



# The Daylight Observation

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## Daylight Director's Message: Looking Back & Looking Forward

By Walter Mizuno, Daylight Division Director

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Looking back over the past year, it is amazing how many interesting things there are to occupy the model railroader's time and energy. There are so many new products and ways to spend your hobby dollar and time.

Personally, I spend way too much time on YouTube watching model railroad videos. This past year we saw the return of many train-related activities including in-person meetings and train shows.

Of course, the Daylight Division has its weekly Tuesday night Zoom meeting. I invite all of our membership to try joining the meeting at least once. If you're not a Zoom expert, don't worry, the group is very supportive of new members dropping in for the first time.

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## Observation Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Articles Due</u>
Winter (Jan-Feb-Mar)	December 10
Spring (Apr-May-Jun)	March 10
Summer (Jul-Aug-Sep)	June 10
Fall (Oct-Nov-Dec)	September 10

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If you are a neophyte and need some help joining a Zoom meeting, please feel free to contact me at [DaylightDivDirector@gmail.com](mailto:DaylightDivDirector@gmail.com) for some assistance. I'm happy to help out. Remember that we meet Tuesday evenings (except for some holidays and events) from 7 to 8 pm. The meeting format is very casual and normally we just share things that we've done, swap stories, answer questions about modeling, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow modelers.

Here is the information that you need to join in the fun:

Load the following URL.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83554789266?pwd=bzFZYjhFQS9Xd1ZaZU00QUY2OVk5QT09>

You may be prompted to enter the following information:

Meeting ID: 835 5478 9266                      Passcode: 989181

That's it! We know that not everyone is free on Tuesday evenings, so if there is a better time for you to participate, please let me know.

A 2024 Daylight Division goal is to recruit more members. We plan to continue recruitment at GEHAMS's Train Show in March [*See pp, 9-10 below –Ed.*]and we would welcome your help in sharing the hobby with others.

Coast Division hosts PCR's annual convention in Milpitas in April. Join me in supporting them by attending our convention. In August of this year, PSR will host the national convention in Long Beach. Don't miss this!

In April of 2025, it will be our turn to host PCR's annual convention. Plans are underway to host the event in the San Luis Obispo area. I encourage you to volunteer to help make this convention a success.

We will vote on Daylight Division officers soon. Please consider serving as an officer. As director, I welcome your feedback about ways to improve the division. Please feel free to contact me at [DaylightDivDirector@gmail.com](mailto:DaylightDivDirector@gmail.com).

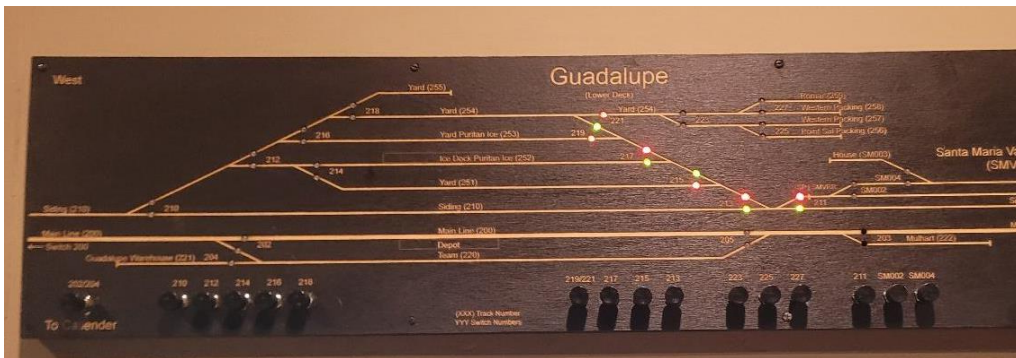
Here are some photos from the last Daylight Division meeting in October in Atascadero. Thanks to Doug Wagner for making the arrangements.



We enjoyed an outdoor lunch at A-Town Diner in Atascadero, making new friends along the way. Phil Edholm, Coast Division's Director shared with us the plans for the upcoming Tech Line PCR 2024 convention.

After lunch, a visit with Anita Walter at Central Coast Trains, <https://www.centralcoasttrains.com/>, satisfied our "train fix". Once we walked out with our new-found treasures, we headed to the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, <https://www.slorm.com/>.

*A brace of SP black widow F units pulls a freight past the station at Surf on the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum.*



*A nicely designed and executed control panel for the Guadalupe yard.*



*Top photo: An SP beet train rumbles past the unloading trestle.*

*Middle: Another view of the sugar beet unloading trestle.*

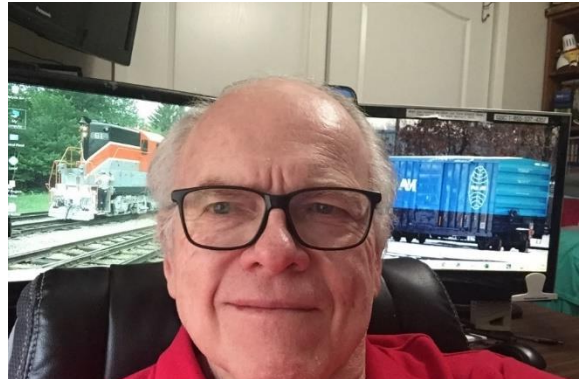
*Below: Just look at the Oceano station model and its surroundings.*



## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Master Builder – Scenery Certificate

By Dave Grenier



In this installment, we will review the requirements for the Master Builder – Scenery certificate, the second of the “Settings” category. The purpose of this category is for the modeler to demonstrate “the prototypical rendering of scenic effects from the ground up.” You can choose any type of scenery to model. The decision is entirely yours. You can model a forest setting, a desert scene, or even an urban canyon with tall buildings dwarfing the track running through it.

To qualify for the Master Builder – Scenery Certificate:

1. Construct a completed section of model railroad at least 60 square feet in O scale, 45 square feet in S scale, 32 square feet in HO scale, or 18 square feet in N scale, or other scales in proportional relationship to HO scale. This completed section must contain the necessary elements of Terrain, Structures, Background, Lighting, and Realism/Conformity in combination to achieve a realistic appearance consistent with applicable NMRA quality standards. The intent of this category is the prototypical rendering of the scenic elements from the ground up.

You do not need to construct a single section of layout to qualify for this certificate. You can also construct several separate modules or scenes, each being more than eight square feet and of Merit Award quality. They must earn 87½ points using the Achievement Program Master Builder Scenery Evaluation Form, February 2019. This form may be downloaded from the NMRA website at [nmra.org/scenery](http://nmra.org/scenery).

Garden railroaders may also qualify for the Master Builder – Scenery certificate by showing that they have worked to create a miniature world, not just run some tracks through the planter beds. For example, bridges should be modeled after a prototype (just as they are in other scales), not just track running on a board.

The definitions of the various elements, which may be combined to comprise the setting for the model railroad shall be:

**Continued on Page 6**

**A. Terrain (35 points)** – The ground and all natural features such as rocks, water, trees, hills, and depressions, as well as man-made features such as railroad roadbed, cuts, fills, drainage ditches, embankments, streets, and roads, and so forth. Make the transition between different types of terrain as smooth as possible. Avoid glaring inconsistencies, such as palm trees in a snowy New England scene. If you have different scenes on your layout, you may use backdrop dividers or other view blocks to separate them.

**B. Structures (20 pts)** – Structures are considered from the standpoint of prototypical suitability, placement, and appearance as scenic effects - NOT as to construction (which is covered under Master Builder - Structures). This includes bridges, trestles, culverts, buildings and all other types of structures (towers, power lines, signs, fences, retaining walls, etc.), track and right-of-way features, such as turnout controls, signaling structures, crossing gates and shanties, turntables and other service structures, etc.

These are just some examples – additional features are encouraged. Also remember that structures should be in the ground, not sitting on top of it. Make sure the appearance of your structures is consistent with your scenery. At least weather structures enough to remove the out-of-the-box shine. Switch machines, if not under the table, should be well disguised (this is one detail that will cause your application to be returned if it is not done).

**C. Background (25 pts)** – This is the treatment of the wall, backdrop, and/or ceiling to realistically depict depth, distance, horizon, and sky. This doesn't mean that you have to have a photographic or landscape artist quality background. Your background should continue the “illusion of reality” that you are trying to create with your scenery. The background should match the scenery, and the transition where the two of them meet is smooth and/or hidden. A good question to ask yourself is: Is there enough good background to allow a photo to be taken without showing other parts of the room? A concrete block wall painted sky blue still looks like a concrete block wall.

**D. Lighting (20 pts)** – You must include illumination effects from three aspects:

1. Railroad cars, signals and the like
2. Buildings, streets, and roads, etc.
3. Overall lighting effects – day and/or night

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An entire daylight scene is acceptable. The lighting information must be included on the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ). Even in a daylight scene there is evidence of lighting, such as streetlights, traffic lights, and doorway lighting, even if it is not operational and does not illuminate. Also note that not all scenes will have all these lighting elements. If the scene you are modeling is in the middle of the desert, there may not be any buildings or streets there to light!

**E. Realism/Conformity (25 pts)** – In the other four judging areas, the judges evaluate what you were trying to do and what you remembered to include in your scene. In this area, they evaluate how well you did what you were trying to do. Your entire layout does not have to be completed to be judged – just enough to meet the minimum space requirements given above. Areas that are not to be judged should be blocked off visually from those that are.

2. Prepare a set of photographs, or a videotape presentation, and a written description clearly describing the intended setting of the model railroad and the scenic details, including towns or cities in the area being judged. These photos don't have to be professional quality. They just need be at least one overall picture of the layout and the individual areas being judged. Each picture should be accompanied by a written description.
3. Prepare a description of the materials and methods of construction used in creating various features of the Terrain, Background, and Lighting elements as described above. These can be simple statements – nothing elaborate is required.
4. Attach one copy of materials in Sections 2 & 3 to the Statement of Qualification (SOQ) for use by the judges in determining the effectiveness of the craftsmanship displayed by the member requesting certification.
5. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87½ points on the section of layout being judged.
6. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) including the attachments for Sections 2 & 3 and the signed merit judging forms and/or copies of the Merit Award certificates from Section 5.

When you are ready to have your models merit judged, contact Dave Grenier by e-mail at [grenida@pacbell.net](mailto:grenida@pacbell.net) or by phone/text at (408) 431-8989, to setup a time and place.

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Once you have completed all the above requirements, including the SOQ, and the supporting documentation, remember to include the signed merit judging forms and/or copies of the Merit Award Certificates from section 5. Submit the completed SOQ, attachments, and **a photocopy of your NMRA membership card** to the Daylight Division AP Chairman, Dave Grenier and you are on your way toward another certificate! Contact me for my mailing address, if needed.

## Where Can I Get More Information About the AP?

- See the NMRA website, <https://www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program> for information about the Achievement Program.
- See the full requirements for the Master Builder – Scenery certificate at <https://www.nmra.org/scenery>.
- Forms available for this category:
  - 2019 SOQ Form: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
  - 2019 Evaluation Form: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
- For an explanation and photos of what the judges look for so that you can better understand what is expected, check out the *Scale Rails*, May 2008 issue, starting on page 13. There you will find several examples of the personal experiences of Dan Lewis, MMR #268, and Larry Smith, MMR #185, when they earned their Master Builder – Scenery certificates.

If you are interested in learning more about the Achievement Program or Golden Spike Award, contact me. If I cannot answer your question, I know where to get it so we both can learn. E-mail me at [grenida@pacbell.net](mailto:grenida@pacbell.net) or call/text (408) 431-8989.

Next installment: Master Builder – Prototype Models



### Daylight Division's Newest Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>City/Sate</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Ernest Kerr	Hanford CA	9/27/2023
Robert Mark Nunes	Clovis CA	11/10/2023
Robert Nunes	Fresno CA	11/10/2023

**Welcome Aboard!**



## Daylight Division Report

by Doug Wagner,  
PCR Membership Manager



Enjoy 20,000 square feet of model railroading— from sellers of model train stuff to several operating model train layouts—at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Bakersfield, California Model Train Show, March 2, 2024, 10am–5pm and Sunday, March 3, 2024, 10am–4pm, at the Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street, Bakersfield, CA 93307. Sponsored by the Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society. Admission is \$8 for adults with kids 12 free. There will also be hourly door prizes for model train stuff and a drawing for a Thomas the Tank Engine O Scale Train set and \$100 VISA Gift Certificate. For further information, please contact Kevin Birkbeck, 661-496-9514 or [kevin4strings@gmail.com](mailto:kevin4strings@gmail.com). Club web site: [www.gehams.club](http://www.gehams.club)

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<b>In Memoriam</b>		
<u>Member</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Joined NMRA</u>
William Beasley (Life Member)	California City, CA	1/1/1963

<b>Daylight Division Membership Gauge</b>	
November 30, 2013	135
November 30, 2022	82
December 31, 2022	82
January 31, 2023	83
February 28, 2023	83
March 30, 2023	93
April 30, 2023	91
May 31, 2023	91
June 30, 2023	89
July 31, 2023	87
August 31, 2023	86
September 30, 2023	85
October 31, 2023	84
November 30, 2023	84

<b>Daylight Membership by County</b>	
<u>County</u>	<u># Members</u>
San Luis Obispo	20
Kern	20
Fresno	16
Santa Barbara	15
Tulare	6
Merced	3
Mariposa	2
Madera	1
Kings	1
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>84</b>

# BAKERSFIELD



## 30th ANNUAL MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Saturday, March 2 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday March 3 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Kern County Fairgrounds  
1142 South 'P' Street  
Bakersfield

Enjoy 20,000 square feet of model railroading including:

Operating Railroads · Dozens Of Dealer Tables · All Scales · Door Prizes  
Drawing For A Lionel Thomas The Tank Set · Drawing For A \$100 VISA Debit Gift Card

**Adult \$8.00**

(\$1.00 charge for each credit card transaction for admission purchase)

**Kids ages 12 and under FREE when with an adult**

**\$5.00 Parking**

**Information**

**(661) 496-9514**

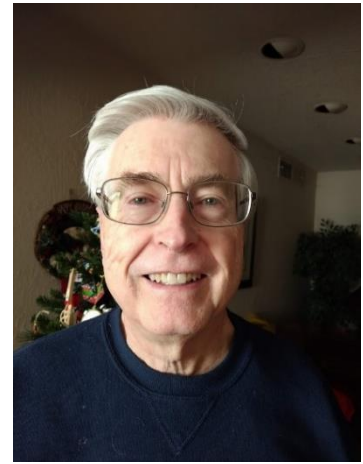
**kevin4strings@gmail.com**

**www.gehams.club**



## International Railfair Still Going Strong

Robert Pethoud,  
Daylight Division Member Aid Chair



After half a dozen COVID-19 vaccinations over three years, it was very satisfying to wander around a 28,000 square foot building filled to the brim with railroad models and modelers, pretty much the way it used to be in the years BC (Before Covid). For the first time since being ousted from their traditional venue at the Placer County fairgrounds in Roseville, the 45<sup>th</sup> International Railfair took place over Veterans Day weekend at Cal Expo in Sacramento.

On November 11 and 12, 2023, close to two thousand visitors enjoyed watching over a dozen operating layouts in a variety of scales, purchasing from over 100 vendor tables, and learning from several assorted how-to clinics. I set up Fall Creek Branch, my HO scale portable switching layout, and was gratified by the many questions and positive comments I received. When I first displayed it at IRF in 2012, it was the only operating model railroad allowing visitor participation; this time there were five such railroads! Check out the photos to get a sense of this extraordinary event.

***Anthony Aguirre, who is employed by the Sierra Railroad as an Engineer/Conductor, worked through an entire switch list on my Fall Creek Branch.***



***This couple brought this impressive, finely crafted Brio set down from Seattle for the many children at IRF to play with. That's dedication!***



***Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club brought and operated this layout, which was inspired by Fall Creek***

***Sacramento Valley Garden Railroad Society drew my attention with this well-weathered steam locomotive***



## Great Train Show

Jan 27 – 28, 2024

Cal Expo, Sacramento, 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815, USA ([map](#))

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

## Layout design and operations weekend,

February 2, 3, and 4, 2024, 9am – 4pm

[San Francisco Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend 2023](#). Sponsored by [Pacific Coast Region-NMRA](#) and [Layout Design SIG](#)

Location to be announced

The Bay Area Layout Design and Operations meet is a model railroading event for modelers interested in model railroad design, model railroad operations, railroad and local history, or any related topic.

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

## Sierra Division Meeting

Sat, February 17, 2024, 9:00am – 3:30pm

Sacramento, CA, USA ([map](#))

9:00 - 1:30 Ops session and lunch at Sacramento Model Railroad and Historical Society, 1990 Grand Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95838

2:00 - 3:30 Meet at the California State Railroad Museum, 125 I Street, Sacramento CA 95814

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

## Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society Train Show

Mar 2 – 3, 2024

Kern County Fair, 1142 S P St, Bakersfield, CA 93307, USA ([map](#))

<https://gehams.club/upcoming-train-show-info> [more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

## **PCR 2024 Convention, The Tech Line, Silicon Valley, CA**

April 24 – 28, 2024, 9am – 10pm

Sonesta San Jose - Milpitas, 777 Bellew Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035, USA ([map](#))

[The Tech Line, Silicon Valley, CA](#), Pacific Coast Region 2024 Convention.

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

## **Surfliner 2024 NMRA National Convention**

Aug 4 – 11, 2024

The Westin Long Beach, 333 E Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802, USA ([map](#))

<https://surfliner2024.org/index.php>

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

## **The Daylight Observation The Official Publication of the Daylight Division, PCR / NMRA Volume 38, Issue 1 1st Quarter, 2024**

The Daylight Observation is published quarterly to inform members of division activities and to provide educational articles for the advancement of railroad history and the art and science of model railroading. It is distributed to all members of the Division and to officers and newsletter editors of other divisions in the PCR.

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National Model Railroad Association

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