



The Daylight Observation

Official Publication of the
Daylight Division, PCR / NMRA
Volume 24, Issue 4
Oct-Nov-Dec 2010

Fall Daylight Meet Set for San Luis Obispo on Nov. 20

by Paul Deis

The upcoming NMRA PCR Daylight Division Meet on the 20th of November is scheduled to be held at Mary Carole & Hilding Larson's home in San Luis Obispo. Hilding & Mary Carole model the Union Pacific branch line to Yakima Washington as well as the Yakima Valley Transportation. While there is no overhead wire yet on the YVT, operating their layout is a lot of fun whether you pull the duty on the YVT segment, which can only haul two cars at a time due to the grade, running one of the local switchers, or being yardmaster.

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For a new twist on the Timesaver Switching Contest, how about a scenic large scale timesaver. The San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association will be bringing their Large Scale Timesaver. Come try your luck. There will be no excuses for poor eyesight. Here is a link to a video of the Timesaver in action: "<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mtAqI0hUoY>"

And please don't forget to bring that favorite photo artifact or model to display. Also bring "White Elephants" for the auction. That is railroad related items wrapped in newspaper to be sold at auction. You never know what you might find. I bought a BRASS stockcar at the Tehachapi meet for \$4.

The cost of the Meet is \$4 for admission or \$5 if you are not a NMRA member to cover the cost of soft drinks and snacks.

Lunch (Tri-Tip sandwich, beans, salad etc) if you want (and very few don't) will be \$6.

We have two very interesting clinics lined up. The first is by Bob Schrempp from the San Luis Obispo Free-Mo Group. Bob will give a presentation on the Free-mo system of Modular Railroading.

The second is by Jim Betz. Jim is from our neighbor the Coast Division. Have you ever puzzled through setting CV's to try and get that DCC decoder to do what you want? Just what is a speed step anyway? Jim will have some answers. Jim will do his presentation on "What is DecoderPro, How Does it Work, and Why do You Want to Use It?"

Several area layouts will be open for tours and Op sessions, including



Hilding Larson works a yard on his layout

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George Gibson's DK & Pacific Mountain Railway, Paul Deis' Garden railroad & SP Coast Line railroads, and Charlie Burns' N scale SP Coastline.

The Meet schedule is as follows:

9:00 to 10 AM Registration & Refreshments (soft drinks Donuts etc)
Look over Hilding's layout, the contest entries, socialize or try your hand at the switching layout.

10:00 to 10:10 Welcome & Agenda Review

10:15 to 11:15 1st Clinic - Bob Schrempp on Free-Mo.

11:15 to 12:15 2nd Clinic - Jim Betz on Decoder Pro

12:15 to 13:00 Lunch (Barbequed Tri Tip sandwich etc)

13:00 to 14:00 Daylight Division Business Meeting & Announcements

14:00 to 14:15 Layout Tours Info (Rick Anderson)

14:15 to 14:45 White Elephant Auction (Paul Deis)

15:00 to 19:00 (i.e., 3 to 7 PM) Layout Tours & Op Sessions

Come meet some old friends and make some new ones while having a good time. What more can you ask?



DAVE'S DISPATCH

From the Super's Desk

By Dave Grenier

Daylight Division held its Summer Meet Saturday, August 28th, at the Village Grill Restaurant in Tehachapi. Preceding the meet, we had a no-host breakfast, along with videos of Tehachapi Loop area train action. At 10:00, the meet started with two clinics presented by Brewster Bird and Jim Jury.

Brewster demonstrated how to use foam core board to build background buildings, followed by a brief history of the industries along Visalia's Goshen Avenue. Afterwards, he combined the two and displayed his N-scale "Timesaver" module that included some of the background buildings, depicting the Visalia Industrial Park area. Nicely done, Brewster!

Jim Jury, a local resident, presented part of his vast slide collection of SP, UP, Rio Grande, Santa Fe and Utah Railway photos from the '50s, '60s, and '70s in California, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. Thanks to Jim for sharing his wonderful photos.

After the clinics, the quarterly business meeting was held and the usual Division business conducted (see Suzie's minutes elsewhere). The door prize was won by Al Sikes, a first-time visitor, who was promptly prosecuted for membership! The famous Daylight White Elephant Auction, presided over by Auctioneer Bob Randall, was then held. Numerous items acquired at previous auctions changed hands – again!



Dennis Keck's narrow gauge steam layout included a great 1:1 Depot!

At the conclusion of the auction, we headed out for two layout tours, located in a gated community, a pleasant 20-minute drive through the rolling

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Observation On-Line

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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

hills west of town. Dennis Keck showed off his garden railroad that had just started operations a few weeks before our visit. Dennis carved his layout out of the hillside in front of his home, tunneling right through a fallen tree. Next up was Rick Passalacqua's "Rick's Rock Back-Breaking Railroad" garden railroad, nestled among the trees in his front yard. Numerous trains kept us spellbound as they ran all around us.

Driving back to Tehachapi we hit the two hobby shops in town and visited the Tehachapi Depot Museum in the depot, completely rebuilt after the devastating 2008 fire. The museum staff graciously stayed open after their usual closing time so we could enjoy the wonderful displays.

The meet concluded at John Bell's home, overlooking UP's "Cable Siding" approach to the famed "Loop". We enjoyed the sights and sounds of several trains on the tracks below while we waited for dinner to be served. Then we had a sumptuous feast of ribs and chicken with all the fixin's, plus several kinds of pie for dessert.

After enjoying the camaraderie, the good food and a full day of railroading, both model and prototype, it was time to head for home. A good time was had by all. If you missed it, you missed a great meet.

The next Daylight Division meet will be November 20, 2010, at Hilding Larson's home in San Luis Obispo (write-up elsewhere in this issue.) Registration starts at 9:00 AM, with the meet starting at 10:00 AM. Paul Deis is planning a full slate of events for us. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us in SLO for a fun-filled day.

The PCR, Layout Design, and Operations SIGs are holding their annual 3-day San Francisco Bay Area Regional Meet, January 28-30, 2011, in Newark, CA. (We outgrew the Santa Clara Depot!) This is the weekend between the playoffs and the Super Bowl, so take a break from the gridiron and join us. A full day's program of layout design and operations clinics will be presented, along with free layout planning and operations consultations. For more information and to sign-up, visit the website at: www.pcrnmra.org/sigs/

Planning for the Extra 2011 West NMRA 2011 National Convention in Sacramento, July 3-9, 2011, is ramping up. It is shaping up to be another great NMRA convention and it's in the PCR! Visit the website at www.x2011west.org for more information and to register for "The Unconventional Convention".

Check the PCR Master Calendar website at www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.htm, for more railroad-related activities. It's a great 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.

See you in San Luis Obispo!

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O Gauge Track Products



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Upcoming Events

November 20, 2010 – Daylight Division Fall Meet - San Luis Obispo

Dec. 4, 2010 - Fresno Area Layout Tours

Feb. 26, 2011 - Daylight Division Winter Meet - Exeter

May 13 - 15, 2011 - [Sonoma Short Line 2011](#) "Mini" PCR Convention, Santa Rosa, CA

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

Director's Report

John Houlihan, Daylight Division Director

The midyear board meeting is October 23, too soon for any report in this communication. The 2011 NMRA convention and the host committee "21st Century Limited" will be one of the topics for discussion. When the minutes for the meeting become available, I will ask Dave Greiner to post them on the division website. As a push to get more participation in the achievement program, I am going to apply for one or two certificates this year. If I find it a painless project, I will ask for others in the division to apply, help those that need a nudge, or outright push members in the right direction. We could discuss what kind of help is needed to get the awards out to those that have accomplished the achievement award goals.



It is time to get your layouts ready for visitors. Fresno in December, Santa Barbara in January. San Luis Obispo just completed a week long railroad celebration. Volunteer to help at the open houses as it is difficult to talk and run trains at the same time without some kind of accident occurring.

Share the hobby and get young people involved. Railroading is not just for retired old men.

Daylight Division Minutes

August 28, 2010

The summer meet was held in Tehachapi, CA. The business meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Superintendent Dave Grenier. A motion was made by Kevin Jung and seconded by Doug Wagner to accept the meetings of the previous meeting as published in the Daylight Observation. The motion carried. A motion was made by Mike O'Brien and seconded by Kevin Jung to accept the Treasurers report as published in the Daylight Observation. The motion carried. The following bills were submitted: \$203.22 from Chuck Harmon for the Observation and \$6.61 from Jay Smith for Mailings. A motion was made by Ron Cox and seconded by Jay Smith to pay the bills. The motion carried.

AP Chairman announced Dave Grenier announced the following awards:

Paul Deis – Chief Dispatcher Certificate (his 1st)
Robert Pethoud – Association Volunteer Certificate
Mike O'Brien – Golden Spike Award

The next meet will be November 20, 2010 in San Luis Obispo at Hilding Larson's home.

The contest winners were:
Model Photo – Mike O'Brien, Marlin Costello's layout
Prototype Photo – Doug Wagner, Bakersfield Depot
Model – Paul Deis, large scale train

The meeting was adjourned for Raffles and the White Elephant Auction.

Respectfully Submitted
Suzanne Paff
Chief Clerk/Paymaster

The Daylight Observation The Official Publication of the Daylight Division, PCR/NMRA

Volume 24, Issue 4 4th Qtr, 2010

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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The Answers are Out There - Backdrop Building

by Bob Pethoud, Member Aid

Recently I was offered some property alongside an existing railroad in Fresno County. The offer was contingent on my developing an industrial park for multiple companies wishing regularly to ship and/or receive carload lots from that railroad. The railroad is Marlin Costello's Goshen and Goosechase, a well-known HO scale model railroad. In this column I'll describe the first structure erected in that industrial park.



Several miles apart along the old SP (now UP) main line between Fresno and Kingsburg I found and photographed a couple of old corrugated metal buildings. One was situated on a concrete loading platform and featured faded lettering and richly colored irregular patches of rust; the other was drably painted and unremarkable except for an attractive overhanging roof with exposed rafters and diagonal supports. Of course I decided to construct a hybrid model which would sport the best features of both buildings.

Selma Raisin—the name I gave this project—was to be a minimal-depth building front extending only a few inches from the backdrop but suggesting a much larger structure. I began with three pieces of 1/8" hardboard screwed to 1x1 corner posts to form the long wall and two short end walls. Campbell still makes corrugated aluminum and I decided this would look very authentic for the siding. Still, I used Evergreen corrugated styrene for the roof because it was cheap, available, and easier to use to form the odd trapezoidal shape I needed.

I glued strips of 1/16" thick balsa wood to the outsides of the walls to represent the concrete platform and to mount the siding. By leaving strategically placed gaps between these strips, I created the inset loading doors and pockets for the rafters and diagonal braces. Next, I cut the scale 8-foot long corrugated aluminum into pieces a scale 2½ feet wide and fixed them in place with Walthers Goo. The roof is all styrene, with scale-dimensioned rafters and diagonal braces bonded to the smooth side of the corrugated material.

All of the painting was done with spray cans, mostly Tamiya Color for Plastics. The first coat was a primer and after it was dry I sprayed a dark gray (Tamiya TS-4) where the lettering was to be. When that was thoroughly cured I attached ½" and ¼" stick-on letters for the company name and the numbers on the doors and then I sprayed all the walls and the roof with a lighter gray (AS-2 or AS-16, I don't remember which). When that was dry to the touch I removed the stick-on letters to reveal the nicely contrasting sign and door numbers.

Finally, the entire building was weathered with Bragdon Enterprises chalks. A stiff-bristled brush works well to apply them, nearly always using vertical strokes. I say "nearly" because I found I needed to use horizontal

2011 National website
www.x2011west.org

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



George Gibson has built a new yard for his DK & Pacific Mountain Railway

strokes (perpendicular to the corrugations) to get the chalks to spread out across the roof.

That's all there was to it: a few enjoyable hours spent photographing, measuring, cutting, gluing, spraying, and brushing and the Goshen and Goosechase had a brand new yet apparently old industry to serve. If you haven't done any scratchbuilding lately (or ever), I recommend a simple background project like this one. Until next time, you can reach me at pethoud@comcast.net.

Achievement Program - Master Model Railroader (MMR)

By Dave Grenier

In this installment, we'll tie it all together and look at what it takes to earn the title of "Master Model Railroader". Although it is not an easy title to achieve, as of the September 2010 AP Report, 452 modelers have achieved the title of Master Model Railroader. Along the way, they learned many new skills, honed old ones, and had lots of fun. You can, too!



Charlie Burns' N-scale layout is always a great treat to visit.



Enjoy the thrills of steam in Paul Deis' backyard

To qualify as a Master Model Railroader, you must earn a minimum of 7 AP certificates out the 11 available. Of these 7 certificates, you must have earned at least one from each of the following four areas:

Railroad Equipment

Master Builder – Motive Power

Master Builder – Cars

Railroad Setting

Master Builder – Structures

Master Builder – Scenery

Master Builder – Prototype Models

Railroad Construction & Operation

Model Railroad Engineer – Civil

Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical

Chief Dispatcher

Service to the Hobby & NMRA Members

Association Official

Association Volunteer

Model Railroad Author

The final requirement is submit a completed MMR Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) form, showing the certificates you earned, the date earned and the certificate number. If you need any of this information, contact the Regional AP Chair, Jack Burgess, MMR 136, jack@yosemitevalleyrr.com, or the National AP General Manager, Paul Richardson, MMR 345, achiev@hq.nmra.org.

Sign and mail your completed SOQ with a copy of your NMRA membership card to either Jack Burgess or myself.

One thing to be aware of, the Golden Spike Award is not awarded to MMRs. If you intend to get the Golden Spike Award, you must submit your application BEFORE earning MMR status. As long as you do not have MMR status, you may be awarded the Golden Spike Award, even if you have already earned all the certificates needed for MMR.

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

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Ref:

http://nmra.org/education/achievement/ap_master.html



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Daylight Division Hosts Fresno-Area Layout tours December 4th

Layouts in Clovis and Fresno will be open for the public to tour on December, 4th, 2010. Layout tour chairman Gary Saxton has scheduled nine layouts for the tour. For a complete listing of the layouts and tour times go to the Daylight Division web site.

Want your ad in the Obs? Send a business card along with a \$40.00 check 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.



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Industry Liaison Reports Meet Donations

by Jay Smith

The raffle prize donors for the Daylight Division's August 2010 quarterly meet in Tehachapi are as follows:

- 1) **Kalmbach Publishing Co.** of Waukesha, WI - A 1-year subscription to Model Railroader Magazine;
- 2) **Athearn Trains** of Carson, CA – Roundhouse HO 5-car set of SP Daylight Passenger Cars;
- 3) Anita Walter/**Central Coast Trains** of Atascadero, CA – A \$20 Gift Certificate;
- 4) Dave and Terri Baker/**Terri's Timeless Treasures** of Clovis, CA – Atlas N Beer Can Tanker;
- 5) Jay and Celest Smith/**Creative Promotions Resource** of Clovis, CA - “Still Plays With Trains” tee-shirt along with two train mugs and two train key chains awarded to trivia question winners;
- 6) Linda and Ed Gordon/**Trains, etc.** of Tehachapi, CA – Rivarossi HO Log Buggie, Atlas N Caboose (SP), Atlas N 70 Ton Ore Car (Utah Copper), and 10% Discount Cards redeemable anytime. A big **THANK YOU!** Goes out to all of our donors for supporting us. Let's go Daylight Division members and return the favor by supporting these generous donors with your business!

February Meet set for Exeter

The date and place for the February 2011 Daylight Division meet is Saturday, February 26, 2011 at the Scout Shack, 264 North E Street Exeter, CA. The cross street is Palm Street, to the south of the location. Brunch will be served at the Scout Shack in lieu of a lunch. It will be a full brunch, not continental. For more information call Brewster Bird at 559-732-6096 or 559-381-4785. Or e-mail mec569@yahoo.com. Thanks, Brewster Bird

Treasury Report

DATE	TRANSACTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
5/22/2010	BALANCE FORWARD			\$ 3,263.36
8/28/2010	REGISTRATION		\$ 101.00	\$ 3,364.36
8/28/2010	WHITE ELEPHANT		\$ 42.00	\$ 3,406.36
8/28/2010	RAFFLE		\$ 112.00	\$ 3,518.36
8/28/2010	OBSERVATION-Chuck	\$ 230.32		\$ 3,288.04
8/28/2010	MAILING-Jay Smith	\$ 6.61		\$ 3,281.43
8/28/2010	ENDING BALANCE			\$ 3,281.43

Directions to the Meet

7050 Lewis Lane, San Luis Obispo, CA

If you are coming from the north (or from SLO) take Broad St past the airport to Los Ranchos Rd and turn Right at the signal.

If you are coming from the South, take the Price Canyon exit from the freeway (at Pismo Beach) to 227/ Broad St, turn left, go to next signal which is Los Ranchos Rd and turn Left.

Once on Los Ranchos Rd, follow it past the school on the left and the gated community on the right to Country Club Drive (a divided street). Turn Right. Go up the hill, past the club house and turn left

on Lewis Lane (which is even with the tennis courts). Follow Lewis Lane past the houses and out into the fields to 7050 Lewis, which is on the right side almost at the end of the road. There is a post with 7050 on it. Turn in the driveway and go up the hill to the house where there is parking in front and on the lower level.

In case of any problems Hilding's phone number is 805-543-1133.

EXTRA 2011 WEST

X2011

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SACRAMENTO, CA

The Unconventional Convention!

The current registration fee for the 2011 NMRA Convention in Sacramento is a very reasonable \$139.

Register now! Go to www.x2011west.org


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