



Coast Dispatcher

September 2012

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

Division Meet

September 9, 2012

IBEW Local 302 Headquarters
1875 Arnold Drive, Martinez, CA.

9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.
 9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.
 10:00 AM "The Sierra Railway—Early History, Features, Modeling
 11:00 AM Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Howard McKinney
 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:

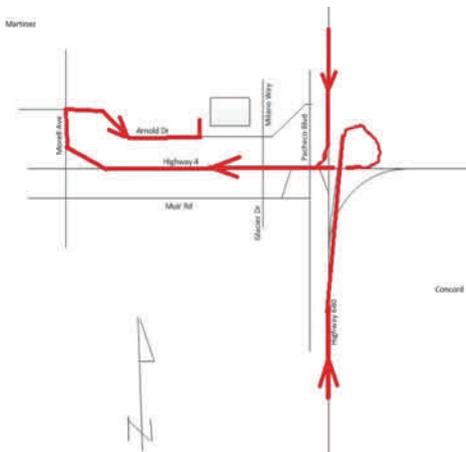
Model Contest: Steam Locomotives, Diesel, & Other Locomotives, Passenger Cars

Photo Contest: Caboose

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

* Auction actually starts as soon as Business Meeting ends.

Directions to the IBEW Local 302 Headquarters



From either north or south, take Highway 680 to the Highway 4 West connector. Take the Morello Ave exit (1 mile), At the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto Morello Ave. At the traffic signal (300 feet), turn right on Arnold Drive. Drive $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the 2-story concrete building on the left. If you reach a stop sign you passed the building.

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In This Issue

Upcoming Events	1
Call Board	2
Editor's Notes	2
Super/Director Notes	3
Auction Report	3
Publicity	4-5
PCR President's Award	6
Layout Tours	6
Model Contest	7-9
Photo Contest	10-11
Show and Tell	11
Bull Horn Flats RR	12-13
NMRA Infolink	14

Editor's Notes:

You are now reading the Coast Dispatcher, which is only available in electronic version starting with the March 2012 issue. the Coast Dispatcher will only be available on-line. It is available on the Coast Division Website.

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

You may also 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. When you do this, you will get an e-mail with a direct link to each new version. (we do it this way because people with slower internet connections can download at their leisure as opposed to having it slow down their e-mail.)

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

Super / Director Notes

By Mark Schutzer

As I write this I am relieved to say that there will be a Coast Meet this September thanks to the efforts of Bob Ferguson to find us a new meeting site at the IBEW hall in Martinez. At the last Board of Operations meeting your board set a "drop dead" date of August 10th to find a site or cancel the meeting. We extended the deadline by a few days as Bob was working a couple of leads and I'm happy to say that we have a site thanks to Bob's stellar efforts.

We came very, very close to calling off the meet and we need help in finding other meeting sites. We are fortunate to have the use of the BSA Headquarters in San Leandro for the June and December meets but we need more sites for the March and September meets.

Thanks to Don Shortt we have been fortunate to be able to use Buchser School for many years now. The school is currently undergoing a multi-year renovation and we can't count on the school being available for meets.

A couple of weeks ago I put out a plea for help on the PCR list and I did get a couple of private email responses with a couple of good leads, but unfortunately the dates and time didn't work out. I should also point out that there were about a half a dozen other suggestions such as "have you tried here" or "have you tried there". While I appreciate the suggestions I don't have time to track all this stuff down.

We need your help to find meeting sites, and if you have a possible site I need you to do the legwork. Visit the site, talk to the folks responsible for the site, and see if they are willing to host a Coast Meet for a \$150 to \$200 dollar donation. As you all know we need one big room that can handle 80 to 100 people plus chairs and tables for the auction. We also need a small room or two for clinics.

And while I'm asking for help the Meeting Site Chairperson position has been vacant for several years and I would love to fill this position with someone who can help arrange meeting sites on an ongoing basis.

Everyone owes a big round of thanks to Bob for finding and arranging all the details with this new site.

I hope to see all of you at the Meet,

Mark

Auction Report by John Marshall

We had 230 items in the auction. 212 items were sold and 18 were no-bid items.

The Iron Horse Express Arrives Soon!

Steve Wesolowski, IHE Publicity Guy

With only 7 months until PCR's 2013 Convention starts at the Holiday Inn Dublin, near where Interstates 680 & 580 cross, on April 3-7, 2013, NOW is NOT too early to start planning to enjoy real and scale tons of Rail Fun with the rest of us on the Iron Horse Express! also known as IHE.

Of course, You could Start getting ready today for IHE by working on and finishing several of your highly detailed and lovingly constructed model gems you want to enter in the IHE Model Contests for the rest of us to enjoy seeing, and by matting those prints of train subjects you want to enter in the Photo Contest. Or by creating some amazing Crafts entries we all enjoy seeing every convention.

And, If you Register NOW, you will also enjoy the \$79 Early Bird Discount of \$10 off the \$89 fare; the Full rate applies February 1st. We also hope you bring your train fun loving Main Squeeze (Spouse or Significant Other) to enjoy some Rail and/or Non-Rail Fun with us too, for our Non-Rail fare of \$69. And if you have Rail Youth(s), Youth Fare is \$50. All fares include clinics, layout tours, operating sessions, and Saturday's Awards Banquet; But Youth fares, and one-day fares, at \$35.00 per day, do not include the banquet.

You may not know this but Every one of us who Volunteer to make PCR Conventions happen honestly believes our Annual PCR convention is one of the best benefits of our PCR/NMRA Membership. Once a year for a few days we help bring together more of the knowledge, talent and skills of the modelers in our #1 Region than is available at ANY other meeting in PCR, to encourage all of us to share, learn and grow as Modelers, and Rail fans, and most important to renew and make new friendships with others who share our Enthusiasm for trains.

To encourage both New and Renewing PCR Members to enjoy this PCR Convention with us, to encourage and renew those deep personal friendships which each encourage and enable us all to enjoy more train fun, we also offer a "First Timer" Fare: only \$69 -- if you've missed the last 5 PCR Conventions (since 2007, before '07 or ever). We encourage ALL in PCR who enjoy trains to achieve their full potential train fun!

Myself, to enjoy fully my PCR/NMRA Membership, I try to attend as many Regional and National conventions as I can. Sharing my modeling interests and whatever I know of trains with 'new' people I meet along with 'old' friends re-charges my modeling passion.

Guess what? You can always Visit www.pcrnmra.org/conv2013 24/7 for our latest IHE 2013 Info and to Register On-Line.

Prototype Tours

Every convention IS different, composed of whom and what's available at the time in and near that place: for example, at the PNR/PCR 2012 in Medford in May, a big draw was a Train Mountain and logging museum field trip, others included clinics by PNR members who don't usually present their interests at PCR conventions, plus tours of local manufacturers, like Micro-Trains and Campbell Scale Models.

Similarly, Iron Horse Express will have activities to enjoy, some not available anywhen or anywhere else. Currently, we're organizing a Niles Railway Train Ride including Brightside Shop Tour on Friday, and Speeder Rides on Thursday, similar to during PCR 2009. On Saturday, we plan a tour of Jacques Littlefield's Military Vehicle Technology Foundation in Portola Valley, a collection of Tanks and other Military hardware unmatched anywhere. see <http://www.mvtf.org/>

Also on Thursday, a Morning and Afternoon tour for 14 people each of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is planned. Because of security reasons, all 28 LLNL Tourists will provide in advance and carry their photo ID the day of the tour, more information will be available. Our groups will tour the National Ignition Facility inside LLNL, using laser fusion to 'Bring Star Power to Earth'. Wow!

I'm looking whether a Shop Tour of the Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority Wednesday afternoon is possible.

Clinics

Lucky for us, PCR is home to, AND also attracts from outside PCR, very talented Clinicians. They include MMR's

like Jack Burgess and Jim Vail, plus others equally talented who enjoy sharing their train passions, skills and knowledge with others by presenting clinics on Improving Modeling Skills, Local Railroad History and Prototype Modeling, plus other topics.

Dave Connery, our 2013 Contest Chair and very Talented Clinician himself, has already signed up at least 36 Clinics for at least 62 clinic 'slots'-- with the rest still "TBD". Contact Dave if YOU are interested in sharing some of your organized knowledge and passion with the rest of us; there are still Clinic openings available; Dave is still looking for interesting new topics and presenters.

FYI: If you're a potential "First Time Clinician", but you've not presented your clinic before, I recommend you present any new clinic at a Division or Club meet before IHE 2013. I've given Model clinics and other technical presentations; I hope to give a clinic at IHE: I know more previous practice and audience feedback improves any and every presentation's value and handouts dramatically.

Layout Tours

Yes, we will have Layouts Open to be visited and some attendees can sign up to operate on. As in the past, I expect every layout open for Iron Horse Express Layout Tours and/or operations will teach every one of us something new and often unexpected.

As I write this, on the the IHE Layout Tours webpage <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2013/layouts.html> Bob Osborn, our Layout Tours Coordinator, Only lists 28 layouts open, so far! I know from looking at Bob's list, we will be visiting many excellent layouts: some we have visited before, plus some each of us likely either have not seen before or visited so long ago, they have changed and improved significantly.

If you want to add your layout to the list, you can contact Bob Osborn by clicking on Bob's name at the bottom of that page: So Easy!

LD/OP SIG

In addition to seeing the familiar names of Seth Neumann and Jim Providenza there, You will see that Bob Osborn is also listed as the SIG Activities Coordinator on the Iron Horse Express LD/OP SIG web page, at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2013/sigs.html>

Of course, the [Layout Design SIG](#)'s prime purpose is to help modelers design and build a model railroad to enhance future operations with minimum space and cost, while avoiding common design flaws, and include prototypical and model design features that maximize operating interest and visual interest.

And, the [Operations SIG](#) is devoted to furthering the simulation of prototypical operating practices by using the forms, procedures, communications, and train schedules on model railroads.

All Members of other NMRA SIGs are welcome to participate in Iron Horse Express 2013 and are encouraged to contact Bob. The more fun train options we have, the better!

Please, Join US at IHE 2013, if you can

Well, If you've read this far, You may agree I have consumed enough electrons sending Data Packets containing Iron Horse Express 2013 information your way as part of this issue of the Coast e-Dispatcher. Don't you love it when I talk tech!!!?

I would hope the Internet and your ISP connection to it may smell like Smokin' Coal or Oil producing Steam for the Iron Horse Express to have come High Ballin' your way, but I Know that is just happening in our imaginations....

As a fellow train lover, I really hope you can join us for Iron Horse Express 2013 in Dublin, April 3-7, 2013. I know we will ALL enjoy even more train fun together with whatever you contribute by being there with us, also.

In the Meantime, Many Happy Trains to you, until we meet again!

Dennis Stokely Recipient of the 2012 President's Award

Dennis Stokely was given his President's Award by PCR President Pat LaTorres at the Coast Meet because he had to leave Medford before the awards were given at the convention. Dennis has been the PCR convention chair for years, and he is the convention chair for the 2013 Iron Horse Express Convention.

Congratulations, Dennis



Coast Layout Tours By Dave Parks

The next Coast Tours will be Saturday Evening January 26, 2012 in the South East Bay and South West Bay. Maps and directions will be available on the Coast Division Web site about a week before the tour weekend. Contact your area coordinator to have your layout on tour. <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/>

Chair	David Parks	bearwestern@comcast.net	(650) 961-7644
North East Bay	Andy Schnur	schnurae@netzero.com	(925) 283-4476
South East Bay	Don Marenzi	donmarenzi@aol.com	(510) 794-3469
North West Bay	Pete Cressman	gabi2pete-friends@yahoo.com	(650) 728-7681
South West Bay	Steve Williams	spwilliams@gmail.com	(408) 857-6787
South Beyond the Bay – Gilroy/Santa Cruz	Chuck Catania	cprr@charter.net	(408) 846-5857
North Beyond the Bay	Ernie Simard	esimard@yahoo.com	(707) 762-9163
Web Coordinator	Steve Williams	spwilliams@gmail.com	(408) 857-6787

Model Contest/Photo Contest/ Show & Tell

June 10, 2012 Coast Meet Contest Results (with Steve W comments)

Model Contest Categories: Structures, Display/Diorama, Self Propelled Cars/Traction

Structures

First Place:

Eugene Martin "McCullom's Surplus Store"



Note: This model was also judged for points by Tom Vanden Bosch and Bob Wirthlin: it earned 120 out of 125 points!! The amount and quality of modeling and detail inside and outside throughout this 2 story, long HO structure was superb. For example, Both the ground and second floor had Scratchbuilt/Handmade Embossed TinType ceilings. The model matched faithfully numerous photographs of the original building, including a gorgeous grand staircase from the 1st floor with rounded wide steps and rounded railing continuously narrowing with each step upward. Gene told me he worked on this model over 5 years. IMO, It could earn/win Best of Show at any PCR Convention I've attended. Giuseppe Aymar has competition.

Bob Wirthlin told me to alert people to how excellent this model building was, so they would look at it again.

Second Place:

Tom Vanden Bosch
"Scale Track"

This was a Weighing Scale Structure, with the enclosed Weighmaster's Shelter Structure and the weighing track alongside the structure.



Third Place: (No entry)



Display/Diorama

First Place:

Earl Girbovan "Hart's Transfer"

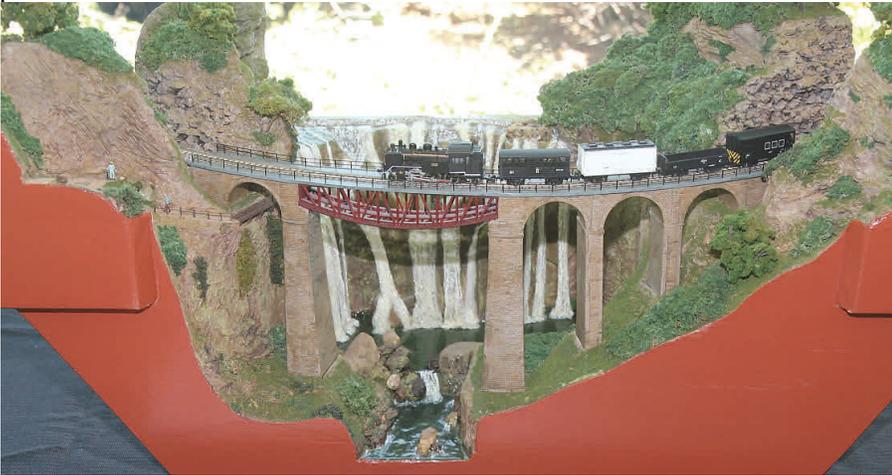
Several structures and motor vehicles, with some track. A Nice level of detailing throughout, Scenery & weathering realistic. Most excellent modeling.

(Continued on page 8)

Second Place:

Paul Ingraham "Shihfen Waterfall"
Tom Vanden Bosch and Bob Wirthklin
also judged this formally and it earned 88 points.

Paul Modeled an actual Taiwan waterfall and across it's gorge is a RR bridge, with a Taiwanese steam train running across the bridge. The bridge was selectively compressed in N scale, and not the exact type as in the real location. Also, the real waterfall is nowhere as near the bridge level, but trying to model the actual difference the module would be way too deep vertically. So Minor Conformity point subtractions, but all he did was well documented. Very Excellent modeling.

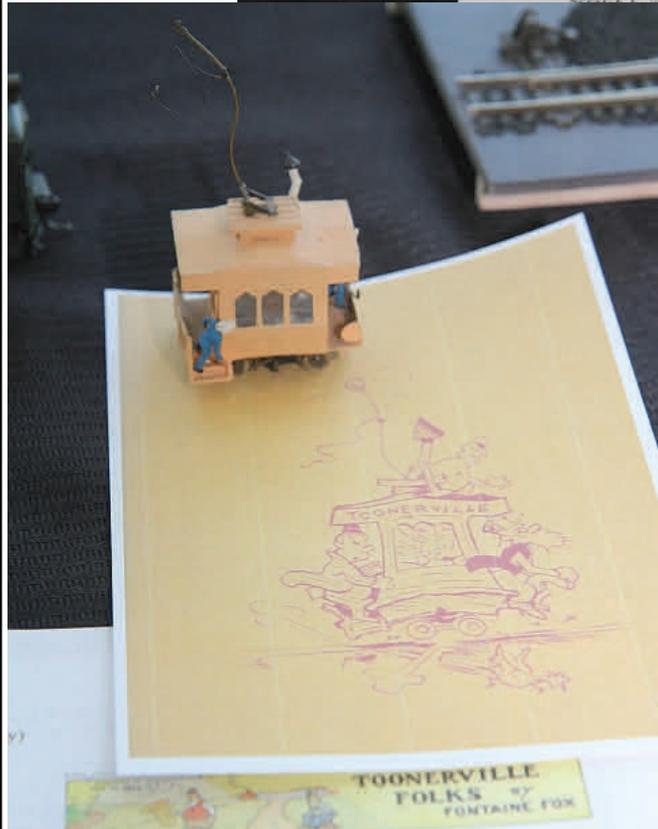


Third Place: No entries.

Self Propelled Cars/ Traction

First Place:
Bob Wirthlin
"SP-10, an RDC-1"

Nice interior
detail.
Documentation.



Second Place:
Bob Wirthlin "Toonerville Trolley"
Whimsical Model with nice Comic as part of its documentation.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Third Place:



Kenneth Martin
"CB&Q #9509 Gas
Electric"

Nice Model in
HO scale.

S1
CB&Q 9509 GAS
Electric

Fourth Place:

Patrick LaTorres
"W.P. RDC"

Nice model.



Also Patrick LaTorres
brought Two Show & Tell
models, in On30, a "Metal
Body Box Cab Diesel" and a
"Wood Body Box Cab Diesel".
Both nice, both with Sound.



(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

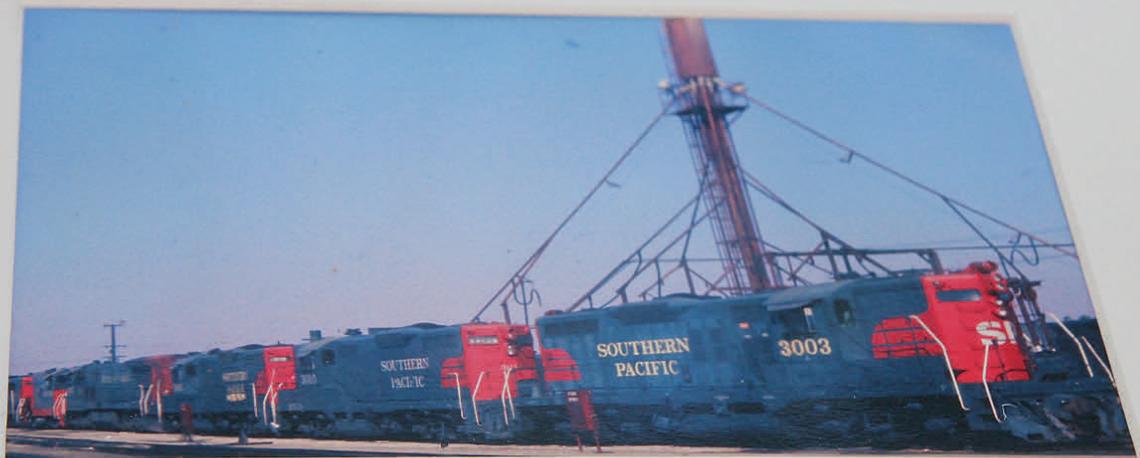
Photo Contest Theme: Diesel Locomotives

First Place: (Tie Vote)
Kenneth Martin
"BNSF Diesel"



BNSF Diesel P1

Tom
Vanden
Bosch
"San Jose,
Oct. 1971"



SAN JOSE OCT, 1971

Second Place:
Tom Vanden Bosch
"No Stop in Atherton"



1A3 NO STOP IN ATHERTON

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Third Place:

Patrick LaTorres

"Santa Fe Freight, Mojave Desert at Sunset"

(They were ALL nice photos of Diesels.)

Show & Tell

There were Three Show & Tell Structures:



A) Howard Lloyd's "Claremont Storage Company (Warehouse)"
Very Nice building.



B) Oakdale, CA Gravel Crusher and Hopper by Dave Connery



C) A model of the "Sunnyvale Station in 1956" which Paul Ingraham is building as part of a diorama to be on permanent display in the Sunnyvale Museum. It is a beautiful Model, faithful to the original plans, in N scale. It was looked at a lot, and deservedly so. Very Nice work by Paul. I think it was not quite finished, but he brought it to share anyway. At least one person who grew up in Sunnyvale said it looked like the real building



Bull Horn Flats RR N Scale

By Ed Gregory

(Editor's note: This is the first article of a new feature for the Dispatcher. I will be presenting pictures and descriptions of layouts in the Coast Division. I will need input from you to keep this going. If you would to show us your layout, send me a write-up about it and some pictures. If you want, I can come and take the pictures and work with you on the story.)

The name of the layout comes from a pair of Bullhorns that my Dad brought back from Mexico on a fishing trip.

The railroad is a freelance that goes from Texas to Northern California; a lot of Santa Fe equipment has trackage rights over the BHF. Motive power is older Alco's that have been repainted and numbered for the home road. Years ago Kadee now Micro trains, manufactured N Scale



cars with dimensional data applied and so you could add you own decals. I drew up the herald, arrow with a circle around it and penned the advertising slogan on the side of the home road cars the "Flat Landers Favorite." and sent the information to Rail Graphics to have the decals made - they are still fine after 20 years of storage. The room (12'x30') is in the attic of the

church I attend. It needed to have the roof that was there removed and some flooring, electrical & engineering work to handle the layout with visitors and operators.

The layout started with no track plan, friends had given me pieces and I had one leftover from a previous layout. Keeping your given & druthers in mind and working with the information available in the model press



(Continued from page 12)



especially the layout design sig of the NMRA and Tony Koester "Realistic Model Railroad Building Blocks", these parts were positioned around the room on bench work and reworked until things came together. I even used the double timesaver puzzle idea for a middle peninsula in the first room as one of the switching areas. Some years into the process the opportunity to acquire the old TCSME NScale layout happen and I added a second 12'X30' room (that was not being used for anything). I follow the original layout as much as possible

space allowing.

There is 250' of main line with 7 passing sidings of at least 15 cars some as long as 40. There are 5 industrial switching areas and 2 yards to keep everyone busy. Continuous running is available as well as 2 reverse loops. Digitrax is the DCC of choice and all switches are ground throws and within arms reach. Scenery in the first room is 75% complete and the second room about 30%.



Edward Gregory
Modeling since 1968 in N Scale

NMRA InfoNet

Welcome to the Post-Convention edition of the NMRA InfoNet News!

As I've done in the past, I'm going to split the convention and Board meeting news between this edition and next month's, so that important information doesn't get buried.

NOTE: Please forward this email to your newsletter editor and officers, mention it in your editorial, bring it up at meetings. Your members like to know what's going on at National!

- **Charlie Getz became the new NMRA President** as Mike Brestel passed the reins to him at the Annual business meeting in Grand Rapids. Charlie has stated that his first order of business is to simplify the organizational structure of the NMRA.
- **Pacific Director Michael Bartlett (Australia) and Canada Director Fred Headon** became members of the Board in Grand Rapids. Michael replaces Peter Jensen; Fred replaces Clark Kooning, who took over for Don Hillman after he retired for health reasons.

Charlie appointed Western Director Jack Hamilton to head up the new **Strategic Planning Committee**, which will prepare a plan to help guide the NMRA into the future. He'll be making a preliminary report at the winter Board meeting.

The Sacramento 21st Century Limited National Convention host group presented the Board of Directors with **a check for \$7,500**, to be donated to the Diamond Club. The Diamond Club funds are being used for the scanning and posting of archival photographs and artwork currently housed in the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library.

Charlie Getz updated the Board on the state of the "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" exhibit, to be housed at the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM). An anonymous donor has pledged **\$250,000 in matching funds**, and as of late July donations of at least \$160,000 were still needed to achieve the match. The funds must be received by the end of this year. Development of the exhibit is estimated to cost between \$500,000 and \$750,000. The "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" exhibit will be seen by approximately 600,000 visitors to CSRM annually.

The Marketing Department team of Page Martin, Garrett Ewald, and Barrett Johnson were named at the convention. Each of these individuals has professional marketing experience, and is tasked with developing advertising and promotions aimed at retaining existing members, re-enlisting lapsed members, and attracting new ones.

Ben Sevier of the Pacific Southwest Region has accepted the position of **Information Technology Director** for the NMRA.

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