



# Coast Dispatcher

## December 2013

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 8, 2013  
Boy Scouts of America Headquarters  
1001 Davis St, San Leandro, CA.

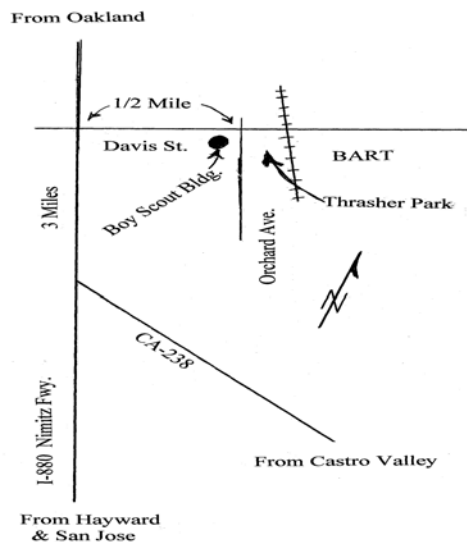
9:00 AM ..... Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.  
9:30 AM ..... Get Auction Cards.  
10:00 AM ..... C/MRI meets Arduino – Seth Neuman & Chuck Catania  
11:00 AM ..... The Adventures of WP 668 – Katy Dickinson  
11:00 AM ..... Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Howard McKinney  
12 Noon ..... Business Meeting  
~1:00 PM\* ..... Auction starts, Roundtable continues  
1:00 ..... Modelling Video/Q&A with Frank Markovich  
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 Model Railroad Photos

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

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



### Directions to the Boy Scouts of America

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**

Director: Mark Schutzer  
 Ph: 650-369-0481  
 Email: [mark.schutzer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mark.schutzer@sbcglobal.net)

Superintendent: Frank Markovich  
 Ph: 408-505-2727  
 email: [frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com)

Chief Clerk: Darlene Ferguson  
 Ph: 925-231-5883  
 email: [totempolekds@hotmail.com](mailto:totempolekds@hotmail.com)

Paymaster: Bob Ferguson  
 Ph: 925-228-6833  
 email: [BobPCRCDD@aol.com](mailto:BobPCRCDD@aol.com)

Achievement: Kermit Paul  
 Ph: 925-935-1859

Auction: John Marshall  
 Ph: 925-461-0206  
 email: [jkmarschall43@gmail.com](mailto:jkmarschall43@gmail.com)

Auction Accounting: Bill Swindell  
 Ph: 925-372-6996  
 email: [bill\\_swindell@value.net](mailto:bill_swindell@value.net)

Clinics: Dave Falkenburg  
 Ph: 408-425-3936  
 email: [falken@mac.com](mailto:falken@mac.com)

Publisher, Coast Dispatcher:  
 Tom Vanden Bosch  
 Ph: 650-369-8305  
 email: [tom-marian@att.net](mailto:tom-marian@att.net)

Editor, Coast Dispatcher:  
 Tom Crawford  
 Ph: 510-790-0371  
 email: [tom@thecrawfordfamily.net](mailto:tom@thecrawfordfamily.net)

Roundtable Facilitator:  
 Howard McKinney  
 Ph: 408-996-1581  
 email: [mckinney@pacbell.net](mailto:mckinney@pacbell.net)

Model Contest: Jim Eckman  
 Ph: 650-996-6728  
 email: [jim\\_eckman@roninengineer.com](mailto:jim_eckman@roninengineer.com)

Nominations: Dave Connery  
 Ph: 925-735-0134  
 email: [dgconnery@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgconnery@sbcglobal.net)

Photo Contest: Keith Wandry  
 Ph: 408-507-6469  
 email: [keith@lobstershack.com](mailto:keith@lobstershack.com)

Publicity: Steve Wesolowski  
 Ph: 408-252-4192  
 email: [swezz@comcast.net](mailto:swezz@comcast.net)

Quartermaster: Stan Keiser  
 Ph: 510-791-1504  
 email: [sbkeiser@juno.com](mailto:sbkeiser@juno.com)

Registration: Ted Stephens  
 Ph: 650-856-4202  
 email: [ted@stephensfam.com](mailto:ted@stephensfam.com)

Switching Contest: Eric Moe  
 Ph: 510-425-4915  
 email: [moerailroadstation@gmail.com](mailto:moerailroadstation@gmail.com)

Web Master: John Sing  
 Ph: 650-372-0765  
 email: [singj@us.ibm.com](mailto:singj@us.ibm.com)

Meeting Sites: Steve Wesolowski  
 Ph: 408-252-4192  
 email: [swezz@comcast.net](mailto:swezz@comcast.net)

Layout Tours: Dave Parks  
 Ph: 650-961-7644  
 email: [Bearwestern@comcast.net](mailto: Bearwestern@comcast.net)

Membership: Darrell Dennis  
 Ph: 510-303-3431  
 email: [u8444p@comcast.net](mailto:u8444p@comcast.net)

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Editor's Notes:

We need to put some new life into the Dispatcher. I compile what I get, but that isn't very much. I look at other Division newsletter, and I am impressed.

Our Superintendent has put forth a challenge to model clubs to provide us input. I love it.

I would really like to see more stories about club's layouts, and some personal layouts. If you would like your layout to be highlighted in the Dispatcher, put together a story and I will publish it. If you need help, I can work with you.

This Dispatcher has the second in a series by Tom Vanden Bosch about working on a layout in Oklahoma. Let me know what you think about serialized stories. If you like them, I have a great story from John Marshall that would take a whole Dispatcher to show with nothing else involved.

Tom Crawford  
 Dispatcher Editor

## ***Coast Division Superintendent's Report***

### ***Frank Markovich***

I went to an open house of the Black Diamond Mines Club in Antioch and noticed that there were no NMRA members present – I think that there are 2 NMRA members that belong to the club though. I think we need to do more to support the various clubs and get more NMRA members associated with these clubs. To do this we need to reach out. I would like anyone who is a member of any model railroad club to give us a write-up about your club, with pictures, and we will publicize your club in the Coast Dispatcher.

Also, if you would like to bring a poster or similar publicity material to a Coast Division Meet, we would be happy to display it.

At this next meet at the Boy Scouts Headquarters, we will again have a very large auction with over 50 high end brass items from an estate in addition to the regular items.

The Model Contest subject will be Favorite Model and the photo contest will be Favorite Railroad Related Photo. I really want to encourage entries into the contest so there will be an extra door prize again for every entry in model or photo even if it is just show and tell. On top of that I will give a special Superintendent prize to one model of my choosing. No special criteria but a model that is most artistic in my judgment. I will be bringing a couple of models myself to the next meet. At this time the clinics are not fully decided but there will be one by Master N Scale builder Tom Knapp – I can't wait to see it as his work is incredible.

Again I am going to show some video's after the business meeting. I am open as to what to show but plan on doing movies from the Kalmbach series "Dream, Plan Build". These are excellent movies and the ones I will show will be mainly on modeling.

At the September Meet the auction made a sizeable amount due to the large estate. This meet we will continue with the estate sale. Lots of brass left! The auction is very important as it is the main method of raising money for our division. This has allowed us to not have to charge admission as many other divisions charge per meet. The clinics are still in process but we will have 2 clinics and of course the roundtable. Howard is working on the subject for the next roundtable. The roundtable at the last meet was on sound.

The switching contest will have some exciting news to present at the next meet. Be prepared. We are going to expand it.

There are still some open positions in the division and I am looking for people to volunteer. If you are interested in helping please email me at [frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com) or any of the other Coast board members. Three of these are the committee chair for the Auction, for registration (critical position) and the webmaster – John Sing has been doing that but he now lives in Florida and we need to find someone local. Also if there are ideas of things you would like to see at the meets let me know.

The meet after this will be back in San Francisco at the Janet Pomeroy Center

*(Continued on page 4)*

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207 Skyline Blvd, San Francisco, CA on March 23, 2014. Mark your calendar.

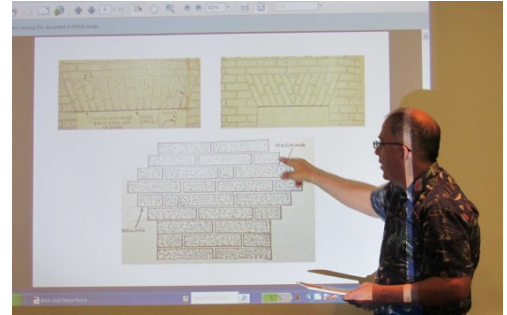
At every meet we can judge for the achievement award. Let me know before the meet and I can line up judges. I can always be one and Jim Eckman can also.

Held a mid-meet clinic in Los Altos – Very successful. Clinics were:

Topics: Brick and stone, classic and computer created for structures given by Jim Eckman.

Easy Weathering of Freight Cars, Locomotives, and Structures etc. by Frank Markovich MMR.

Here are some photo's from the clinics – 2<sup>nd</sup> one is posted on the Coast Website



## ***The Director's Cut***

***By Mark Schutzer***

The midyear Board of Directors meeting was held on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Sands Hotel in San Luis Obispo. The Board had a chance to see the location, and hear the plans for the Coast Rails 2014 convention. It sounds like it will be a great convention with all sorts of planned activities. Make your hotel reservations early as San Luis Obispo is a small town with limited hotel rooms.

I also want to pass along some news concerning the Branchline. For the first time in about 20 years the subscription rate of the Branchline will be increasing. Printing and postage costs have been going up regularly and for a long time the Branchline has been running a yearly deficit. The board voted to raise the yearly subscription rate from \$6 dollars to \$8 dollars effective as soon as possible. This increase will not cover the entire deficit but reduce it to a manageable number.

Now I'll get back to a recurring topic, volunteering. The Coast Division is run entirely by volunteers and it always seems like the same people are doing all the jobs. After a while this starts to get old and folks start to get burned out. If you think you can help with a job at the meets please contact either Frank Markovich or myself and we can talk some more about how you can help.

I hope to see all of you at our next meet on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Boy Scout HQ in San Leandro. We have some great clinics lined up, and there is going to be a lot of brass in the Auction.

See you there,

Mark

## **Coast Layout Tours**

**By Dave Parks**

The next Coast Division Layout Tours will be Saturday evening January 25, 2014 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM in conjunction with the PCR/Sig meet January 24 thru 26. The tours will be focused in the North East Bay area. Contact your area coordinator to have your layout on tour for the PCR convention or future Coast Division Tours. Prototype operating layouts will host op sessions on Friday evening and Sunday for those registered for the PCR/Sig meet. Layout descriptions and locations will be published on the web site. <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/>

Chair	David Parks	<a href="mailto:bearwestern@comcast.net">bearwestern@comcast.net</a>	(650) 961-7644
North East Bay	Bob Osborn	<a href="mailto:bob@cmrailroad.com">bob@cmrailroad.com</a>	(925) 420-6094
	Andy Schnur	<a href="mailto:schnurae@netzero.com">schnurae@netzero.com</a>	(925) 283-4476
South East Bay	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
South Beyond the Bay – Gilroy/Santa Cruz	Chuck Catania	<a href="mailto:cpcrr@charter.net">cpcrr@charter.net</a>	(408) 846-5857
North Beyond the Bay	Ernie Simard	<a href="mailto:esimard@yahoo.com">esimard@yahoo.com</a>	(707) 762-9163
Web Coordinator	Steve Williams	<a href="mailto:spwilliams@gmail.com">spwilliams@gmail.com</a>	(408) 857-6787

## **PCR DIRECTOR FROM COAST DIVISION**

**Dave Connery**

The Coast Nominations Committee plans to nominate present PCR Director from Coast Division, Mark Schutzer, to a second term in this position. Mark is doing a great job representing us and has agreed to stand for a second term. In accordance with our By-laws, additional nominations will be opened to the floor at our December 8<sup>th</sup> Meet. Any one nominated either has to be present at the Meet and express their desire and willingness to run for the position. If a person is nominated who is not present then a written statement from them attesting to the above must be provided to the Nominations Committee Chairman.

The election of Division Directors will be conducted by PCR and a ballot will appear in the Jan-Mar Issue of the Branch Line.

## **Coast Meet Raffle**

**Dave Connery**

Recently we have seen a decline in participation in the raffle held at Coast quarterly Meets. The Coast Board of Operations is questioning if this is still an activity of interest to attendees and will be carefully following the degree of participation at coming Meets. If this is something you enjoy, be sure to participate so the Board knows it is still of interest to members.

## **Publicity Report**

**Steve Wesolowski**

### **Enjoy a FREE Day Modeling With a Master!**

You've likely noticed more time & ink spent on How to attract more Model Railroaders to become NMRA members. I agree more members are desirable, because every one I've met taught me more about this fun hobby of ours, and I meet and learn from many modelers at NMRA events.

Although we've volunteered much time and energy the last 13 years at local train shows trying to attract new members, we've mainly signed up returning members whose memberships lapsed for many reasons, and attracting new members appears more challenging.

What it takes to recruit both new and returning NMRA members is willingness to put your self out there, to momentarily set aside your shyness (We're All Shy) and talk with other modelers you don't know (yet) learn what their interests in trains are, then trying to help them find and connect with other members who share some of their interests.

Some volunteers have found talking with & meeting new train friends easier by bringing modeling to work on during shows, including painting scale figures & animals, building structures, upgrading DCC throttles. Modeling at shows demonstrates how easy and fun our hobby is, most especially to potential model railroaders who think modeling must be harder than it really is.

Recently, our NMRA has decided to try doing what I've seen volunteers in Bakersfield do: build a 4x8 foot layout in one day at a train show. At the Great Train Expo, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, Saturday, November 23, Frank Markovich, MMR, is coordinating and building a layout to give away.

If you'd enjoy a fun day Modeling With a Master (without paying for a convention clinic!) I know Frank will enjoy working with you and helping you learn how to build a scale layout including scenery. I know Frank would enjoy a few more volunteers, because with Your help working together with Frank, all of you working together can build an even more detailed miniature world a lucky family will enjoy later, while everyone attending the train show can see how easy and fun our scale model railroading hobby is.

While the paint, glue, scenery or whatever you are working with is drying, OR if you want to sit at our Membership Recruiting tables to work on parts of the layout project, OR if you just want/need a break from layout building to better absorb what you're learning, you're welcome to help our Volunteers meet & talk with both new and returning Model Railroaders, including sharing the new skills you've just learned/are still learning working with Frank and the other volunteers building a scale layout.

Also, volunteering Saturday and/or Sunday, November 23rd and 24th to help Frank build a layout Saturday and/or volunteering Saturday or Sunday for our Coast/PCR/NMRA Information table, you'll enjoy the Great Train Expo Admission free.

To Volunteer, or for more information, please contact Frank Markovich, MMR, our Membership Volunteer, Darrell Dennis or myself. Our contact information is located elsewhere in this Coast Dispatcher. I hope you can join us for some modeling & train fun in Pleasanton.

For more information about the GTE, visit their website: [www.greattrainexpo.com](http://www.greattrainexpo.com)

Happy Trains to You, Until We Meet Again!

## **Registrar's Report**

**Ted Stephens**

With the September meet at the Janet Pomeroy Center on September 22<sup>nd</sup> the attendance was a total of 62 PCR Division members. The breakdown includes: 57 from Coast, 3 from Sierra, 1 from Redwood Empire along with 1 Guest. Hope to see more on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks,  
Ted



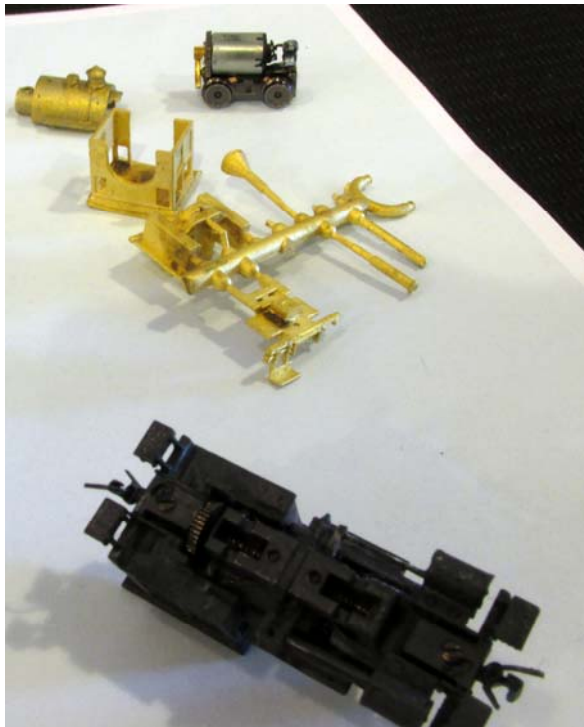
# Model Contest/Photo Contest

Jim Eckman

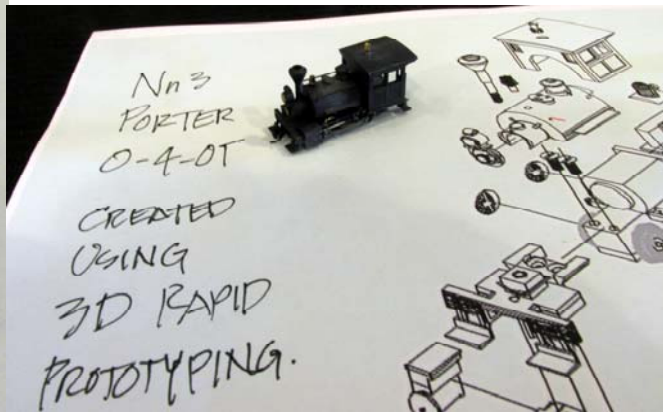
Here is the Contest Report for the September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 meet.

## Steam

1st Place Frank  
Markovich  
Heisler



2nd Place Tom Knapp Nn3 0-4-0 Porter - Judged for merit



*(Continued from page 7)*

### ***Diesel***

1st Place Pat LaTorres Budd RDC, WP 376



### ***Passenger***

1st Place Kenneth Martin CB&Q 60' Baggage Mail #1892



### ***Photo Contest***

1st Place Veronica LaTorres MP 13034 at Train Mountain

2nd Place Tie Pat LaTorres Last Run and Frank Markovich Westside Caboose

3rd Place Rod Smith Caboose

(Unfortunately, we do not have any pictures of the photo contest winners.)

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**Show and Tell**

Mike Blumensaadt Civil War era  
Manassas Gap Railroad module in N scale



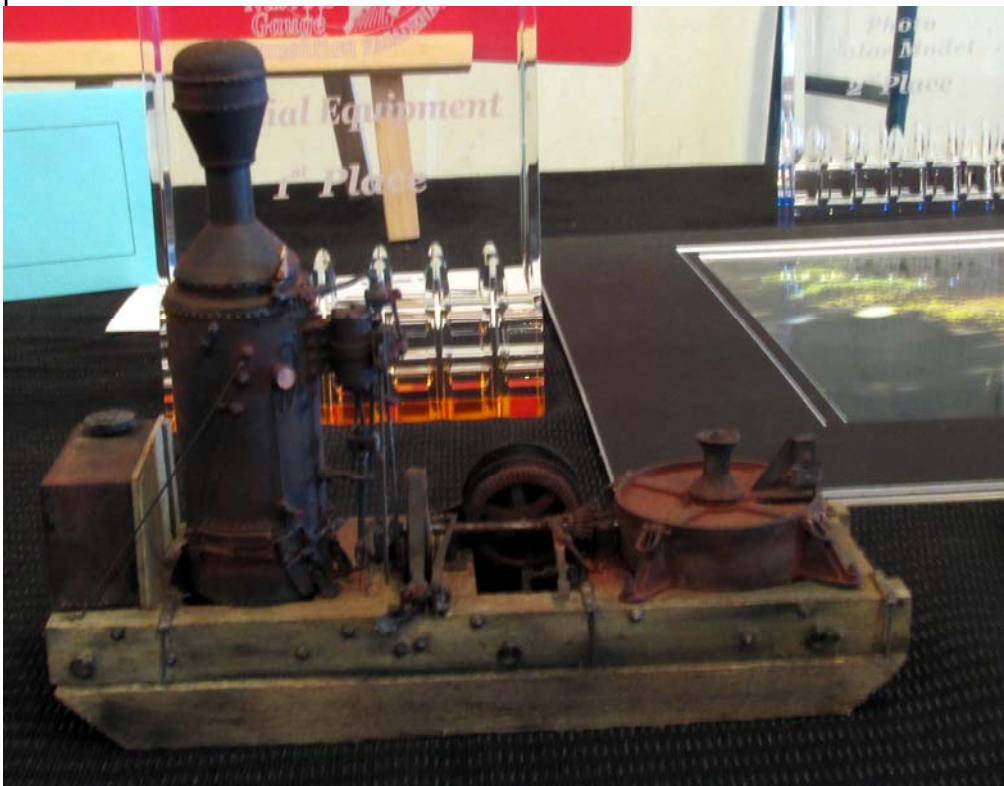
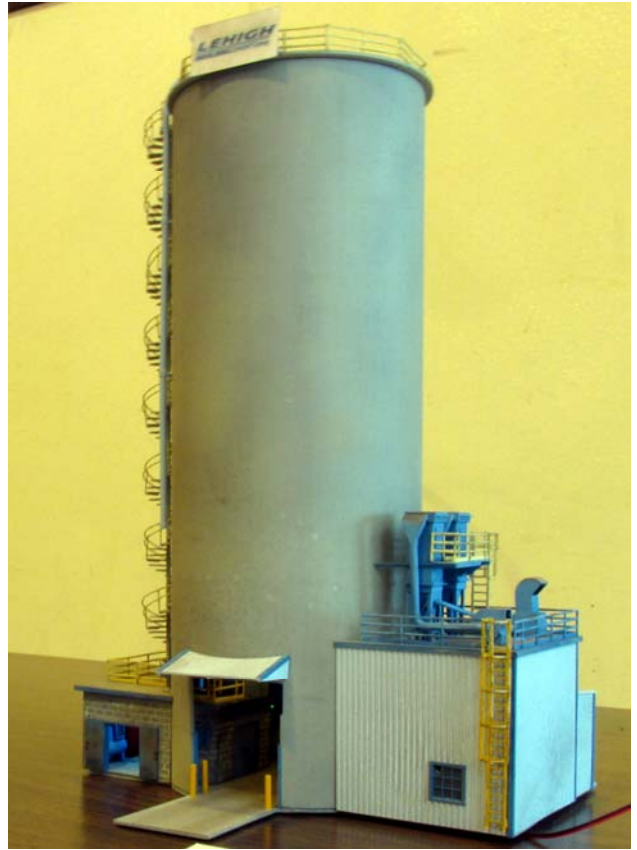
Charlie Getz FSM Station kit



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Earl Girbovan Calaveras Cement - Judged for merit



Frank Markovich Steam Donkey, placed at NNG and farm animals

*(Continued on page 11)*



*(Continued from page 10)*

Pat  
LaTorres  
Bulldozer



Pat LaTorres Two of the same,  
different scales

Editor's Note: This is the second installment of a serial story.

# Working on a Model Railroad in Oklahoma

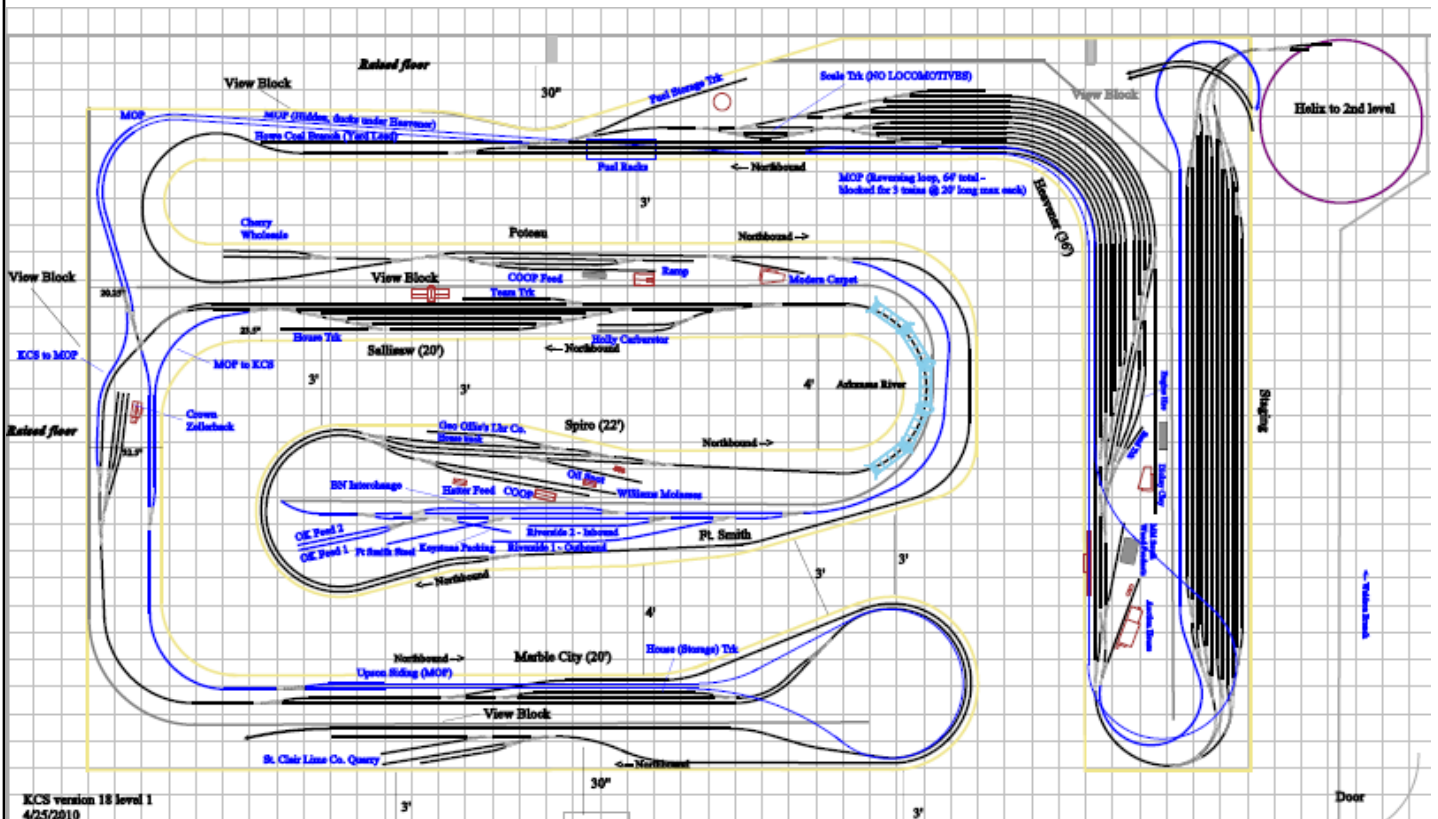
## Tom Vanden Bosch

### Part 2

One of the things that excited me about my son's model railroad in Tulsa (actually in Coweta a suburb) was the intended adherence to the prototype track arrangement. This was facilitated by one of Steve's railfan friends, Frank Bryan; you Santa Fe devotees may recognize the name. Frank supplied a 1982 KCS SLIC chart for the third sub listing every track, main, siding and industrial and the business on them. Wow! This was going to be fun.

The layout design process revolved around Steve proposing a track plan and myself and a couple of his Tulsa model RR friends criticizing, commenting and suggesting on possible changes and improvements all done via email. Being a hardcore prototype guy, I wanted to model all the track in the SLIC chart and argued for a two level layout to do this. Steve being somewhat more conservative and incorporating as much of our ideas as he could, elected to build a layout with peninsulas and what he calls a mushroom along two sides; sort of a one and a half level layout. He ultimately did this because he wanted to be able to build in the grades along the mainline that existed on the prototype. The mushroom provides space for the last three towns/locations on the north end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> sub. Here are the layout drawings.

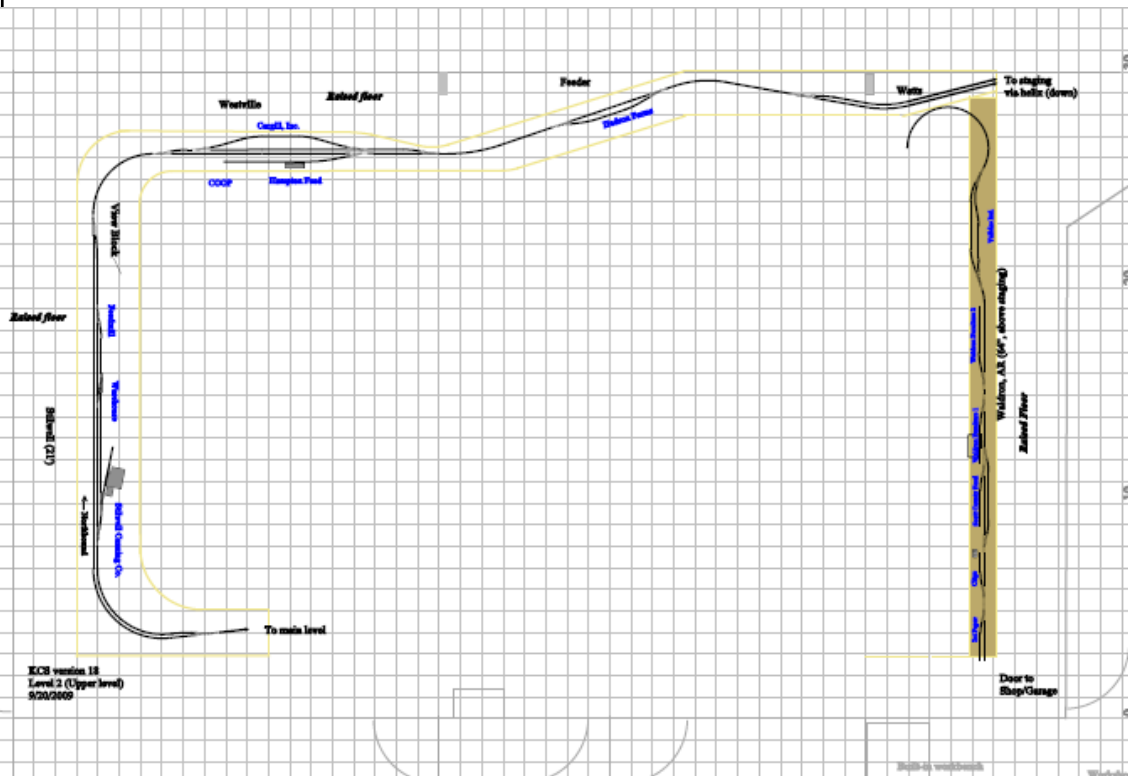
Drawing of layout main level. North is to the left. Staging is to the right. Blue lines indicate branches to Ft. Smith and Waldron, as well as the Missouri Pacific (mostly hidden trackage)



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(Continued from page 12)

Drawing of the "mushroom" trackage above the north and east sides of the layout.



Steve then elected to take the shop space in his barn and divide it with the layout part getting most of the room but leaving a reasonable sized shop area. When completed the layout room had insulated walls and ceiling and a separate air conditioning unit for the layout room. The layout room is at a steady 75 degrees year around while the outside weather ranges from icy cold to plus 100 degrees. With the layout room oriented north/south the railroad starts at the south end with a 12-track staging yard intended to stage trains for both north and south

operation. The staging yard is on an east/west peninsula with the south end of the main yard in Heavener. The Heavener yard also has 12 tracks laid out like the prototype. Heavener also has an engine house and three industries, a clay loadout, auction house and a wood lot. The Waldron branch leaves south from Heavener and travels to Waldron which is located above the staging yard. Note that the staging yard, Heavener yard, and all sidings are designed to hold a 25 car train of 50-ft cars plus two locomotives and a caboose. It is 1982 and all KCS trains use cabooses.

The north end of the Heavener yard is located along the east wall. Going north from Heavener the railroad rounds a curve into Poteau with three industries including a grocery warehouse and cold storage and a carpet plant. The branch to Fort Smith begins in Poteau. The only tunnel in Oklahoma is on the Fort Smith branch and is modeled as the railroad rounds a peninsula and turns north; the branch is climbing and is inside the mainline. The branch enters Fort Smith with about six industries including a grain and feed mill, two furniture warehouses, a steel facility and a BN interchange. Ft. Smith is about 4-inches above the mainline, but the mainline is climbing. The railroad makes another 180 degree turn south into Spiro. Spiro is on the other side of the peninsula with Fort Smith. Spiro has two feed operations, an oil unloading spot and a lumber yard. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sub leaves Spiro over a through truss highway overpass.

Railroad north of Spiro the railroad again turns 180 degrees in a curve on the opposite side of the backdrop from the tunnel to Fort Smith. The turn takes place on a eight section deck truss high over where a navigable portion of the Arkansas River will be modeled. Exiting the bridge, the railroad enters Sallisaw with two industries (Holley Carburator and Crown Zellerbach wood treating), team track the Mopac interchange and a yard. The six-track yard is for 10-car cuts of 50-ft cars. At the north end of Sallisaw the KCS crosses the Missouri Pacific at an interlocked crossing. Sallisaw yard receives and dispatches cars for industries in Sallisaw and those north of there on the rest of the 3<sup>rd</sup> sub.

After crossing the Missouri Pacific, the railroad continues to climb and after a short straight turns layout south. As it climbs, the railroad passes through Marble City with a siding and two tracks for receipt and delivery of covered hoppers to St. Clair Lime Co. The lime company spur from Marble City rounds the end of the peninsula, crosses a 7-bay through truss bridge over Sallisaw Creek and enters the lime plants small yard. From Marble City the mainline continues to climb and is high above the lime plant after rounding the end of the peninsula and turning layout north.

The mainline climbs to the level of the mushroom section and turns east into the city of Stilwell which has a bakery, two warehouses and another feed facility. Stilwell is located above the short straight north of Sallisaw. Continuing east and rounding another corner brings us to Westville and another three industries, all related to grain and chicken feed. North of Westville is a location called Feeder with facilities for receiving chicken feed. The railroad then enters a helix and returns to the staging yard. That's enough for now. In the next installment I'll try to include pictures of the layout construction and write about trying to find information on business 30-years in the past.



## ***NMRA InfoNet***

### **Welcome to the InfoNet-News For October, 2013**

***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!***

#### **Build A Memory Project Information:**

In November, during National Model Railroad Month, the NMRA is launching a new endeavor that it anticipates becoming a yearly tradition.

In conjunction with Athearn Trains, Woodland Scenics and Walthers, the NMRA is unveiling the Build A Memory initiative. This seminar is designed to show the public how one might start a model railroad layout for themselves. Everyone loves the holidays and everyone loves trains and the memories that they evoke.

In concert with a national building and home center and the target date of November 16<sup>th</sup>, this year's pilot program will be a Saturday "How To" class. The intent of the seminars is to show our guests how to build the basics of a starter layout that the owner can either continue to expand or use yearly as a holiday memory with expansion in the future.

Please visit our website at [NMRA.Org](http://NMRA.Org) or contact our Marketing Representative at [Marketing@HQ.NMRA.Org](mailto:Marketing@HQ.NMRA.Org), The potential Divisions needed for this years event are being discussed and will be contacted shortly.

Page Martin – NMRA Marketing Manager

#### **Message from Kathy Millatt, NMRA Atlantic District Director:**

##### How to sell the NMRA?

As a new Director, I attended the Train Show in Atlanta and was really impressed with the HQ team and their sales technique. As someone who has stood at NMRA stands at large events in the UK wondering what to say that will encourage people to join, it gave me some great ideas.

The team start by asking passers by "are you a model railroader?" Given that they are at a train show, the normal response is "yes". The team's next question is "are you a member of the NMRA?" If the answer is "no" then the team tell them about the rail pass and its benefits. The pass is for six months' NMRA membership and only costs \$9.95. The team have a pile of nickels lined up ready to give as change although potential members can also pay by card. At the Train Show, the team were also able to give out a few goodies such as pens, mugs, Convention bags and badges to encourage signing up.

The conversion rate from rail pass to full membership is 78%. This is a hugely successful route to new members having started people on a membership for six months.

Of course, having started a new member on a six month package, it may be worth recapping what we have to offer as it is easy to overlook the benefits that we do have. I personally have found the strongest benefit is the local Divisions. At our local UK show, I added a map of the UK showing where all the Divisions are based and it drew a lot of attention. Unfortunately, there were a few comments of "no one in my area" but on the whole it shows just how many groups we do have actively modelling.

The National Convention is just one in a busy calendar of events. Divisions and regions run their own meets and conventions which also draw in the public and potential new members. Other benefits are the magazine, calendar, website and recorded clinics. On a more practical front, the NMRA runs Modelling with the Masters at conventions and meets. The Achievement Programme can add challenge and structure to a member's modelling. There are so many more that I haven't mentioned such as insurance, books, standards or library.

For those wondering, why bother with new members, my answer is simple. We are all getting older and I want to pass this amazing hobby down to new generations for them to enjoy as much as I have.

*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](http://www.nmra.org) on in the NMRA Magazine.*

*If the person holding a region or division office changes, or their email address changes, please contact me at [tcdraider@aol.com](mailto:tcdraider@aol.com) with the corrected information*

Regards,

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA  
Director – Support Services