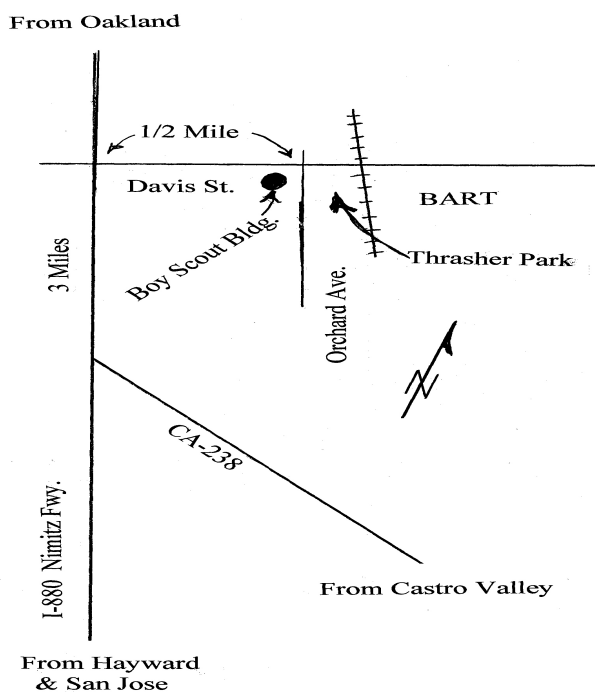
Repeat announcement: The Howell Day Museum is issuing a new release of its highly successful Gorre and Daphetid bobber cabooses. Two new bobbers, numbered 3 and 5, are available from Headquarters immediately. A single car is US\$19.95 + \$4 shipping and handling, and the set of two is US\$34.95 + \$4 shipping and handling. The new cars are available in HO scale only, and are ready to run. They feature operating magnetic knuckle couplers and free-rolling metal wheels. Watch for the ad running in *NMRA Magazine*. To order, call HQ at 423-892-2846.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in NMRA Magazine.

And if you're changing email addresses, please let me know at this email address: NMRA-infonet@earthlink.net

**-Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA Communications Director**

The next meet will be on December 4, 2011 at the
Boy Scouts Headquarters, 1001 Davis St, San Leandro, CA
Details are on Page 1. Here is the map.



From the North:
Take Highway 880 south.
Take Exit 34, Davis St.
Turn Left on Davis. Go 0.7 miles to the
BSA Headquarters, 1001 Davis St.

From the South:
Take Highway 880 North
Take Exit 34, Davis St.
Turn Right on Davis St. Go 0.7 miles to
the BSA Headquarters, 1001 Davis St.

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