



Coast Dispatcher E-Mail Version (The E-Dispatcher) March 2007

Coast Division Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast>

Pacific Coast Region Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org>

**Welcome to the Coast Division of PCR
Here is what we have planned for the upcoming meeting**

March 18, 2007

**Buchser Middle School, 1111 Bellomy St., Santa Clara, CA
(map on last page)**

- 9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.**
- 9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.**
- 10:00 AM Ogden Lamont**
"Thunder on the Mountains"
 The Tsunami installation in an HO scale SP AC12 brings the thunder of these giant engines to life. Ogden will discuss the installation and the programming of the sound effects for this 'big' engine.
- 11:00 AM Dave Connery & Brad Lloyd (the dynamic duo of the clinic room return to the Coast Division)**
 Learn to build a wide variety of walls using both commercial and scratch building techniques.
 This will include retaining walls, tunnel portals and building foundations from wood, stone, brick, concrete and metal products.
- 11:00 AM Model Railroad Roundtable hosted by Jerry Littlefield**
- 12 Noon Business Meeting**
- 1:00 PM Auction starts**
- 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:**
Photo Contest: Trains In Action
Model Contest: Caboose, Freight Cars, Maintenance of Way
- 9:30 AM—3:15 PM**
Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (Timesaver)

Information on the June meet is given on page 3.

Read the article on page 7 about the E-Dispatcher.

(Continued on page 3)

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Layout Tours: (vacant)

Membership: (vacant)

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May 2-6, 2007

This is the first issue of the E-Dispatcher. Read about it on page 7.

Comments are encouraged.
Contact me at
CrawfordT@ASME.org

(Continued from page 1)

**Coast Division June Meet.
June 3, 2007
Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA**

9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.
9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.
10:00 AM..... Show and Tell Session (2 hours)
11:00 AM Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Jerry Littlefield
12 Noon Business Meeting
1:00 PM Auction starts, Roundtable continues
1:30 PM Model/Photo Contest Results – afterward Auction continues
3:30 PM Timesaver Results, Raffle –afterward Auction continues if required

9:30 AM – 1:15 PM:

Photo Contest: Model Railroad Photos

Model Contest: Structure, Display/Diorama, Self Propelled Cars & Traction

9:30 AM—3:15 PM:

Allen Fenton Switching Contest (Timesaver)

Who are these people and what are they all looking at?



The answer is on page 14

Super Notes

To: Coast Division Membership
From: John Marshall
Subject: Division status as of 1/12/07

I had fun at the December Meet and I sure hope that you did too. We had a lot of items in the auction and every item (almost) sold. I was really glad to see so many members stay through the whole auction. There were some really terrific items there and a lot of brass. Thanks to everyone that brought items to sell and to all you lucky buyers as well. That 10% fee that we collect from the sellers is our primary source of support. With postage and printing costs always going up, those auction fees go a long way in supporting the division.

I want to remind you [and you will see it numerous places in this issue] that the March meet has been moved back to the 3rd Sunday of the month instead of the first Sunday. That's right, the March meet will be on Sunday March 18th.

So please mark your calendar now so you won't miss it. This meeting is very important for more than just the auction and raffle. It is our bi-annual election meeting. All 3 of the elected officer positions are due and this meeting will determine who your officers are for the next 2 years.

We are going to be doing something a bit different at the June meet as well. We are going to forgo the usual clinics and provide "show and tell" tables for members to bring something to talk about. Got a favorite model, building, lantern collection, patch, badge or track nail collection you want to show off? This is the time and place to do just that. Bring your photo collection, your telegraph key and repeater or what ever interests you and we will provide a table for you. There won't be a lot of structure to it, other members can wander up to you whenever and talk to you. You don't need a script, you don't have to make up a PowerPoint presentation, just bring what you want to talk about and have at it. If you are interested in participating, please let me know by e-mail [ntrak@sbcglobal.net] or by phone [925-461-0206] and we will reserve you a table and have a sign for your topic.

We will have the Model Railroaders Roundtable. Jerry tells me we had a good turnout at the 'second section' edition at the December meet so he has agreed to continue hosting both morning and afternoon sessions for us to get involved.

And of course we will have the auction and the raffle drawings, the switching contest and all the other fun things that our meets encompass.

I plan on being there and I sure hope you will too.

John Marshall



Suntan Special: Register Today -- Discounts End Soon

By Steve Wesolowski, PCR 2007 Publicity

If you haven't registered yet, the sooner the better: the \$10 Early Registration Discount ends on February 1st/ the \$30 First Timer/Long Lost PCR Member's Discount ends March 1st.

In Bakersfield last weekend I said this to a good buddy at the train show who said he never registers early because he doesn't know until the last minute if he can attend. I know for some this is true, but the earlier you register the easier it is for us to plan events, so we offer discounts: If you can, help us organizers & your wallet by registering ASAP. Thanks!

As I told many others in Bakersfield, PCR 2007 in Santa Cruz is fun for the entire family, even those who aren't real train foamers like some of us, so plan to bring your family along and consider staying an extra day or more to enjoy some other fun in the area, like the Aquarium, UCSC Arboretum, Cannery Row, Point Lobos, Carmel, Monterey and Big Sur's many lovely beaches and coastline, before the schools let out for Summer and everywhere is more crowded. All Convention Lodging includes Full Breakfast, which helps everyone begin full days of Big Fun fully fueled!

I know the costs of lodging and transportation can make it a hardship/impossible for some to attend conventions. If you are coming alone I ask you to consider sharing your room maybe with someone you know who can't or otherwise wouldn't attend. Since Registration with Convention Lodging really includes all Breakfasts & Saturday's Dinner, sharing room and/or transportation costs can mean the difference that allows a younger or older member of your club or other train friend to attend. Sharing a room or transportation with someone may be the deciding factor in attending, maybe for someone you know. I've shared rides & rooms at several conventions, leaving more \$ for meals, tours, and rides to many great layouts I would never have seen otherwise Plus I've made new friends! Ride Sharing and Room Sharing Work, so please consider both. Layout touring with others helps me visit more layouts, AND others always point out something I would have missed. I've learned Sharing is definitely worthwhile.

I've saved my best idea for last: Volunteer for the Suntan Special. Whenever you volunteer, you always receive more than you give. We all enjoy conventions only because of volunteers. Plus, even if you share just a little time, you will learn more about trains from other volunteers. My reward for sharing a little time since 2001 has been the pleasure of meeting, working and learning with others, including Jim Long, Dave Connery, Ed Liesse, Bob Ferguson, Gus Campagna, Bill Scott, Kermit Paul, Pat Latorres, Mary Moore-Campagna, Mark Schutzer, Chuck Mitchell, Jack Verducci, Bill Burket, Tom Crawford, Kevin Hurley, Ken Lunders, so many others.

The more who volunteer, the more fun we all have, not because each of us needs to do less, but because each one brings new talents and ideas. I look forward to more of us helping each other, and learning more from each other! I understand we still have some openings to fill, like working in the Store, coordinating SIGs and Proto Tours, and maybe others. Please contact Kevin Hurley, Tom Crawford or me if you are interested in joining our winning team by volunteering. You won't regret it, I can promise you!

I sincerely hope you can join our fun on the PCR's Suntan Special, in Santa Cruz May 2-6, 2007!

Steve Wesolowski



PCR/NMRA
SUNTAN SPECIAL
 2007 Convention
 University Inn & Conference Center
 May 2-6 2007

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
 SUNTAN SPECIAL
 4337 La Cosa Ave
 Fremont, Ca 94536
 E-mail Crawford.Tom@sbcglobal.net

Hosted by: Coast Division, Pacific Coast Regions, National Model Railroad Association

Registration Form

To place credit card order go to our website <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007/>

Last Name		First Name		First Name (for Name Badge)	
Address		City		State	Zip Code
Home Phone	E-mail Address			NMRA # (Membership Required)	
Registration Type (Please check one)			NMRA Region (if other than PCR)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Non Rail <input type="checkbox"/> Youth					
Primary Scales and Interests (Check all that apply)		<input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT(S) LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form for more than 1)					
Last Name		First Name		First Name (for Name Badge)	
Registration Type (Please check one)		<input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Youth			
All Fares include: Seminars, & on Saturday a train ride from Santa Cruz to Roaring Camp & steam train ride to summit of Bear Mountain and back, a banquet at Roaring Camp & train ride back to Santa Cruz					
FARES: Please fill in and total			QTY	Unit Cost	Total
Early Registration prior to January 31, 2007				105.00	
Full Registration after January 31, 2007				115.00	
First Timer (or have not registered for past 3 conventions) for PCR Members Only - Early Registration (before March 1, 2007)				85.00	
First Timer (or have not registered for past 3 conventions) for PCR Members Only - Late Registration (March 1, 2007-April 1 2007 only)				95.00	
Non NMRA member must join the NMRA, 6 month Rail Pass				9.95	
Spouse Registration or Youth Registration (12-18 years or student)				70.00	
Children for Roaring Camp (under 12)				50.00	
Ball Cap with Logo – one size fits all				15.00	
Pocket T-Shirt with Logo <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL				18.00	
Pocket T-Shirt with Logo <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL				21.00	
Shirts - Polo w/ Pocket and Logo (Check Size) <input type="checkbox"/> XS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL				25.00	
Shirts - Polo w/ Pocket and Logo (Check Size) <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL				28.00	
Shirts - Polo w/ Striped trim (Check Size) <input type="checkbox"/> XS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL				32.00	
Shirts - Polo w/ Striped trim (Check Size) <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL				35.00	
Convention Car – Granite Rock Hopper Car (HO Only)				15.00	
Set of 5 Convention Cars – Granite Rock Hopper Car (HO Only)				60.00	
Payment by <input type="checkbox"/> Check** <input type="checkbox"/> Cash [Use website for credit card]				TOTAL:	

** Make Checks Payable to: "PCR Convention 2007"

UNIVERSITY INN & CONFERENCE CENTER

611 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz 95060 (831)-426-7100

Book online at: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007/hotelreg.shtml>

Room rates (includes full breakfast)

Single \$89.00

Double \$89.00

Triple \$99.00

Quad \$109.00

Website: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007>

Questions - E-mail questions@pcrnmra.org

Welcome to the E-Dispatcher By Tom Crawford

The Coast Dispatcher usually has more information than we can cram into 10 pages, so we end up paring it down. Suggestions have been made to make it better, such as going to smaller type, reducing the amount of white space, wrapping text around some of the pictures instead of a lot of white space and editing the more verbose articles. We have done a number of these things, some of which you see in this issue. We will be doing more of them.

However, there are a number of people who want more stuff.

So, we are now starting a new version called the E-Dispatcher. It is a full color version of the Dispatcher with less editing down, and more complete information on things we could not include in the Dispatcher.

The Dispatcher will be aimed at getting basic information out to all people, and the necessary publicity to make sure that everyone knows what is going on and has a good sense of the important issues we have. It is sort of like the front page of your local newspaper.

The E-Dispatcher will have more in depth information. Sort of like adding the second section to your paper, expanding on the stories. For example, the E-Dispatcher will have issues the Board is working on , as well as reports that may be pertinent to all members.

The first issue of the E-Dispatcher has 15 pages as opposed to only 10 for the Dispatcher. Admittedly, the Dispatcher is double columned, which saves space, but we chose not to use double columns for the E-Dispatcher because some will read it on the screen and columns are hard to read on screen.

The E-Dispatcher will be automatically sent to everyone who joins the Coast_Dispatcher Yahoo Group. You will still get the hard copy Dispatcher.

If you want to join, simply go to Yahoo! then "Groups" on the left margin, and then enter "Coast_Dispatcher" in the search box.

A copy of the E-Dispatcher will also be on the Coast Division Website, <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast>

Meeting Sites

Right now all of the Coast Division Meets are held in the South Bay (Mountain View and Santa Clara). We think this is not good for our members who live in the northern and eastern part of our Division. Therefore we are looking for some northern sites. What we are hunting for is someone who lives in these areas and is familiar with possible sites and can help us find a suitable location or two. If you fit into this category and are willing to help, please contact our superintendent, John Marshall at 925- 461-0206 or email him at ntrak@sbcglobal.net

Registrar's Report By John Amerling

At the December meet we had 110 Attendees, 99 from Coast Division, 10 from neighboring Divisions, and one guest.

There were 181 door prize tickets handed out (those who come with their name badge get two tickets).

There were 714 raffle tickets sold.

We had 13 door prizes and 7 raffle prizes

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Door Prizes

Purchased

Bragdon Weathering Chalks (2)
 A-West Needle point bottle
 Midwest Easy cutter
 Woodland Scenic's Rock mold
 Woodland Scenic's Fine leaf Foliage

Donated

Bragdon Enterprises (Donated)
 Creating Geodesic Foam Scenery (DVD)
 RTV Mold Making and Resin Casting (DVD)
 Tom's Trackside Trains (Donated)
 Vintage 2 bay covered hopper (N scale)
 Walthers Passenger car lighting kit HO
 Ertl gondola load HO
 Intermountain 40' boxcar N
 Branchline 50'boxcar kit HO
 Athern truck HO

Raffle Prizes

Hobbies Unlimited (purchased)		
\$75.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Tom's Trackside Trains (Donated)		
\$25.00	\$25.00	
Superintendent (Donated)		
\$50.00 gift certificate from Just Trains		
2 Volume Western Pacific Pictorial		

We also sold 1 full membership and 1 rail pass.

Elections by Dave Connery

At the March Meeting we will elect the Superintendent, Chief Clerk, and Treasurer.

The Nomination Committee confirmed that the incumbents were willing to run again.

John Marshall is the superintendent and is willing to run again.

Tom Crawford is the Chief Clerk and is also willing to run again.

Finally, Bob Ferguson is the Paymaster, and he is willing to run again.

The bylaws require that the Nomination Committee identify two candidates for each position. Anyone interested in serving in one of these positions should contact Dave Connery.

Nominations will be received from the floor but anyone nominated must indicate their willingness to run for the office and serve if elected.

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Layout Tours

For many years, the Coast Division had layout tours of member layouts. We would like to start this practice back up. The idea would be to have at least one tour per year, probably in November when other activity is low.

The logic would be that in the Dispatcher we would publicize when our next tours would be, and ask for members who were interested in showing us their layouts on the tour. The tour would not necessarily be on only one day, but a sequence of days that made the most sense.

We are now looking for someone to coordinate these tours. This person would be the person that interested members would contact, and the coordinator would come up with a schedule that made the most sense.

If you are interested in helping us get this started again, please contact our Superintendent, John Marshall at (925) 461-0206 or email him at ntrak@sbcglobal.net

In Home Clinics

Many of our best modelers have developed excellent modeling techniques. Much of the equipment and layouts needed to demonstrate these techniques cannot simply be hauled to a Convention or Division Meet. They need to be demonstrated at the demonstrator's layout or shop.

For many years, Coast Division handled this by having In Home Clinics, where members would go to the home of the expert, and the expert would give a demonstration to a small group, of under, say, 5 or 10 people.

We would like to revive this practice. We can publicize in the Dispatcher to get clinics, but we need someone to be the contact point that potential presenters contact, and who would coordinate these.

There would be no deadline or fixed number of clinics as would be the case for division meets, but rather just a contact person who was told by presenters of their availability, and then coordinated the timing of the clinics.

If you are interested in helping us get this started again, please contact our Superintendent, John Marshall at (925) 461-0206 or email him at ntrak@sbcglobal.net

Budget/Equipment

At the last Board Meeting we discussed the budget. For years we have not had a real budget. Our treasurer's report is really just an accounting of the cash flow of the Division. Although our division is doing very well financially because of our auction income, we do not have any budget. If we need to buy something, we just do it. But we have no planning for it.

If we were ever to be audited, we'd have a major problem.

Recently, it became obvious that we need some new equipment. For example, we do not own any computer projectors. What we do have are two projectors that are on loan from PCR. We are, effectively, the caretakers of these projectors. Sometimes they are not available, and we have to scramble for our Division Meets. Starting with this new term we will have a budget. All departments have been asked to present their budget needs to the Superintendent by March 1st. Hopefully, in the next Dispatcher, we will be able to report to you that we have a budget.

Speaking of equipment, we have some old equipment eating up storage space and being used by no one. Examples are overhead projectors, and slide projectors. We will be looking into disposing of these and similar equipment in the very near future.

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Show and Tell / Model Contest December 2006 Recap By John Sing

The December 2006 Coast Division Model Contest and Show and Tell was the largest of 2006 - very active and very entertaining. We had 8 stunning entries in the Model Contest and 13 beautiful entries in the Show and Tell. See these models online at the updated Model Contest / Show and Tell / Photo Contest web pages on the Coast Division PCR website at:

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

Thanks to *all* who participated, you put on a great Holiday show and inspired all of us. We hope you enjoyed our admiration of your work:



(From left to right: Randy Homan, Chip Morningstar, Ken Martin, Ed Weldon)

Model Contest December 2006

The Winners by Popular Vote:

1st Place: Andrew Merriam (from San Louis Obispo!)



Southern Pacific Maintenance of Way train

(Continued on page 11)

and especially:

- Bob Booth's Santa Fe Super Chief built from Kaslo kits
- Bob Booth's Southern Pacific Daylight articulated diner
- Bob Booth's Ore Car train
- Bob Booth's Dry Ice reefer - first built in 1953
- Bob Booth's Flatcar first - built in 1951
- Bob Booth's Steam Donkey
- Bob Booth's Log Puller
- Bob Booth's highly detailed Shay

(all in HO)

Let's keep up the Show and Tell! You're invited to bring one or several of your items of pride to the March 2007 meet to share with us; finished or works-in-progress are welcome. For Show and Tell, we always have it open to any category.

Model Contest Categories for Upcoming Meets

Coast Division Model Contest categories are rotated throughout the year as shown below. Therefore for March 2007, the categories are: Freight Car, Caboose, and Maintenance of Way. Bring your favorites to share! Remember, it's really about participating and meeting your fellow modelers; we all love to see your pride and joys

March: Freight car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way

June: Structure, Display/Diorama, Self-propelled Cars & Traction

Sept: Steam locomotives, Diesel / other locomotives, Passenger Car

December: "Favorite Model" (open category)

Coast Division Model Contest results for March 2007 will be determined by Popular Vote. Arrive and enter early to get more votes.

Special Event for June 2007 Model Contest / Show and Tell

We are planning for June 2007, during one of the 1 hour morning Clinic time slots, to have tables setup for anyone to participate in a special Model Contest / Show and Tell 'Poster' session, in which you may tell us about the model you brought. During that hour, you may move your Model Contest / Show and Tell entry to an available table space, and along with your fellow 'Posters', be available to discuss your model in detail with all of us. We call it a 'Poster' session because we encourage posters, in-progress photos, laptop slide show, documentation, etc. – to let us know about your model.

Let your creativity run wild. It's all sharing and entertaining with the details of your pride and joys. We hope you'll all enjoy this.

So put a reminder on your calendar for June 2007 meet and we look forward to seeing you. ☺

Photography of your models

We continue our Coast Division service of photographing (with your permission) your models and supplying you with quality digital picture, as a part of your participation in either Show and Tell and/or Model Contest. As you can see from the [new web site](#) updates above, (with your permission) your participation and photo of your model will be placed on the quarterly Model Contest / Show and Tell web site.

Optional: take advantage of NMRA Judging, available to you at any Coast Division Meet to any Model Contest participant. You can have an entry judged (all results are private if you desire) for:

Achievement Program Merit Points

Regional/National Contest entry preparation 'dry-run' and friendly expert advice

Or, just to see how you would have done (and receive the best of very friendly, private, expert suggestions)

We are lucky in Coast Division to have a wealth of expertise and experience available – you'll be happily surprised by the benefits you'll receive by bringing a model to the Model Contest and asking for it to be privately judged.

So, bring your models and share with us for either Show and Tell or Model Contest!

We're looking forward to seeing you.

Photo Contest By Pat LaTorres

The theme was: "Trains as Art"

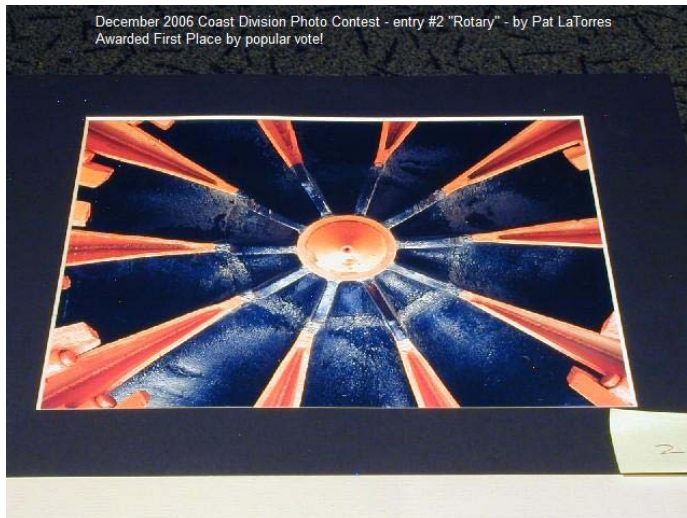
There were eleven entries. All of them were artistic, noteworthy, and creative, and every one is worthy of award and mention.

Thank you to all who brought your photo to share, we all love seeing your work.

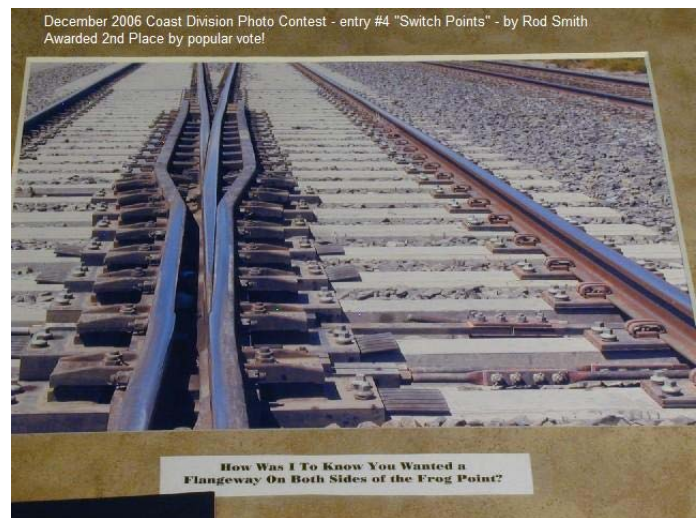
Click on any of the thumbnails below to see a larger copy of the Photo Contest Entry.

By popular vote, the Photo Contest winners were:

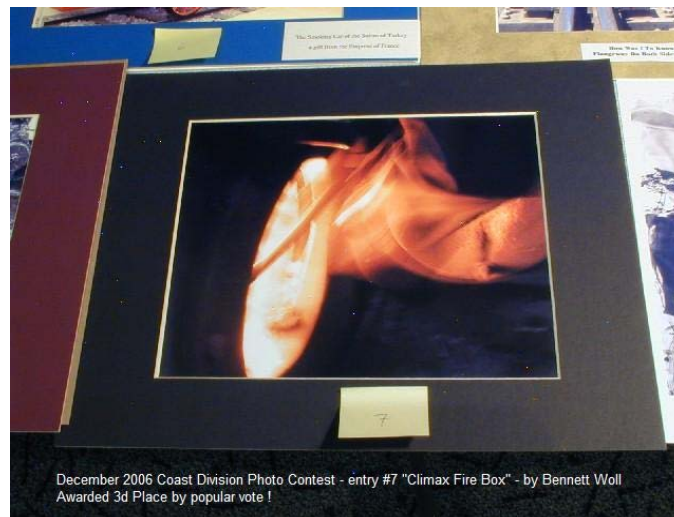
1st Place: "Rotary" by Pat LaTorres



2nd Place: "Switch Points" by Rod Smith



3rd Place: "Climax Fire Box" by Bennett Woll



March's theme will be "Trains in Action"

This means **action** photos of prototype trains and/or equipment. (Note: photos of static equipment is not included in this category)

All photos should be matted (inexpensive, re-usable mattes can be had at most art supply stores) and should be between 5x7 and 11x14 in size. Hope to see your work there!

Results are determined by Popular Vote. Bring your photos early to get the early votes.

Allen Fenton Switching Contest (Timesaver) By Mark Schutzer

The winners of the Timesaver Switching contest in March were:

Brakeperson (5 car)

1st Place: Joe Driscoll 5:15 - First time. Promoted to Senior.

2nd Place: Chip Morningstar 7:25

Senior Brakeperson (6 car)

1st Place: Tom Crawford 5:46

2nd Place: Alan Havens 7:05

3rd Place: Dennis Stokely 8:10

Conductor (7 car) or "Problem from Hell."

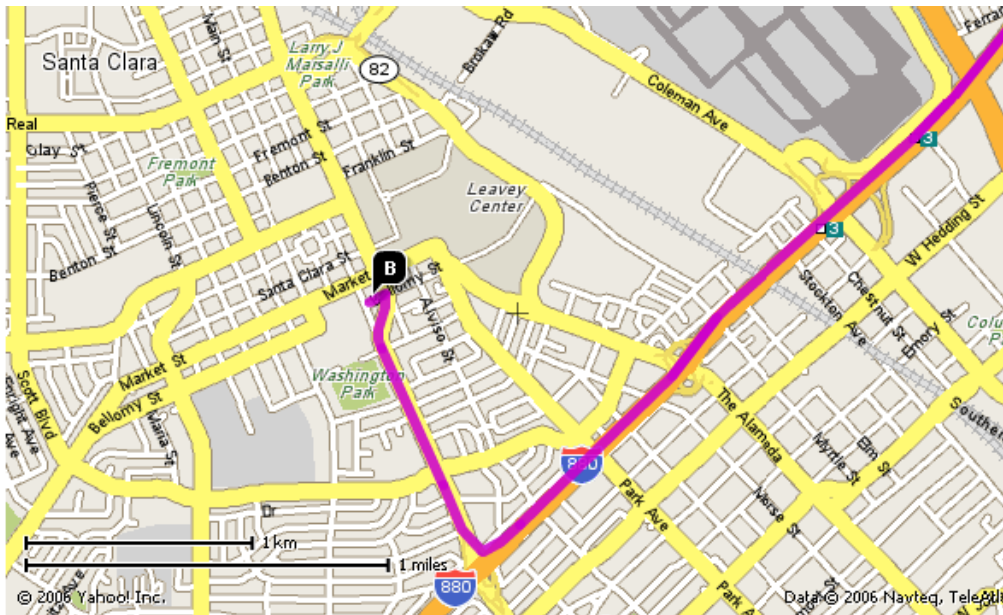
No takers (Tom and Mark were too busy—ha! ha!. What's your excuse, Alan?)

Answer to Question on Page 3:

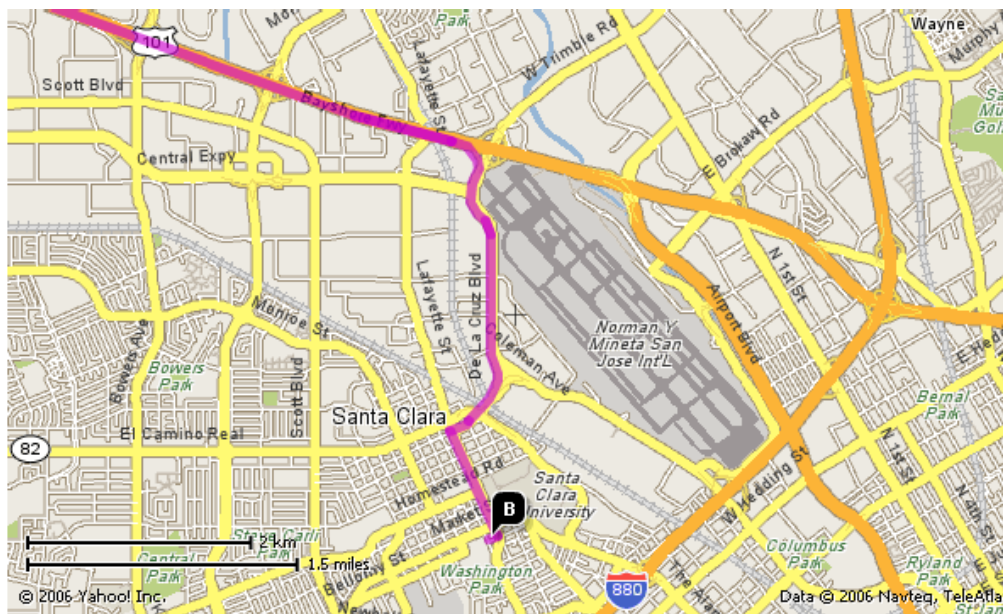
The Coast Division Timesaver, of course.



The next meet will be on March 18, 2007 at
 Buchser Middle School, 1111 Bellomy St., Santa Clara, CA
 Details are on Page 1. Here is the map.



From The East Bay: Take Highway 880 South. Exit at Bascom. Turn Right and continue north on Washington. The Street will dog leg and change to Lafayette. Right after the dog-leg, the school is on your left at Bellomy.



From San Francisco: Take Highway 101 South. Exit on De La Cruz, and follow for about 1.7 miles until De La Cruz bears right and becomes Lewis. Turn Left on Lafayette and continue 0.6 miles to the school on your right at Bellomy.