



Coast Dispatcher

December 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

December 2, 2012

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

9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.
 9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.
 10:00 AM "Simple Signals with Arduino" by Chuck Catania
 11:00 AM "Waybills" by Tony Thompson
 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

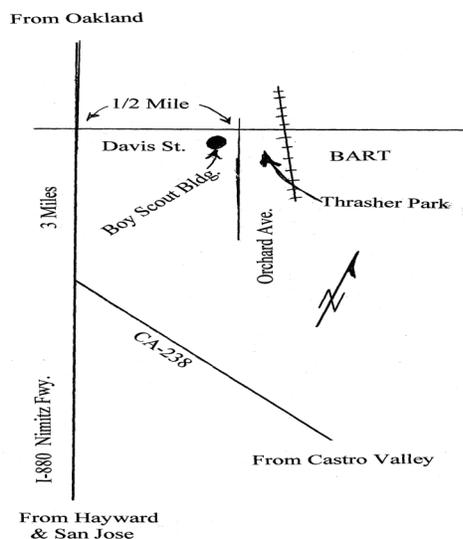
9:30 AM – 1:15 PM:

Model Contest: 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.



Directions to the Boy Scouts of America Headquarters

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.

Coast Call Board

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Editor's Notes:

You are now reading the Coast Dispatcher, which is only available in the electronic version starting with the March 2012 issue.

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 tom@thecrawfordfamily.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 it is hard to believe that another year has almost gone by as the holiday season is fast approaching.

This marks the one year point of our transition to an online Dispatcher and I am happy to report that this change has made a world of difference to Coast's budgetary position. A year ago each dispatcher mailing was costing us about \$250 dollars more than our income was covering. So far this year we are more than \$400 dollars ahead and we have reversed the losses.

For the next several meets the Coast Division will be liquidating a large 3000+ piece estate in the auction so this is your opportunity to pick up some bargains while helping to support the Division at the same time. Come to the December meet and treat yourself to an early Christmas present!

I look forward to seeing all of you in December.

Mark

Coast Layout Tours

By Dave Parks

The next Coast Tours will be Saturday Evening January 26, 2013 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
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Coast Division Elections

Dave Connery, Nominations Committee

At our March Meet we will hold elections for the positions of Superintendent, Chief Clerk and Paymaster. Our current Superintendent, Mark Schutzer and Chief Clerk, Darrell Dennis are term limited. If you are interested in being considered for one of these three positions or know of a candidate you would like to suggest, contact Nominations Committee Chair Dave Connery, dgconnery@sbcglobal.net. At the December Meet nominations for these positions will be open to the floor.

Wanted – Special Stories

Tom Crawford, Coast Dispatcher Editor

When I started as the Coast Dispatcher Editor back in 2005, it was a simple magazine with no pictures, and just the news of the meetings and things like that. The Photo and Model contest reports were all text and fit on one page. The switching contest report was longer than the photo contest report. The whole newsletter, even with NMRA application form included, was only 8 pages.

Well, we've progressed from there, and with the arrival of the electronic version of the Dispatcher, have expanded beyond the limit of the 10 pages we had to fit back then. We've gone to color, and we now have pictures of contest entries, etc.

However, time moves forward, and I have noticed that the Dispatcher only has reports about the meets, and layout tours. When I look at the publications of our fellow divisions, I see a lot of interest stories; stories about people's layouts and activities, etc.

Comparatively, the Dispatcher is starting to seem BORING to me.

So, to fix this, for the last Dispatcher, I went out and took pictures of Ed Gregory's layout, and got him to do a write-up on it. I think it went over well.

Good start, but I'm not very good at doing this. I need someone to provide me with pictures and write-ups about their layouts. For those who would like to share their layout, but don't see themselves as being able to do that, maybe someone can step forward who has the enthusiasm to go around to various layouts, take pictures, and do a write-up on them.

For example, when the layout tours are in the West Bay, this person might go to various layouts, take some pictures, and see if they can get an owner to do a write-up about one.

Once I have the write-up and pictures, I can do the editing. But I need that input.

BTW, there are other games to play here. John Marshall gave me a wonderful write-up about the history of his layout. It was well written and quite amusing, but unfortunately, was closer to a short story than to a newsletter article. I'm still trying to figure out how to use it, but in the meantime, it would be cool to have articles about your layouts.

If you have an article that you think might be interesting for the Dispatcher, let me know and I will put it in.

A Special Invitation to the Coast Division Auctions



Albert Milton McFarlane Albert was born on February 6, 1927 to the late Frank and Bernadette McFarlane and passed away on June 16, 2012 at the age of 85 from a long illness. He is survived by his sister Sally Kelley and family, special friends Jim, Marie, Jarrod, Sharon, Danny and Larry. Albert was a Sacristan, Usher and Minister of Communion at St. Joseph Church in Pinole. He was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. Highly decorated Military Service. Retired from USAF and Chevron, Richmond. A memorial service will be held at St. Joseph Church, 837 Tennent Ave.,

Pinole, on June 27th at 1:30 pm. In lieu of flowers please donate to Hopalong Animal Rescue, Oakland, Ca. Albert will be forever missed, Happy Journey! [from the Contra Costa times. Ed]

In addition, Albert was a long time Life Member of the NMRA, a former member of the East Bay Model Engineers (1960-1971) and an avid collector of model trains. Albert collected model trains that either fit into his imaginary model railroad, the Annochar & Noorland, or which he simply took a liking to for his collection. Throughout his lifetime Albert continuously added to his collection until at the time of his passing, he had accumulated no less than 280 brass locomotives and over 1800 pieces of rolling stock. To add to his enjoyment of the hobby, he also amassed a large collection of books and videos with over 800 items.

In his Will, he instructed his long time friends who are the executors to reach out to the Coast Division for their assistance in disposing of his collection to other model railroaders through the Coast Division auction. The executors contacted the editor of the Branchline who in turn contacted two members of the Coast Division Board. I contacted the executors and arranged to meet them at the former home of Mr. McFarlane to assess and collect all of the model train items from the house. After five large pickup loads of boxes, we were able to transport the collection to my home for processing and preparation for display at the Coast Division auctions. Due to the size of the collection, it will probably require at least 6 Coast Division Auctions to complete the offering of the collection items to the members of the PCR.

The collection will be divided as evenly as possible to include brass engines, brass passenger trains, freight cars, brass interurban equipment, spare parts, books and videos. All of the videos are original VHS tape or DVDs; no copies are included for auction. The brass items include both painted and virgin, some in original boxes (a few with foam damage) as well as some that are not. The freight and passenger equipment consists of both brass and plastic and RTR or kits. Many of the cars were intended to be included in complete trains. For instance, there are many 10-car Tenshodo painted passenger trains. As many of us know or have learned through experience, weatherstrip foam with the self adhesive back is not the thing to use in a carry case to confine the equipment. Albert did so and the result was the adhesion of the foam to the painted sides of some cars and engines.

Many of the books and videos are still in their original plastic wrap and have never been fingered through the pages or placed in a tape player. In many cases, there are multiple copies of the same book or video tape. Another reason for everyone to think about developing and maintaining an inventory of all your equipment, books and videos. These duplicates will be spread out over the several auctions that it will take to liquidate the collection.

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If you haven't attended a Coast Division Auction or have not attended lately due to the reduced selections available, this will be your opportunity to start or renew your participation in Division activities. It does not matter whether or not you are geographically located in the Coast Division, simply being an NMRA member qualifies you to participate in the Coast Division Meets. Be sure to bring your NMRA card to verify your membership if you are not in the Coast Division. We must verify that you are an NMRA member to permit your participation in the auction.

A little more about the collection: Steam engines from 0-4-0 switchers to BigBoys, from Plymouth diesels to Gas Turbines, from old-time shorty passenger cars to 86' Superliners and freight cars from short log cars to 86' Hi-Cube boxcars. Books on every subject from Shortline Railroads to the major carriers, books on US railroads as well as railroads around the world. The same holds true for the videos; there is a little or a lot of every subject matter. In the later auctions as we divest the RTR equipment stored in the wood carry and storage trays, those trays, 95 in all, will also be sold in the auctions.

Now is the time to consider increasing the size of your rolling stock roster at what could be some very reasonable prices. No, brass engines and passenger equipment will not be sold for \$1, but they will most likely go for less than you'd pay on Ebay!!

The next Coast Division meet will be in San Leandro, CA on Sunday, December 2nd. The meet will be held at the Boy Scout Council Headquarters located at 1000 Davis St. which is across the street from the San Leandro Historical & Technical Society's model railroads in Thrasher Park. The doors open at 9 am for registration, 10 am for the first clinic and 11 am for the second clinic and Modeler's Roundtable. The business meeting starts at 12 noon with the auction starting about 5 minutes after the close of the business meeting. Auction item viewing is continuous starting at 9 am when the items will begin to be placed on the tables. The Division will accept checks made out to CASH or valid US currency and coin. We DO NOT ACCEPT credit cards. We do have a 10 item rule which requires the payment for purchased items once you have 10 items on the sold table. We will stop the auction to announce your 'overlimit' status and ask you to come forward and pay for your items. This policy helps to keep the quantity of items on the sold tables to a minimum.

Mark your calendars, set your watches, arrange your car pools (allowing sufficient truck space to pack your treasures), send the family to the amusement park (keeps them happy), fluff your wallet with cash and look forward to a fun day of bidding and buying at the Coast Division Meet on December 2nd.

See you there,
Bob Ferguson, Coast Division Paymaster

Iron Horse Express/PCR 2013
Come to Get Re-Charged!
Steve Wesolowski, IHE Publicity Guy

Yesterday during lunch with Tom Van Horn in Santa Clara, Tom explained how he joined PCR and NMRA in 1973 to attend the PCR convention in San Mateo. Tom was an early N-Scaler, who called and asked Bob Dupont, an O-scaler who happened to be NMRA President, Was it worth Tom's limited funds, as an N-scaler, to attend the PCR Convention in San Mateo where he might be the only N-scaler?

Tom said Bob replied "Yes! Whether or not you meet any other N-scalers, the NMRA is scale independent and you WILL meet many other model railroad minded folks in San Mateo teaching and attending clinics, many on scale independent subjects and techniques. I guarantee if you come it will be the best use of your modeling money --you will have loads of fun, learn lots you don't know, enjoy meeting many fine and interesting local modelers, and be inspired by the excellent modeling you see in the contests and visiting layouts."

So, Tom took a chance and spent a big chunk of his small modeling budget to attend PCR '73. Bob Dupont was right: Tom enjoyed more model railroading fun in San Mateo than he ever expected. Since 1973, Tom's attended every PCR convention possible, and some NMRA Nationals, including one where he won the 1.5" Switching Contest with a friend.

Riding with Tom to visit EVERY fine layout during the Napa '04 PCR convention was how Tom and I became good friends: I didn't think it was possible to see Every layout open during a PCR convention but Tom has shown me how at several PCR conventions! As a teen PCR/NMRA member in the 1960s I couldn't attend PCR conventions. I was too young to drive and couldn't afford to attend. After I rejoined in 2000, I attended PCR'01 and 9 of 11 since, because EVERY time I learned much I never expected from modeling I saw and modelers I've met.

Now, 39 years after Bob Dupont convinced Tom Van Horn to attend his first PCR convention, Bob Dupont's words are Still True: I can guarantee if you attend Iron Horse Express/PCR 2013 it will be the best use of your modeling money; you should have loads of railroading fun, learn lots you don't know, enjoy local modelers, and be inspired.

Every convention 're-charges' my modeling. I see excellent models and layouts, I learn from other modelers' clinics: I'm re-inspired to build better models. Others' more talented work & ideas inspire and challenge me to learn and try new things & have more fun Model Railroading trying to model better. Every modeler whose work inspires me has agreed: we build and enter our contest models, pictures and crafts not only to win but to become better and more skilled modelers, photographers and craft persons. Yes, we learn and improve by building more models, creating more RR themed Arts & Crafts and by taking more good pictures: We also learn ideas from those who enjoy the work we share.

Honestly, I hope to encourage those who've Never enjoyed a PCR convention, First Timers, or anyone not attending for 5 years, to join us April 3-7 2013 at the Holiday Inn, 6680 Regional St, in Dublin, CA for the Iron Horse Express. ALL our convention committee volunteers agree: we MOST want to encourage everyone who's Never attended a PCR Convention, or not for 5 years, to come, with a \$69 registration. We all know by attending PCR conventions we enjoy our PCR/NMRA membership the most, and we all volunteer to ensure Iron Horse Express is more fun for all of us! Even recent attendees can visit our website at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2013/> and save money by Registering Early for \$79 until February 1, when Full Fare Registration is \$89. Our Non-Rail/Spouse fare is \$69. And, all above fares include clinics, banquet, layout tours

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and operating sessions. Our Banquet is Not included with Youth and Day fares. The PCR Members meeting Breakfast is also not included in regular fares, but is an extra-fare activity at only \$5.00.

Visit our website at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2013/> to answer all/all your questions. Keep visiting until IHE begins April 3rd, to learn the latest information about: the Clinics you can attend -- many new ones -- currently Dave Connery has 52 clinicians and 67 Clinic slots for you to enjoy; the many World Class Layouts (some New!) you can tour (over 30 are listed so far, with some more to come); exciting Layout Design and Operating Sessions planned starting Thursday; and even more fun we've planned including a Hobo Breakfast, Swap Meet and Non-Rails activities planned and fun still being planned. So, keep visiting our Website for current information: that is why it we have it and it is updated by Dave Grenier, our mighty Webmaster who 'never sleeps'!

Our Outside activities include a Niles Canyon Railway ride with a tour of the Brightside shops; Jacques Littlefield's Military Vehicle Technology Foundation (www.mvtf.org) in Portola Valley, with 240 restored WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam era military vehicles of all types from several countries including: USA, USSR, Germany, England, France, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, and Israel. Again, check our website for updates.

Our PCR Contest Chairman, Giuseppe Aymar, is planning the judged contests of models, photographs, modules and craft items, including the following categories: Models (in all usual sub-categories), Modules, Photos (also in multiple sub-categories), Popular Vote, Arts and Crafts (also in several sub-categories), John Allen Switching, and Display Only. Besides the Best of Show Awards there are Special awards for Ingenuity and Levity, if any contest entries qualify.

Of course, we all have the opportunity to learn more and become better modelers, photographers and crafts persons by Volunteering to help with Judging the many entries in all the above categories and subcategories. Volunteers are the lifeblood of any convention and Iron Horse Express 2013 is no exception. As always, the more Volunteers we have, the less each of us works/the more we all enjoy more fun at the convention. We need volunteers in these areas at the convention: Registration Desk, Company Store, Clinic Hosts, Contest Room, the Switching Contest, and Non-Rails Hospitality Room. By volunteering to help in any position, you can renew old friendships, make new friends, and help make this convention the best that it can possibly be. If you would like to help out for an hour or two during the convention in any of the above positions, please contact our Convention and Volunteer Chairman Dennis Stokely at dstokely@sbcglobal.net. I understand model contest judges earn two time units of Achievement Program Association Volunteer points for one day and also get a free lunch! Ask Dennis about other Achievement Program points which may be earned in other roles.

I hope we enjoy Train Fun with you at Iron Horse Express in April. Until then, work on your contest entries!

Steve Wesolowski, IHE Publicity Volunteer

Model Contest/Photo Contest

Frank Markovich

I am taking over as contest chairman for the division. I had previously done this for a number of years. The December meet will be open and favorite model – by popular vote. I would like to open it up even more. Bring items that don't otherwise fit into a category along with ones that do fit the normal categories. Examples: vehicles, Donkey Engines, military items like the tank entered last time, painted and modified figures, track work – switches etc.

From the last meet:

Bob Wirthlin's 1/16 scale RC Tank, Converted from an M-26 to T-80 with Infra Red Combat System threatened to attack us noisily from the Show and Tell exhibit.

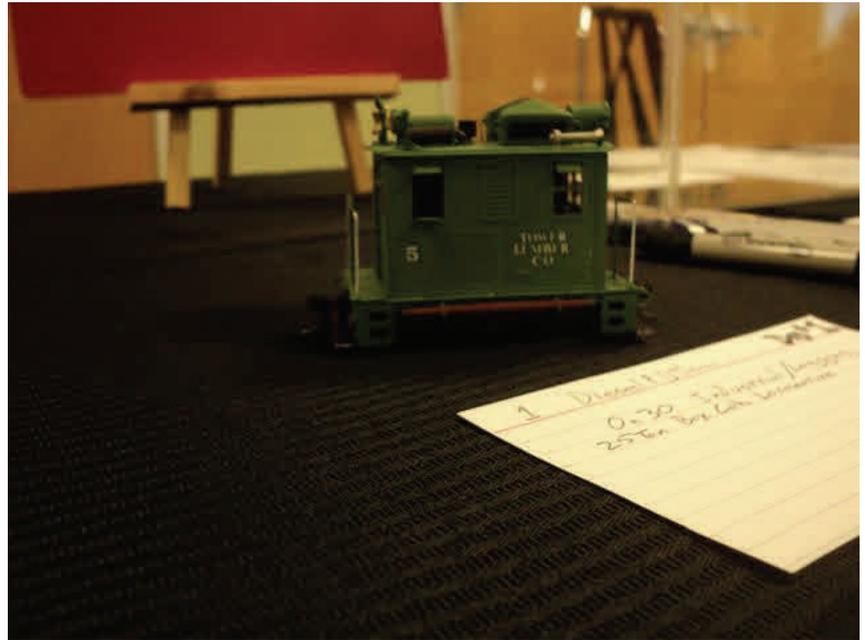


Tom Knapp would have liked his HOn18 1915 Jeffrey Storage Battery Mine engine judged for points, but I was not ready. Tom's engine Tied with:

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Patrick LaTorres' On30 Industrial/Logging 25 Ton Boxcab Locomotive for 1st Place in Diesel and Other, with No entries in Steam or Passenger Car.



Both 'Cabooses' Photos were very good:



LOOKING OUT OF THE CAB, SUBSEQUENT TO BEING UP ON THE TRACKS. THE TWO AT&SF CABOOS ARE IN THE BACKGROUND. THE TRACKS ARE IN THE MIDDLE GROUND. THE HILLS ARE IN THE DISTANCE.

1st Place was Eugene Brichacek's Cab Shot of Two AT&SF Cabooses on the Niles Canyon Railway at Brightside;

2nd Place was Patrick LaTorres' Last Roundup



#2 LAST Roundup

NMRA InfoNet

Welcome to mid-October and the NMRA InfoNet News!

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!

- About half of the money needed to meet the “matching gift” to the “The Magic of Scale Model Rail-roading” exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum has been raised. An anonymous donor has offered to put \$250,000 of his own money into the Exhibit if we can raise a matching amount. In addition to NMRA member donations, substantial donations have been made to the exhibit by various manufacturers. No NMRA dues money is being used to fund this project. Watch for an informative article in the November issue of *NMRA Magazine* for more details on the Exhibit and fund raising efforts.
- The newly formed NMRA Marketing Department is working with Amtrak stations in major cities to get modular layouts placed there in an effort to raise awareness of our hobby.

The NMRA website is undergoing a facelift and update under the direction of our new IT Director, Ben Sevier, and his web team. Members should see the changes sometime within the coming year.

As part of an effort to improve communications with members, and specifically those who don't receive *NMRA Magazine*, the NMRA leadership team is discussing adding an “eBulletin” – a short, concise emailed newsletter which will list NMRA news, announcements, and other important information. It won't replace *NMRA Magazine*, but instead will be an adjunct to it and will be available free to those members with email. A proposal will be made to the Board of Directors in February.

The Executive Handbook and By-Laws Committee is currently working diligently to simplify and shorten both of those documents, making it easier to understand the organization and how it's run.

The Winter Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 8-10. All NMRA members are welcome to attend. Times and location will be announced later.

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