



The Daylight Observation

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July-August-September 2025

Daylight Director's Message: Daylight Limited PCR Convention

By Walter Mizuno, Daylight Division Director

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The Daylight Limited convention has wrapped up—and what a great time it was! Nothing compares to gathering in person, sharing our passion for trains, and making memories together. From

Bruce Morden's guided Amtrak tour over the breathtaking Cuesta Grade to visiting the Santa Maria Valley Railroad yard and seeing the exciting progress on their business car, our hosts made us feel right at home and gave us the opportunity to learn more about their railroad. Every part of the 4-day event offered something special. It was a joy to meet many first-time attendees and reconnect with familiar faces. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success!

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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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Our Division continues to thrive because of the energy and passion that each member brings—and that includes our newest members. You are the future of the Daylight Division. Your perspectives, skills, and enthusiasm are essential as we grow and evolve. Whether you're brand new to the hobby or returning after a break, we want you to feel welcomed, valued, and involved from day one. A big thank you to Modeling with the Masters presenters Clark Kooning and Peter Youngblood, who spent over an hour chatting with a new attendee and spouse about the many advantages of being an NMRA member and the wonderful modeling opportunities available. As I was packing up on Sunday at the end of the convention, the couple stopped me on the way to my car to express their thanks for spending time with them. Their gratitude meant a lot to me and reminded me how powerful a friendly conversation can be.

To support our newest members, Dave Theis and Doug Wagner are leading the charge with a series of meetings and hands-on workshops—including a step-by-step layout-building series—designed especially for those just getting started. We want to help you build skills, confidence, and friendships through fun, engaging experiences. These programs are just the beginning, and we welcome your ideas on what would be most helpful.

If you're a newer member, we want to hear from you! What topics, activities, or events interest you most? Your feedback will help us tailor future programs that are meaningful and useful to you. Please don't hesitate to reach out—your voice matters. To our long-time members: remember how fun and encouraging it was to meet skilled modelers when you were just starting out? Now's a great time to return the favor. Reach out, strike up a conversation, offer a tip or two—it can make all the difference to someone who's just discovering the joy of this hobby. Helping others find their footing builds the kind of community we're all proud to be part of.

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And yes—we're already looking ahead to 2029, when the Daylight Division will once again host the PCR Convention. Early planning is underway, and we're eager to make it even better than before. If you've got ideas or want to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

Let's keep the momentum going. I hope to see you at an upcoming event—and remember, whether you're a veteran modeler or just laying your first bit of track, there's a place for you here.

Warm regards,

Walter Mizuno



Daylight Membership by County

| <u>County</u> | <u># Members</u> |
|------------------------|------------------|
| San Luis Obispo County | 24 |
| Fresno County | 18 |
| Santa Barbara County | 16 |
| Kern County | 13 |
| Tulare County | 9 |
| Merced County | 3 |
| Madera County | 2 |
| Mariposa County | 1 |
| <u>Kings County</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Total Members | 86 |

Daylight Division Membership Gauge

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| May 31, 2015 | 126 |
| May 31, 2024 | 87 |
| June 30, 2024 | 87 |
| July 31, 2024 | 88 |
| August 31, 2024 | 90 |
| September 30, 2024 | 90 |
| October 31, 2024 | 88 |
| November 30, 2024 | 84 |
| December 31, 2024 | 87 |
| January 31, 2025 | 89 |
| February 28, 2025 | 86 |
| March 31, 2025 | 89 |
| April 30, 2025 | 86 |
| May 31, 2025 | 86 |



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Association Volunteer

By Dave Grenier



In this installment, we will briefly review the requirements for the Association Volunteer certificate. I say “briefly” because there are so many ways to qualify for this certificate, too many to list here.

Please go to the NMRA webpage <https://www.nmra.org/volunteer> for all the different types of service that can qualify you for this certificate. You can also get a copy of the requirements by contacting me by phone, e-mail, or letter. Also see the Scale Rails, November 2008 issue, page 18, for a very informative article describing the requirements and many examples of how to earn this certificate.

The Association Volunteer certificate, as its name implies, is to recognize an individual’s volunteer service at the national, regional, or division level. There is only one requirement, two if you count the paperwork. To qualify for this certificate, you must serve actively on one or more NMRA committees (National, Regional, or Division) and/or as an Officer long enough to accumulate sixty time units (TUs). The “TU” is the basic credit earned for various volunteer activities. The webpage shown above lists at least fourteen different types of service that earn Time Units.

Some TUs are given for each month served in a position, while others are given for each activity, even if served for one day. Serve on a convention committee? Get TUs for each month served. Work one day at a convention? Get TUs for one month. Give a clinic at a meet or convention? Get TUs for each presentation. Open your home or club layout for layout tours? Get TUs for each day. Judge a model contest? Get TUs for the day. You are a Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge counselor? Get TUs for each month served, PLUS a TU for each Scout that qualifies for the badge. Different numbers of TUs are awarded depending on

whether the activity is at the national, regional, or division level. Please note that these TUs are in addition to any TUs received for being on the committee that works to set up the event! TUs may be earned concurrently for each qualified activity you perform. The more involved you are, the faster you accrue TUs! Be sure to check the full requirements at www.nmra.org/volunteer to see how many TUs are accrued for each of the volunteer activities.

Sometimes you can also get credit for two different AP certificates. Giving a live clinic earns points toward the Model Railroad Author Certificate the first time it is presented, while subsequent presentations earn Association Volunteer TUs. If you have any questions about what activity earns how many TUs, don't hesitate to contact me. My contact information is in the last paragraph.

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR SERVICE AS YOU EARN IT! Nobody except you will track the TUs you accrue. Go to www.nmra.org/volunteer and print out either the Statement of Qualification (SOQ) or Record and Validation form to list your volunteer activities and have it signed to verify your service as it happens. It is much easier to do it as you earn it, rather than going back and collecting signatures later when you are ready to apply for your certificate. Simply have the person in charge of the event or activity sign your form to verify your service. Suggestion: Staple your records into a manila folder to better identify and store for quick retrieval.

The final requirement for this certificate is the usual dreaded paperwork. Submit a completed Statement of Qualification (SOQ) form, along with any signed Record and Validation forms as evidence of your completion of the requirements, and a copy of your NMRA membership card to the Daylight Division AP Chair, Dave Grenier. Please contact me via email for my mailing address. I will review your submission, then forward it to Earl Girbovan, MMR®, PCR Achievement Program Manager. Digitally scanned documents may also be submitted as attachments via email.

Does 60 TUs seem like a lot of work? Remember that your past service can be claimed retroactively. Look back and take credit for any service you performed in the past while a NMRA member. Did you open your layout for a division layout tour two or three years ago? That counts for 3 TUs! Were you a model contest

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judge at a Daylight meet or at a PCR or NMRA convention? That counts for 1, 2 or 3 TUs, respectively. You might just surprise yourself at how many TUs you have already accrued. Fill out the paperwork, send it in and you will be on your way to earning another AP certificate.

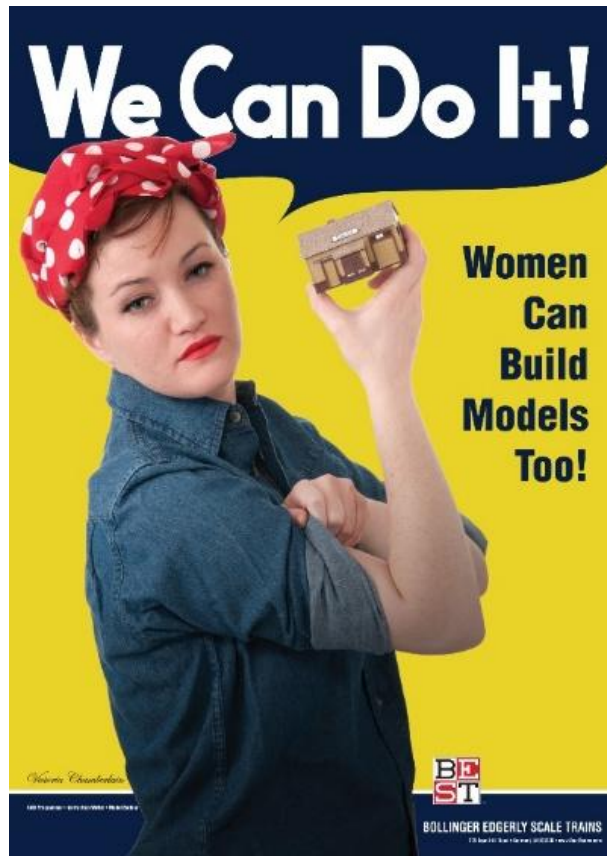
If you have any questions or want to learn more about the Achievement Program or Golden Spike Award, call me at (408) 431-8989 or e-mail grenida@pacbell.net.



Daylight Division's Newest Members

| <u>Member</u> | <u>City/Sate</u> | <u>Date Joined</u> |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Geoffrey Brown | Fresno, CA | 3/12/2025 |
| Antonio Bernardo | Visalia, CA | 3/28/2025 |

Welcome Aboard!



Daylight Limited 2025 Convention: A Photographic Report

By Doug Wagner,
Clinics and Membership Chair



The Free-Mo layout that was on display for both viewing and several operation sessions at the convention, begins the arduous task of setting up for the convention on the first day of the Daylight Limited 2025.

op

*Operation action
on the Free-Mo
layout*

All photos by Doug
Wagner



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July-August-September 2025



Neil Fernbaugh instructing his "students" on the art of weathering. This was a hands-on clinic where participants brought anything they wanted to learn how to weather---from rolling stock to structures. If you weren't there--you missed out on a great opportunity to learn how to weather your model railroad stuff from Neil!

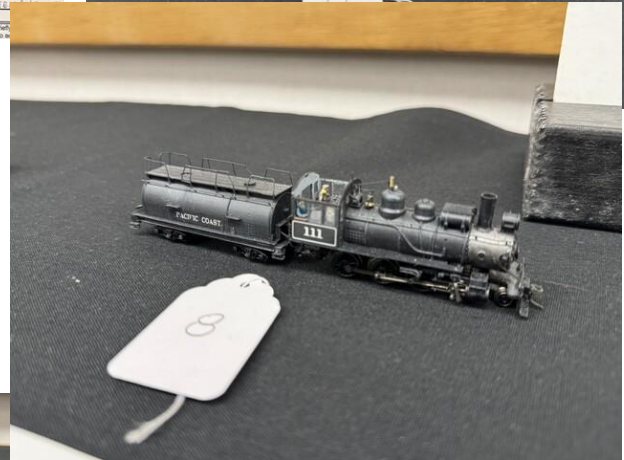


A couple of the structures in the contest room





More contest entries



Right: The crowd window shopping at the Swap Meet

Below: At the Swap Meet, Ed Hall, left, and Bob Chaparro, right, had plenty of Southern Pacific brass steam locomotives to offer.



Expand Your Horizons: Leave a Legacy, not a Mess

Article by Dave Theis



No matter how simple or elaborate they are, our model train layouts and collections are extremely important to us and hold a special place in our hearts. For many they are the culmination of a lifelong effort toward building our very own railroad empire in which we have indulged ourselves with childlike joy and excitement at every step of the process. And while our layouts have brought us many years of leisure and enjoyment, I suggest that we may want to be mindful not only of the present, but to consider what happens to our layouts when we are no longer able to maintain them, or when our time on Earth comes to an end. I recommend that we consider a transition plan for our estate so that what we leave behind is a legacy; not a mess for someone else to deal with.

With my father we made a point of talking about what he would like to happen with his layout and collection. It was a good thing that we did this because Dad had a sizeable collection, and he had some specific requests on who would get what. I even recorded a video of our conversation so that no one would have any questions or issues with what he wanted done.

Thankfully my dad is still with us, still buying trains, and still enjoying this wonderful hobby. He often tells me that he really appreciated our going through this process and that it has made him feel better about his collection, knowing there is a plan in place for what will happen when he is gone.

In our case my father's collection and layout will stay in the family. For many this may not be an option. This is important when it comes to the actual layout itself and whether it can be moved to a new location. Another important thing to discuss with your loved ones is the actual value of the trains and what they might reasonably expect to get if the collection is sold off. Having this discussion ahead of time can help overcome any unrealistic expectations as to the value of the collection.

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Since many of us have completed inventories of our collections, one suggestion I have is for folks to add a value next to each item so that others gain an idea of what you think it is worth. Keep in mind, the actual value of an item at point of sale can fluctuate based on many different things, such as whether the collection is sold all together or as individual pieces, and whether you sell to a dealer or to the public. It may also be helpful to talk to a friend or a fellow club member if you have questions or if you aren't sure what to do. These folks will typically offer helpful advice and usually do their best to help during these difficult times.

One last thing that I suggest is that we make sure our loved ones are aware that transitioning through this process can take quite a bit of time. Layouts are not moved or taken down overnight and selling a collection takes time as well, especially if you are planning to sell the items yourself. The bottom line is that others need to know that the process takes time and that they need to plan for this.

In closing, we all recognize that it is a sad thing when a friend in our hobby passes, especially if it is unexpected. Even more concerning is the potential that their family members, who are already dealing with the emotions of their loss, may also be saddled with the responsibility of dealing with the layout and the collection now that the hobbyist is gone. Making a plan in advance can ease the burdens of an already difficult situation. As I said before, leave a legacy, not a mess.

I hope you have found this article to be helpful. Please feel free to drop me a comment or let me know if you have any questions. You can contact me at Pastordave.saw@yahoo.com



EXTRA
2026
NORTH
PCR CONVENTION
APRIL 30 - MAY 3

NMRA Convention 2025

Monday, July 14 - Saturday, July 19
[Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375, USA](#)

More information:
<https://nmra2025.com/>

Redding Model Train Show

Saturday, August 9
[Win-River Resort & Casino, 2100 Redding Rancheria Rd, Redding, CA 96001, USA](#)

**Sierra Division at Tidewater
 Southern Club**

Saturday, August 23
[Fairgrounds, Stockton, CA, USA](#)

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Every Sunday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Thursday 5:00 to 8:00 PM / Eastern Sierra Railroad Society (HO, N) / 520 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 / [Facebook](#) page or call Gary Gearhart, (760) 269-5762

Every Friday 7:30 – 9:30 PM / [Tri-City Society of Model Engineers](#) (HO, N) Niles Plaza, Fremont, CA / Stanley Keiser, e-mail: sbkeiser@juno.com or 510-791-1504

Every Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 PM / [Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club](#) (HO)
 Roseville, CA / George Carter, e-mail: Geo_Claire_Carter@msn.com

Every Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 PM / [Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society](#) (HO, N)
 Bakersfield, CA / Doug Wagner, e-mail: carldw@aol.com or 661-589-0391 / Club phone 661-325-5820

Every Thursday 6:15 PM / Thursday Nite Boomers (all) / San Luis Obispo County, CA / Terry N. Taylor, e-mail: terryntaylor@charter.net or 805-595-9535

Every Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM / Fresno Model Railroad Club (HO, N) 1321 Betty Lane, Selma, CA / Mailing Address: PO Box 181, Selma, CA 93662

Every Saturday 9:00 AM to Noon / Belmont Model Railroad Club (HO) 1719 E. Belmont Avenue, Fresno, CA / [Facebook](#) page. Info: (559) 289-5549.

Second Wednesday 7:30 PM / [Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society](#) (HO&N)

Bakersfield, CA / Doug Wagner, e-mail: carldw@aol.com or 661-589-0391 / Club phone: 661-325-5820

Second Saturday 10:00 AM / [Tehachapi Loop RR Club](#) / Tehachapi, CA / Tom O'Brien, e-mail: threerail@earthlink.net 661-822-1546

Third Monday 7:00 PM / [San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association](#) (all) Oceano Depot, CA / Dennis Pearson, e-mail: info@slomra.org or 805-929-3062

Third Tuesday 7:00 PM / Visalia Electric Model Railroad & Historical Society / Meets at Ryan's Place Restaurant, 3103 South Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA / Cecil Eppler, e-mail: cecil_eppler@sbcglobal.net

Third Saturday / [Sacramento Modular Railroaders](#) Operating Session (HO) / Sacramento, CA / Scott McAllister, e-mail: scooter923@att.net

Fourth Wednesday 7:00 PM / Coast Toy Train Club / Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Rd (at Alamar), Santa Barbara, CA / Lots of collecting in S, O, and Standard gauges. / Contact: Ken Kelley, e-mail: kenatttr@thirdrail.com

Irregular / Central California Operators Group (all) / varies / Steve Hayes, e-mail: hayeswp@hotmail.com 209-536-1847





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