



The Daylight Observation

Spring 2010 Meet Scheduled for Fresno May 22nd

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Daylight Division, PCR / NMRA
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Daylight Division will hold its spring 2010 meet in Fresno, California on May 22, 2010 at the home of Marlin Costello's Goshen and Goosechase railroad.

Sign-ins and morning refreshments will be available at 9:30 and we



Canyon scene on the Goshen and Goosechase

will start our first clinic at 10:00 AM. We will have a second clinic about 11:00 AM with lunch at 12:00 noon.

Following lunch will be the Daylight Division business meeting, door prizes, raffle prizes, and the famous Daylight Division white elephant auction. (Be sure to bring your no longer needed items wrapped in plain paper and help the

division raise a little "scratch" to cover expenses.) The afternoon will be finished off by operation on the Goshen and Goosechase and tours of area layouts.

Clinic Chairman Doug Wagner has lined up two excellent clinics for us at this meet. Gary Saxton will present "Use and Abuse of Microsoft Excel in Model Railroading," and Bob Pethoud will present, "Building a Portable Switching Layout."

Gary Saxton explains that Microsoft Excel is the Swiss Army Knife of software for model railroaders. It does a few things well and can be abused to do other useful tasks. His clinic will overview several uses - the obvious, the not so obvious and one that is off the wall. Here's what you will see: Inventory, Waybills and Car



Worknight on the Goshen and Goosechase

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May meet in Fresno (Continued)

Cards, Time Tables and String Diagrams, Track Schematics, Bridge Templates and "Paper Doll" Buildings. The concepts will be shown and examples will be passed around.

In his clinic, Bob Pethoud will talk about how John Allen's Timesaver is a small switching layout and a fascinating game. He will show you how you can build one complete with structures, scenery, and backdrop-- a finished model railroad just several feet long that is still portable. You will be able to check out the progress so far on one of these railroads in HO scale.

Lunch will be provided by our host and hostesss, Marlin and Patricia Costello.

Industry Liaison Jay Smith will have lots of great raffle prizes from model railroad manufacturers and dealers. Be sure to purchase a fist full of tickets in order to get a chance to win one of these great items.

Marlin reports that the Goshen and Goosechase will be operating during the entire meet, so there will be lots of activity. Layout tours will include Marlin Costello's HO Scale Goshen and Goosechase Railroad, Chuck Harmon's San Joaquin Central HO Scale railroad, and others to be announced.

The meet location is 1125 E. Holland, Fresno, CA, 93704. Go to your favorite map program or see "Google" map on back page.

Director's Report

By John Houlihan



I have been working on creating more track products for my Irish Tracklayer line of O Scale parts. So I haven't heard any of the rumbling in the bushes. The world of model railroading seems calm, with nobody rocking the boat. One local model railroader is creating drawings to make the AT&SF bridge at Reedley in HO scale. If any of the local modelers are interested in creating a structure using a drawing program and laser cut parts, perhaps a clinic can be given on what some of the basic

considerations need to be addressed. Contact me and I will find two people to give a clinic on the topic. With summer and vacation time coming, start addressing the work needed to present your layout to the public in December. Open house days come faster than most modelers can work. How many have talked about starting a layout, even going so far as to have a space for it, yet have never spiked a rail?

See you in Reno

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Please send your e-mail to me at harmonsta@aol.com. Please put Observation in the subject box so I won't mistake it for junk mail.

Chuck Harmon

DAVE'S DISPATCH

From the Super's Desk
By Dave Grenier

Daylight Division held its Winter Meet Saturday, February 6, at the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (GEHAMS) clubhouse in Bakersfield. Guest clinician, **Matthew Graff**, presented a wonderful clinic on building an HO logging bunkhouse on skids and on the history of the model's prototype. Although intended as a make-and-take clinic, it quickly evolved into a "take-and-make" clinic, as everyone opted to take the kits home to build that Matthew had brought for the clinic.



Without the distraction of working on the kit, Matthew went on and presented a very interesting and enjoyable 90-minute clinic. In addition to describing the prototype for the model bunkhouse, he also gave the history of logging camps in the nearby mountains. I, for one, was totally enthralled by Matthew's presentation.

After the clinic, we had our usual Business Meeting (See the minutes elsewhere), then adjourned to lunch at nearby eateries, after which we visited 2 wonderful layouts. The first was a tour of **Larry Saslaw's** HO scale layout, featuring several scratchbuilt structures in Dunsmuir that he built from actual SP plans, including the roundhouse. The second was a tour of **Kevin Birkbeck's** N scale layout, a freelanced shelf layout in a 10'x10' room, with several scratchbuilt and kitbashed buildings and a lot of railroading fun packed into in a small space.

Thanks to everyone that helped to make the meet a success, especially our host, **GEHAMS**.

The next Daylight Division meet will be May 22, 2010, at the home of **Marlin Costello** in Fresno, the home of his fabulous Goshen and Goosechase Shortline Railroad. Registration starts at 9:30 AM, along with the usual refreshments. The meet starts at 10:00 AM. **Chuck Harmon** and **Gary Saxton** are planning a full slate of events for us. (See the write-up elsewhere in this issue.) Be sure to mark your calendars and make the trek to Fresno for a fun-filled day in the North Valley. You'll be glad you did!

By the time you read this, the Silver Rails 2010 PCR Convention in Sparks, Nevada, will have concluded and another great PCR convention will be in the history books. As I write this, I'm thinking about how much I'm looking forward to it and wishing that more Daylighters could be there.

Interestingly, we get quite a few attendees from other regions, such as the PNR and PSR, who think it's worth the trip to PCR. I always enjoy the PCR conventions and get a lot out of them. If you missed it, you missed a good one. Next year, we'll be in Santa Rosa for a 3-day "mini-convention." See www.pcrnmra.org/conv2011/ for more information.

Speaking of next year, the "Early-Bird" registration rate of \$99.00 for the Extra 2011 West NMRA 2011 National Convention in Sacramento, July 3-9, 2011, has been extended indefinitely. (It may have changed by the

Irish Tracklayer
O Gauge Track Products



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Upcoming Events

May 22, 2010 - Daylight Division Spring Meet - Marlin Costello's Goshen and Goosechase RR, 1125 E. Holland, Fresno

August 14, 2010 – Daylight Division Summer Meet - Tehachapi

November 2010 – Daylight Division Fall Meet - San Luis Obispo

July 3 to 9, 2011 - EXTRA 2011 WEST, 2011 NMRA National Convention, Sacramento, California

Want your ad in the Obs? Send a business card along with a check for \$40.00 and we'll print it for the next four issues. See the Obs Editor's address on the back page, or give your card and check to him at a meet.



**Dunsmuir Terminal on
Larry Saslaw's SP Layout**

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

time you read this!) Be sure to take advantage of this special rate and get your registration in early. It's shaping up to be another great NMRA convention and it's in the PCR! Visit the website at www.x2011west.org for more information.

Also frequently check the PCR Master Calendar website at www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.htm, for more things to do, as events are constantly being added to the calendar as information comes in from all over. It's the one best place to check for events in the PCR and beyond. If you have railroad-related events you'd like to publicize, send it in via e-mail.

Elsewhere in this *Observation*, you'll find a ballot for Division Superintendent and Chief Clerk/Paymaster. Be sure to return your ballot by mail or bring it with you to the May 22nd meet. The ballots will be counted during the meet. No ballots will be accepted after the ballots are counted.

Although Suzie and I are running unopposed, this will be our first election, as we were both appointed to our current positions. We would both appreciate your vote, as you make your opinions heard. You may also write in another person's name, but that person has to be willing to serve if elected. Send in your ballot and make your voice heard! Thank you for supporting me since I was appointed Superintendent back in June 2008. I look forward to receiving your continued support. Thank you.

See you in Fresno!

Industry Liaison Report for the February 2010 Bakersfield Meet

By Jay Smith

The February meet was held at the Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society (GEHAMS) of Bakersfield this time around. We had a wonderful, all-around good time. Matthew Graff gave a fascinating historical presentation of the Hume Lake railroad logging operations that took place in a by-gone era. His presentation accompanied a detailed description of how to build an HO logging bunkhouse kit modeled from the era, which he produces. Matthew donated one of his kits as a raffle prize at the Santa Barbara meet last November. My son Will and I had a blast running our locomotives on the GEHAMS HO layout for a couple of hours before returning home to Clovis. Thanks to Doug Wagner and the rest of his group for providing a warm and friendly atmosphere in which to enjoy our wonderful hobby. I definitely will not wait another two years before returning to enjoy their hospitality and layout.

Our raffle prize donors for this meet were: 1) **Creative Promotions Resource (Jay and Celest Smith) of Clovis** - 2 OSH Train Calendars and a Train Coffee Mug; 2) **Terri's Timeless Treasures/Dave's Trains (Dave and Terri Baker) of Clovis** – Branchline HO Boxcar (NKP); 3) **Dave Grenier of Clovis** – HO Commemorative Box Car (SBHRS); and 4) **Atlas Model Railroad Co. of Hillside, NJ** – HO Trainman Train Set w/a BNSF GP38-2 Locomotive. I want to thank our donors for their generosity and especially for the fact that all of them are repeat donors. C'mon members, let our donors know you appreciate them. Send them your thanks from the heart and, if you are able, support them with your pocketbooks as well. We want to support them so they can continue to support us.

See you in Fresno this May.

**The Daylight Observation
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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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**Daylight Division Minutes
February 6, 2010**

The February meet was held in Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (GEHAMS) in Bakersfield. The business meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by Superintendent Dave Grenier. A motion was made by Kevin Jung and seconded by John Holmes to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the Daylight Observation. The motion carried.

A motion was made by John Holm and seconded by Steve Biggs to accept the Treasurers report as published in the Daylight Observation. The motion carried.

The following bills were submitted: Chuck Harmon for the Observation \$230.32 and Doug Wagner \$38.00 dollars for donuts and coffee. A motion was made by Neil Fernbaugh and seconded by John Holmes to pay the bills. The motion carried.

John Houlihan was not at the meeting so there was no Director's report. Dave Grenier said the Convention Car Project is in the Coast Division and will be available to the other Divisions.

There were no AP awards for Daylight this quarter.

The next meet will be May 22 in Fresno at Marlin Costello's home. The August meet will be in Tehachapi and November meet will be in San Luis Obispo.

The Silver Rails 2010 PCR Convention is in Sparks, NV April 28-May 2, 2010. George Gibson is giving a clinic on unusual tools and asks for anyone that might use an unusual tool to let him know and he might use it in his clinic.

The Extra 2011 West NMRA Convention will be in Sacramento July 3-9 2011. Early-Bird Registration rate of \$99.00 is still in effect.

Elections for Superintendent and Chief Clerk/Paymaster should have been completed by this meeting but had to be postponed do to the Superintendent's illness. Ballots will be in the next Observation.

There were no contests at this meet and the meeting was adjourned for raffles and White Elephant Auction.

Respectfully Submitted
Suzanne Paff, Chief Clerk/Paymaster

Internet Links

Daylight Division group:
www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/daylightdivision/join

PCR-NMRA group:
www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/PCR-nmra/join

Daylight Division website:
www.pcrnmra.org/daylight

PCR master calendar:
www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.html

Daylight Division Treasury Report 2/6/10

DATE	TRANSACTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
2/6/10	BALANCE FORWARD			\$ 3,263.36
2/9/10	REGISTRATION		\$ 114.00	\$ 3,377.36
2/9/10	WHITE ELEPHANT		\$ 110.00	\$ 3,487.36
2/9/10	RAFFLE		\$ 111.00	\$ 3,598.36
2/9/10	OBSERVATION-Chuck Harmon	\$ 230.32		\$ 3,368.04
2/9/10	DONUTS-Doug Wagner	\$ 38.19		\$ 3,329.85
3/20/10	PCR ALLOCATION		\$ 79.50	\$ 3,409.35
4/17/10	BADGE & SHIRT SALES		\$ 234.00	\$ 3,643.35
				\$ 3,643.35
				\$ 3,643.35

The Answers Are Out There Maximum Benefit in the Minimum Space 3

By Bob Pethoud, Member Aid

Less really can be more; here I will make the case for a modular stand-alone model railroad. If one or both of those statements appear oxymoronic (self-contradictory), read on.

The story so far: I want to create a stand-alone HO layout for peddler freight switching, complete with scenery, structures, and backdrop, which will be small enough to fit into my standard size automobile. The concept I came up with is a railroad just 15" wide and 144" (12 feet) long, consisting of three 4-foot sections bolted together and with no legs, so that it will simply sit on the standard folding tables which are always in evidence at train shows.

After I completed my design, it occurred to me that if another modeler/switching aficionado were to build a layout to the same specifications, we could join the main tracks of our pikes together and operate an awesome switching district. Further, if a third fanatic were to join us, we could connect all three layouts in a straight line to form a short line railroad. Two crews could then operate peddler freights starting at opposite ends and eventually meet one another on the middle layout.

So one layout by itself is great, two together is awesome, and three would be glorious. Sounds like a modular railroad, doesn't it? Four, five, six, or more railroads all connected should be still more fantastic; but hold on a moment and think it through. Three switching pikes joined end to end are now nearly the length of one wall of your meeting area. Without corner sections you can't add any more. I have no plans for corners because I can barely fit the one railroad into my car. Second, operationally, a switching railroad with four switching areas is not that much more exciting than one with three. The law of diminishing returns kicks in.

The bottom line for me is that if eight of us were to show up at Sacramento in 2011 (X2011 West, the NMRA national convention, July 3-9, 2011) with eight compatible switching layouts [and by the way, if that happens I will eat my hat at the banquet] I will suggest that we set up three operating railroads: two short lines each consisting of three layouts and one switching district with two.

If you want to join in the switching fun, you will need the specifications to which I will build, so, as promised

last time, here they are:

The drawing shows an end view of the layout. The end plate is a nominal 1x4 (actually 3/4"x3.5") and I recommend using 3/4" birch plywood rather than dimensioned pine or fir to minimize the chance of warping. The feet are 5/16" hex-head bolts with T-nuts installed in 2x2 or equivalent corner braces, allowing adjustments up or down of 1/2". Compatible pikes will be held together with C-clamps, so allow enough space under the end plate for this. The fascia and backdrop are 1/8" hardboard.

The single track main line consists of code 83 standard gauge track which ends perpendicular to the end plate and flush with the end plate's outer face. An alternative placement for the main track ends 5" back from the front fascia, rather than the 10" shown. Next time I will demonstrate how that will work.



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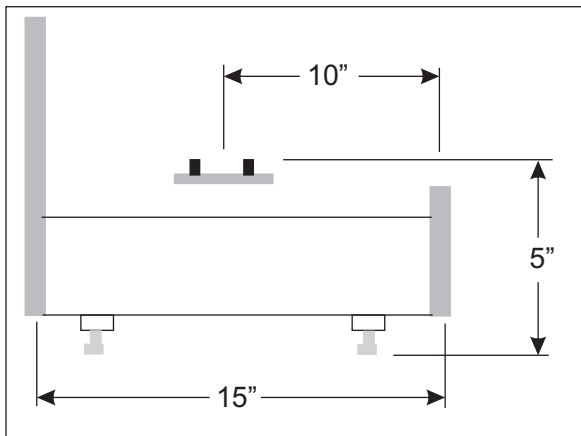


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Member Aid (Continued)

The track bus will consist of 14 gauge stranded wire which will end at 2- or 4-position terminal strips (Radio Shack #274-658 or equivalent) mounted below center on the inboard face of each end plate.

DCC control will be by an NCE Power Cab system utilizing 6-conductor flat cable with RJ12 connectors. An NCE UTP panel will be installed within 3 feet of each end panel on either the front fascia or backdrop.

I plan to have the partially-built portable layout at the Daylight Division meet on May 22. I hope to see you there. Until then, contact me at pethoud@comcast.net

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM - Association Official

By Dave Grenier

In this installment, we will review the requirements for the Association Official certificate. The full requirements for this certificate are available on the NMRA website at http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement/ap_official.html. You can also get a copy of the requirements by contacting me, either by phone, e-mail, or letter. Also take a look at the *Scale Rails*, October 2008 issue, page 10, for additional information.

The Association Official certificate, as its name implies, is to recognize the individual's service as an officer at the national, regional, or divisional level. To qualify for this certificate, you must have served as an officer (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Director) and completed satisfactory service in one of the following:

1. At least one year in office at the national level
2. At least two years in the office(s) at the regional level, of which one shall be Region President or Trustee.
3. At least three years in the office(s) at the regional level, if other than Region President or Trustee.
4. Division Superintendents or Directors who serve as voting members of the Region Board of Directors, either by election, appointment, or automatic by-law provision, shall be eligible for the certificate on the same basis as any other Region Board member (i.e. three years of service required).

Just to clarify, "satisfactory service" means that you actually have to perform the duties of the office, not just doing nothing while holding the title. There have also been discussions over what offices qualify for Association Official. The general rule of thumb is that if holding an office makes you a voting member of the Regional Board of Directors, then it counts.

In the PCR, Division Directors are voting members of the PCR Board of Directors, so holding this office meets the requirement. On the other hand, although Division Superintendents usually attend the Board meetings, they have no vote; therefore it does not count. However, Superintendents do earn Association Volunteer time units (2 TU) for every month served. Interestingly, since our Division Directors typically serve for 4 years, the 1st three years qualify them for the Association Official certificate, while the 4th year earns 12 TUs toward their Association Volunteer certificate.

The final requirement for this certificate is the usual paperwork. You must submit a completed Statement of Qualification (SOQ), listing the offices you held with the dates served, along with the signature of a qualified witness, usually the Region President (Ron Plies) or Secretary (Tom Crawford). Along with your SOQ, be sure to send a copy of your NMRA membership card, to the PCR AP Manager, Jack Burgess.

That's all it takes! In one to three years, depending on what level you serve at, you can earn the Association Official certificate. All you have to do is get involved in the NMRA. To paraphrase JFK, "Ask not what the NMRA can do for you, but ask what I can do for the NMRA." Unlike the other AP certificates, this service-related certificate does not require any judging of your efforts. All you have to do is get involved in the NMRA and put in the time. Don't be bashful! Jump right in and lend a hand. You'll be glad you did.

No AP certificates were awarded in the Daylight Division since my last report.

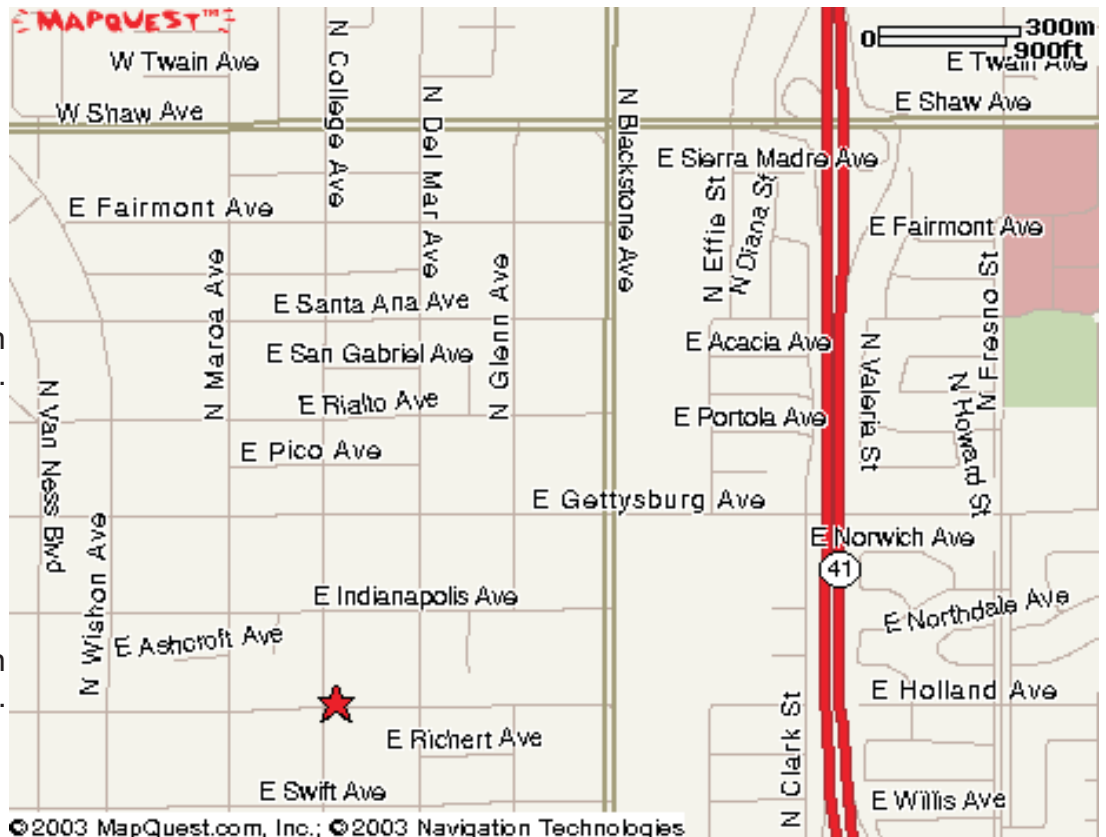
If you have any questions or want to learn more about the Achievement Program or Golden Spike Award, call me at (559) 297-1345 or e-mail me at grenida@pacbell.net.

Next installment: Association Volunteer

Map to the Meet

Coming up 99 from the South, take 41 North to Shaw off-ramp. Turn left at Shaw, left at Blackstone. Turn Right at Holland. Marlin's is on the right, about 3 blocks.

Coming down 99 from the North, take Shaw off-ramp. Turn left at Shaw. Go about 5 miles and turn right at Blackstone. Turn Right at Holland. Marlin's is on the right, about 3 blocks.



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Daylight Division
Pacific Coast Region

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