



The Daylight Observation

Contents

Fall Meet - October	1, 4
Dave's Dispatch	2, 10-11
New Contest Chairman	2
Member Aid	3, 5
Upcoming Events	3
Industry Liaison	4
Achievement Awards	5
Contest Categories	5
Last Meeting	6-7
Membership Report	8-9
Layout Design	9
Building Models	11
Model Railroad Month	11
Fall Meet Directions	12

Fall Meet is October 8, 2011

DAYLIGHT DIVISION FALL MEET AND THE CENTRAL COAST RAILROAD FESTIVAL

By Paul Deis

The Daylight Division's fall meet will be held at the Historic Southern Pacific Depot in Oceano at 1650 Front Street, Oceano, California on October 8th. See [www.oceanodepot.org]



This meet will be in conjunction with the Central Coast Railroad Festival. This is a meet where you should plan on spending the weekend. Read on and you will see why.

Daylight Call Board

Director

John Houlihan
2682 W. Palo Alto
Fresno, CA 93711
559.435.0874
john@irishtracklayer.com

Superintendent

Dave Grenier
1768 Celeste Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611
559.297.1345
grenida@pacbell.net

Chief Clerk/Paymaster

Suzanne Paff
12164 Loren Way
Madera, CA 93636
559.645.5145
suzannepaff@comcast.net

Member Aid

Bob Pethoud
460 W. Vartikian
Fresno, CA 93704
pethoud@comcast.net

Membership

Doug Wagner
14008 Tierra Blanca Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93312
661.589.0391
carldw@aol.com



Garden Railroads using Bragdon Weathering Powders, Acrylic Paints, and Colored Markers. Paul will supply a selection of freight cars from his railroad for you to weather or you may bring a car from your collection (You can't take Paul's cars home with you).

Terry Taylor will present a clinic on Santa Fe operations in the Central Valley. This may have a little twist from the normal operations presentations. You will have to wait and see what Terry is planning.

We have a full day planned. In addition to the Clinics, Contests, Layout tours and Business Meeting we will have usual white elephant auction (please bring your no longer wanted items wrapped in newspaper)

We have 2 clinics planned:

Paul Deis will be offering a HANDS ON weathering clinic, sponsored by Bragdon Enterprises. Paul will discuss techniques he uses to weather equipment on his HO and 1:20.3

Continued on Page 4

Industry Liaison
Vacant

Contests

Steve Biggs
27750 Cumberland Rd
Tehachapi, CA 93561-9646
(661) 821-7330
sbigg@sbcglobal.net

Layout Tours Chairman

Gary Saxton
24 Birch Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611
559.235.8140
gbs46@sbcglobal.net

Achievement

Dave Grenier
1768 Celeste Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611
559.297.1345
grenida@pacbell.net

Clinics

Doug Wagner
204008 Tierra Blanca Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93312
1.661.589.0391
carldw@aol.com

Parliamentarian

Brewster Bird
1122 W. Princeton
Visalia, CA 93277
559.732.6096
mec569@aol.com

Observation Editor

George Pisching
3564 W. Fedora Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722
559.275.0199
gmpisching@netzero.com

Be sure to regularly visit
the Daylight Division Web
Site at www.pcrnmra.org/daylight

New Contests Chair Named

A call was made at the August 20th Daylight Division meet for someone to take on the Contests Chairman position. Steve Biggs of Tehachapi accepted the call and has been named as the new Daylight Division Contests Chairman, a position previously held by Bill Scott for more than 15 years. Thank you, Bill for your long service to the Division and congratulations, Steve.

From the Superintendent's Desk

DAVE'S DISPATCH

By Dave Grenier



Now that we have hopefully caught our collective breaths and recovered from the wonderful Extra 2011 West NMRA Annual Convention and National Train Show in Sacramento in July, also known as X2011, we can get things back to normal. Thanks to Ray deBlieck and his dedicated committee of volunteers for a job well done. I had a great time, as did the nearly 2000 others in attendance! (*Disclaimer: I was on the committee as the X2011 Webmaster, so I may be a bit biased. dg*)

Although the convention was two months ago, work still continues on the X2011 website (www.x2011west.org) to add new content. There are more than a dozen photos by John Sing of what went on during the convention, so you can reminisce or see some of what you missed. In addition, more than fifty clinic presentations and handouts have been added to the website, with still more to come. These have proven to be very popular, as the website received an average of 381 visits per day during August. Anyone can access these materials, whether you attended X2011 or not. Check it out! Click on the "Clinics" tab, then the "Clinic Handouts" link, or go to: www.x2011west.org/handouts.html

The Daylight Division held its Summer Meet August 20 at the Fig Garden Regional Library in Fresno. The meet started at 9:30 AM with sign-ins outside the building due to the library's restrictions about collecting money inside the building. Refreshments and socializing started off the day. Due to a later-than-usual start because of yours truly oversleeping (dang alarm clock!), the more than 25 meet attendees had more time to get better acquainted with several new Daylight Division members attending their first meet.

After a brief welcome, humble apology and acknowledgment of the new members and visitors, we went right into the clinics. The first, "Railroad Photography" was presented by Pat LaTorres, PCR President, accompanied by his wife, Ronnie, asking questions from the audience. Following a short break to set-up for it, the second clinic, "Achievement Program Demystified", was presented by me, wearing my Daylight AP Chairman hat.

Immediately upon the conclusion of the second clinic and everyone doing an about face with their chairs, the Summer Business Meeting was called to order. It was announced that Andrew Merriam of San Luis Obispo had won 1st place in the X2011 Judged Model Contest Scratchbuilt Freight Car category with his Pacific Coast Railway Wood Gondola #1169 and 2nd place in the Scratchbuilt Structures category with his Pacific Coast Railway Bridge, entitling both models to AP Merit Awards, receiving 104 and 105 points, respectively. His PCR Bridge also won the Mt. Albert Scale Lumber Co.'s "Best Use of Scale Lumber" special award. Photos of both models can be found in the September 2011 issue of NMRA Magazine. Watch for his upcoming article in RMC Magazine on the bridge. Congratulations, Andrew!

Continued on Page 10

Member Aid

THE ANSWERS ARE OUT THERE: A MODULAR INVITATION

by Bob Pethoud

I have an uncanny knack for creating things with very limited appeal. My latest invention—a module for loners. It's brilliant. For all of the antisocial modelers out there who don't want to follow the dictates of a majority of club members, but who still want to display their work at conventions of their own choosing, I propose a module . . . which doesn't connect to anyone else's.



My prototype module was unveiled at the 2011 National Train Show in Sacramento to thunderous acclaim (Well, dozens of people were appreciative). Not your typical 2-foot by 4- or 6-foot module, the HO scale Fall Creek Branch, as I call it, is 12 feet long and just 15 inches wide, with an 18-inch tall backdrop and no legs. It comes apart into three pieces for easy transport in a large car or small SUV and one person can easily assemble it in less than an hour. For display and operation it rests on two or three of the folding tables which are ubiquitous at all train show venues. Since I didn't sell anything, I didn't even have to pay for the use of the tables at the NTS.



Q: How do you run trains on a modular railroad which consists of only one module?

A: Easy . . . back and forth. Fall Creek represents the terminus of a branch line and sports a runaround track and four spurs, each with multiple industries and car spotting locations. The action begins when the peddler arrives (I know, it never really left—that's what imagination is for), consisting of a road switcher, five freight cars, and a caboose. Following the instructions on the switch list, the peddler's crew makes the needed set outs and pick ups and properly spots any cars that were off spot. Before leaving town, the train is made up and the locomotive runs around the caboose for the return trip. The next train (same loco and caboose, of course) enters the stage traveling in the opposite direction

Continued on Page 5

Upcoming Events

Go to the Daylight web site [www.pcrnmra.org/daylight] for more information and more events.

October 1 & 2, 2011 - 10am to 4pm, Open House, Los Angeles Model Railroad Society, 14005 South Crenshaw Blvd, Hawthorne, CA. Admission FREE.

October 1 & 2, 2011 - 10am to 4pm, The Great Train Expo, Craneway Pavilion, Marina District, Richmond, CA Adults: \$7.00, Kids under 12: Free!

October 6–10, 2011 - 3rd Annual Central Coast Railroad Festival. A variety of FREE events and activities held at numerous railroad, historical and educational locations throughout San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties.

October 8, 2011 - 9am to 6pm, Daylight Division Meet, SP Oceano Depot, 1650 Front Street, Oceano, CA. Held in conjunction with Central Coast Railroad Festival.

October 8, 2011 - Sierra Division Meet. Location: Check their website.

October 14–16, 2011 - 3rd Annual Redwood Empire Train Show, Sonoma County Fairgrounds (Hall of Flowers Bldg), Santa Rosa, CA.

October 15, 2011 - Roundhouse Gang Model RR Club Swap Meet - 7:30–11:00 am. Janet Goeske Senior Center, corner of Streeter & Sierra St, 5257 Sierra St, Riverside, CA. \$3 donation.

October 22, 2011 - 7am to 4pm, Swap Meet and Open House, Santa Susana RR Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. Admission \$2.00 for adults.

October 28, 2011 - 8am to 10pm, Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

October 29 & 30, 2011 - 10am to 5pm, Annual Fall Show, Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA.

Some of the events scheduled so far are:

An Open House and Tour of the Central Valley Model Works [www.cvmw.com] including the Famous Northern Pacific Railroad built by the late Jack Parker.

Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum [www.smvrh.org]

San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum [www.slorm.com]

The Pacific Coast Railroad walk and displays in Avila Beach

Bitter Creek Western Railroad Train Fest. A fundraiser for the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. [www.BCWRR.org]

Some of the Layouts that will be open for display over the weekend are:

Paul Deis; Andrew Merriam;
Darrel Nash; Dennis Pearson;
Wayne Asbury; Elden Paling.

Open layouts are located in Atascadero, Arroyo Grande, Oceano, San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria.

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

Volume 25, Issue 1 1st Qtr, 2011

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.

Copyright, 2011, Daylight Division, Pacific Coast Region, National Model Railroad Association. Permission to reprint is hereby granted to all other affiliates of the NMRA. Others may request permission to reprint from the Editor:

George Pisching
3564 W. Fedora Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722
559.275.0199
gmpisching@netzero.com

Coast Festival Continued

Registration cost is just \$4 if you are a NMRA member and \$5 if you are not as we are open to all comers. This fee pays for the soft drinks, donuts, water, etc. with any surplus or deficit going to the Division.

There will be tables set out for both railroad related display items (please bring whatever items (prototype, model or photograph) that you are especially proud of), contest entries (model & photographs) as well as items brought for the auction. Registration will start at 9 am. The planed schedule is:

0900-1000 Registration of individuals, contest entries & auction items (donuts and drinks available).

1000-1015 Welcome by Dave Grenier & Paul Deis

1015-1115 Clinic #1 – Weathering Freight Equipment

1115 1130 Break

1130 -1230 Clinic #2 – Santa Fe in the Central Valley

1230 -1330 Lunch Break

1330-1445 Business Meeting - Dave Grenier, Raffle Drawing and Auction of White Elephants by Paul Deis

1445 We will move to the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum for their Open House.

Information on Layout tours and other Central Coast Railroad Festival events will be available at the meet and on various websites.

The Central Coast Railroad Festival <http://ccrrf.com> is being held from Thursday evening until Monday afternoon with activities from Paso Robles to Santa Maria.

Directions to the meet with maps are on page 12 and on the Daylight web site. www.pcrnmra.org/daylight

As you can see, there is plenty to do (see left column) and time to make new friends as well as get into ‘mischief’ with old friends; so drop by, come on over, spend the weekend and plan to have a good time.

Industry Liaison Position Still Vacant!

The call for a volunteer for the Industry Liaison position was repeated at the August 20th meet, with no takers - again. Guys, if you want more and better door prizes, someone needs to step up and take this on. The Daylight Division is run entirely by volunteers. Without volunteers, nothing happens. We need YOUR help!

The Industry Liaison is responsible for contacting hobby shops, vendors, and manufacturers to donate door prizes for the quarterly Daylight Division meets. They also prepare the donor report for the Daylight Observation. Jay Smith, the former Liaison, has all the necessary contact information, letters, etc. The hard work has been done for you. It's just a matter of someone coming forward and continuing what Jay started.

Contact Dave Grenier, grenida@pacbell.net.

Modular Invitation Continued

and its crew executes the instructions on a new switch list. At the NTS I used a sequence of twelve switch lists, with each one leading into the next, and with number 12 setting up number 1 again, so the crew's work is never done.

Q: If the railroad is designed to be self-contained, why even call it a *module*?

A: Because if you, the reader, were to build one to the same specifications and you happened to attend the same convention that I did, we *could*, if we wished, use a couple of C-clamps to join them together and operate the resulting lengthy pike as a large switching district. And neither of us need ever attend a club's business meeting.

There is a potential downside to this single-module operation which had me concerned before the show. Because I had no continuous loop of track, I could not set a train to run round and round more or less unattended. As long as something was moving, the engineer (usually me) had to pay attention. The only help I got was from my wife (Thank you, Sylvia. And yes, women enjoy running trains prototypically, too.) and a few occasions when I let a train show attendee work as a guest engineer. With the train show open for a total of 24 hours over 3 days, I was afraid I would get burned out on switching puzzles before dinner on the first day. As it turned out, no way! I had a fantastic time running the trains and was sorry to have to stop on Sunday afternoon. I would have been glad to go hours or days longer.

Fall Creek at the NTS proved the concept of the stand-alone module to be a resounding success. Offering scenery (currently 1/3 complete), purposeful operation, audience participation, genuine portability, and complete independence from club schedules and rules; Fall Creek is submitted to you for consideration. You are invited to build your own version and join the fun. And no, we don't need no stinking continuous loops.

Until next time, you can reach me at pethoud@comcast.net

Achievement Awards August 2011

Congratulations to everyone that earned Achievement Program certificates in August 2011: Pictured here (left to right) are:

Chuck Harmon - Model Railroad Author

Ron Baker - Golden Spike Award

John Houlihan - Association Official (the report incorrectly showed him getting Association Volunteer)

Dave Grenier, AP Chairman.

You are one step closer to Master Model Railroader status. Good job to all!



Model & Photo Contest Categories

October 8, 2011 - Oceano

Models: Structures, Traction and Self-Propelled, Dioramas

Photos: Diesel Locomotives

February 2012 – Visalia / Exeter area

Models: Caboose, Freight Car, Maintenance of Way

Photos: Railroad Structures

May 2012 – Mariposa / Merced County area

Models: Favorite Model

Photos: Trains in the Seasons

August 2012 – Bakersfield / Tehachapi area

Models: Locomotives (Steam, Diesel & others), Passenger Cars

Photos: Steam Locomotives

August Meeting

SUMMER MEET HELD IN FRESNO

Photographs by George Pisching



*Suzie Paff
"outside"
at her post -
collecting
money of
course.*



Suzie and Dave Grenier at business meeting discussing Regional and Division National Award winners.



First time attending member, Martin Winter, won the highest bid item in the White Elephant Auction. It was a set of engraved railroad scene placques. They were worth every penny of his bid. Many others wished they had taken the chance on it. That's Dan Seames helping in the background.



Director John Houlihan gives his PCR Division Board Activity report.



Attendance was quite good especially because Dave personally invited our new members from the X2011 convention.

Dave Grenier giving his Achievement Program clinic. The information kept almost everyone's attention.



Bob Randall won the members \$25 raffle. A good reason to attend meetings.



Members models display. These are a sampling of scratch built back-ground or place holder buildings in HO Scale by George Pisching.



Pat LaTorres, PCR President honored us with a clinic on Railroad Photography. He covered equipment and image composition for award winning shots. Plus some definite do nots.



The famous Tehachapi Loop is part of Marlin Costello's Goshen and Goosechase Shortline. There is nothing short about his layout!



Here is a view of a town near the Feather River Bridge on the Goshen and Goosechase Shortline Railroad. It was built by Jeff Carter for the layout.



Marlin Costello, MMR, opened his large HO scale layout to our group to admire and even operate on. Thanks Marlin. I am sure our new members were impressed in its sheer scope of operation.



A view of the San Francisco station and a piece of San Fran on Marlin Costello's layout. The passenger tracks look really busy today.



An O&W freight runs in front of the palisades along the river front on Gary Saxton's N scale layout.



Thanks to Gary Saxton for opening his NYO&W seven layer wedding cake layout for our tour. But, I am sorry, we do have to work on that entrance. It seems to be getting smaller ... If you know what I mean.



Exhibited here are four of the seven layers of Gary Saxton's around the room spiralling layout.



Gary's NYO&W layout has many bridges as did the prototype.



A Southern Pacific AC-4 pulls a manifest of reefers to cross the high-line bridge on Chuck Harmon's SJCR during the post-meeting layout tour.



Chuck Harmon also opened his HO scale layout to our tour. He proudly displayed the significant amount of additions he has made to his San Joaquin Central Railroad. He has added a high level deck that comes in from the garage in the background of this photo.

Daylight Division Membership Gauge

March 1, 2011 — 156

April 1, 2011 — 153

May 1, 2011 — 151

June 1, 2011 — 149

July 1, 2001 — 153

August 1, 2011 — 154

September 1, 2011 — 168

Total Daylight Members: 170
(and that includes 4 out of state).

Membership by county:

Mariposa - 2

Madera - 7

Merced - 8

Tulare - 14

Santa Barbara - 27

Fresno - 29

San Luis Obispo - 37

Kern - 42

In Memoriam – 2011

Dale Chitwood; Pine Mountain
Club, CA. Joined 12/9/2005

Daylight Division

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Doug Wagner

OK, first off, I want to apologize for scheduling my annual trek to Disneyland—which I visit every first week of October – on the same date as the 3rd Annual Central Coast Railroad Festival. Ergo, you won't see my smiling face at the October 8th Daylight Division Meet. I'll be sure to do better planning for next year's Central Coast Railroad Festival—I'm sure my wife will understand! But I will say 'Hi' to Mickey and Minnie for all of you, while I'm there!

For this month's Membership Report, I have started to include a Daylight Division Membership Gauge, to show you how our membership stands for each month. As you can see, since March 1st, of this year, we have a membership increase of 12. I'm sure this increase had a lot to do with the X2011 NMRA National Convention, in Sacramento, in July, but heh, it's better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick ! That's be sure to say "Hi" to these folks, and welcome them to the Daylight Division, when you see them at a Daylight Division Meet.

And now for a word from our sponsors. If you have any changes in your membership to report, i.e., name, address, email, phone, etc. etc. please let the NMRA know by contacting them at NMRA Headquarters. You can do this in a couple of ways. You can email NMRA HQ at nmrahq@aol.com, or by phone at (423) 892-2846, between the hours of 6:00 AM – 1:30 PM, Pacific Time. Or you can send the change information via the U.S. Postal Service to the following: Administration Department Manager, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119. Or, if you don't want to contact them with any changes, you can send any changes to me by email at carldw@aol.com, or call me at (661) 589-0391. Either way, we do like to keep your information updated. Also, a very important way for us to communicate with our members is via email. I know, I know, not all of us have email addresses, but the electronic age is upon us, and we can get the information to you faster by email. So, please, if you have an email address, or an email address change, please notify either the NMRA or me, so that we can keep you posted on Daylight Division stuff in a timely manner. I would encourage all of you that have Internet capabilities, to join the Daylight Division's and Pacific Coast Region's Yahoo Groups List, where you can find the very latest information concerning both the Daylight Division and the Pacific Coast Region. You may join these groups by visiting the following web sites, and it won't cost you a cent:

1. Daylight Division's Yahoo Groups List
 - a. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/daylightdivision/>
2. Pacific Coast Region's Yahoo Groups List
 - a. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCR-nmra/>

Also, the Daylight Division, Pacific Coast Region and the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), have their own web sites, where past issues of the Daylight



**Green Steam
Products**

Innovative Products for Model Railroads

9615 Raymond Ave.
California City CA 93505
(760) 373-7007
info@greensteamproducts.com
www.greensteamproducts.com



**Mike Bruno
Theresa Bruno**

Division's *Observation* and Pacific Coast Region's *Branch Line* newsletters can be found, along with a calendar and other pertinent information. You can visit these web sites at the following locations:

1. Daylight Division's Web Site www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/
2. Pacific Coast Region's Web Site www.pcrnmra.org/
3. National Model Railroad Association www.nmra.org/

Well, that's it for this issue of the *Observation*. If anyone has any questions concerning their membership, you know how to reach me! Until next time, "May All Your Signals Be Green!"

Daylight Designs – Layouts

INTERESTED IN MODEL RAILROAD LAYOUT DESIGN?

by George Pisching

I am planning a series of articles for our *Observation* based on a "using your resources" concept. My best source is the **Layout Design Special Interest Group**, www.ldsig.org and their *Layout Design Journal*.

The Layout Design Special Interest Group's prime purpose is to:

- Help you design and create a layout design that achieves your model railroad layout goals with minimum space and cost
- Teach you how to avoid common model railroad layout design flaws
- Provide insight on how to best include prototypical and model design features that maximize operating and visual interest on your model railroad..

The LDSIG provides a Layout Design Primer which is a collection of articles intended to assist the beginning to intermediate railroad modeler become familiar with today's layout design concepts and practices.

The first Primer topic areas to be considered in future articles will be concerned with the *why* of building a model railroad layout.

The LDSIG Design Primer will be the resource for the Designs Section of the Daylight *Observation*. Readers are invited to submit comments, information and articles in this category to the *Observation* Editor.

Get the *Observation* On-Line

You can save your Division some postage and printing money by viewing or downloading the *Observation* from the Division Web Site. Email the Editor and ask to be notified by email when the *Observation* is posted to the Web Site. You will no longer receive a printed copy in the mail. This will save us printing and first class postage four times a year per member.

Please send your email notice to me at:


gmpisching@netzero.com

Be sure to put *Observation* in the subject box so it doesn't get mistaken for junk mail.

BE SEEN by the most active Model Railroaders in the area - from San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara to Madera, Fresno and Bakersfield.

Advertise in the *Observation*

To place your ad in the next 4 issues – send your business card sized ad and \$40 payment to the *Observation* Editor or contact the Editor for more information. See officers list for address.



Irish Tracklayer
O Gauge Track Products

John Houlihan

2682 W. Palo Alto Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711-1107
www.irishtracklayer.com

(559) 435-0874
Fax (559) 435-2874
e-mail john@irishtracklayer.com



Gifts • Collectibles • Souvenirs • Books
Model Trains Accessories & Etc.

Linda & Ed Gordon

114 W. Tehachapi Blvd.
Tehachapi, CA 93261
(Next to Kely's Restaurant)

Phone: 661-822-7777 Fax: 661-822-7077
E-Mail: lindastrains@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.trainsetc.biz

DAVE'S DISPATCH *CONTINUED*

The call for a volunteer for the Industry Liaison position was repeated, with no takers - again. Guys, if you want more and better prizes for the raffle, someone needs to step up and take this on. The Daylight Division is run entirely by volunteers. Without volunteers, nothing happens.

Similarly, the Model and Photo Contests have been non-existent for too many meets with no entries. I talked with Contest Chair Bill Scott the evening before the meet to see if he would be averse to me asking for someone else to fill the position. He was agreeable to it, as he had been in the position 15 years and could no longer attend meets due to his job. I made the announcement and after the meet, someone approached me and said he was interested and would let me know for sure later in the week.

Ta-da! I am pleased to announce that Steve Biggs of Tehachapi accepted the call and is the new Daylight Division Contests Chairman. He already has things underway to revive the contests. Awards will once again start being presented. Welcome aboard, Steve!

The Achievement Program is alive and well in the Daylight Division! Several members earned AP awards since the May meet. Chuck Harmon (Fresno) earned a Model Railroad Author certificate and John Houlihan (Fresno) earned an Association Official certificate. Ron Baker (Clovis) was presented with his Golden Spike Award, earned earlier in the year. Also earning Golden Spike Awards, but not present at the meet, were John Drazin (Bakersfield), Bob Pethoud (Fresno), and Terry Taylor (San Luis Obispo). Congratulations to all!

Because John Houlihan will term out at the end of his current term as Daylight Director in May 2012, nominations for Director were opened, with Suzie Paff and Dave Grenier being nominated. Additional nominations will be accepted at the meet in Oceano and through November 26, 2011. Nominees must consent to being nominated. I need to submit a report of the candidates to the PCR Ballot Committee and PCR Secretary by December 1, 2011. Candidates' statements must accompany the report.

After the business meeting, we had the \$25 door prize drawing and raffle of several patches and shirts donated by Suzie Paff, followed by the World Famous White Elephant Auction. (Well, it's famous to us in the Daylight Division!) There were some good buys, as well as some not-so-good buys, but all were accompanied by lots of laughs. A good time was had by all. Thanks to everyone that brought in their plain-wrapped goodies. We can't have the Auction without them.

With all Division business and the White Elephant Auction concluded, a list and map of restaurants and layout descriptions with driving directions were distributed for three self-guided layout tours open from 2 to 6 pm. Open were Chuck Harmon's HO-scale San Joaquin Central, Marlin Costello's HO-scale Goshen and Goosechase Shortline RR, and Gary Saxton's N-scale New York Ontario & Western. John Houlihan was also scheduled to be open, but he cancelled the day before due to his pain and suffering from oral surgery that morning.

Despite a late start, we had another great Daylight Division meet.

Attendance was up from previous Fresno meets, swelled by several new NMRA members and visitors. Thanks to everyone that participated, especially to President LaTorres for presenting his clinic and to our layout tour hosts, Chuck Harmon, Marlin Costello, and Gary Saxton, for opening their homes to us.

The next Daylight Division meet will be October 8, 2011, starting at 9:00 AM (note earlier month and time), held in conjunction with the Central Coast Railroad Festival. The San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA) will be our hosts for the meet in the restored Southern Pacific Oceano Depot, 1650 Front Street in Oceano, and home of the Oceano Depot Museum. The meet is being held a month earlier than usual to coincide with the Central Coast Railroad Festival (CCRF).

We'll have two clinics. The first is a hands-on clinic presented by Paul Deis on weathering freight cars and sponsored by Bragdon Enterprises. Attendees are invited to bring their own freight cars to weather during the clinic or use a car provided by Paul. No, you can't take Paul's cars home! The second clinic will be a presentation by Terry Taylor on Santa Fe operations in the Central Valley, with a little twist from normal presentations. You'll have to wait and see what Terry is planning.

There will also be tours of the Oceano Depot and SLOMRA's display layout. The Model Railroads of Southern California group will have numerous layouts open for layout tours on Saturday and during the 5-day Central Coast Railroad Festival. Andrew Merriam's SP Coast Line HO layout will be open Sunday, 2-6 pm. See the Daylight Division website

Continued next page.

BUILDING MODELS



This article content and references are borrowed from the Sierra Division Short Line newsletter with permission.

You are reading along in your favorite railroading magazine and run across a picture of an old-time wooden car that really catches your eye. You decide that you just have to have one because it will look ideal sitting on that empty siding or behind that mixed freight. Now that you've decided on the goal, where do you get one?

The first and easiest solution is your local hobby shop, except you find after arrival that: (a) they don't have one; (b) there is no kit in production or never has been; or (c) there's a brass model that your loan officer will never approve. What are your options? You can hunt for an elusive and scarce kit if there is one, break down and take out a loan, or give up and move on. Or you can scratch build it yourself! This is not as hard as it might seem. Scratch building can really be a lot of fun, fuel your creativity, and provide a means to start achieving some of those merit awards in car building and structures. ...

Go to <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra/October-2011-digital.pdf> to view the entire article or contact SHORT LINE Editor, Gary Ray, gerber1926@gmail.com

The fabulous article referenced above is:

Scratchbuilding Wooden Freight Cars 101: A Generic Truss Rod Flat Car by Martin Brechbeil (Model Photos by Barb Keller)

Original article from **THE LOCAL/MID-EASTERN REGION/NMRA** March/April 2004 Reprinted with permission

Instructions for 0 Scale but can be modified for any scale

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD MONTH ACTIVITIES

What are you doing for the hobby?

The *Daylight Division* has been asked by the Fresno Public Library to present a public show and tell about the model railroading hobby at various library branches in the Fresno area during the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will tie in with the Polar Express sentimentality and provide a slide show and modular layout set ups on the selected dates at the different libraries.

Contact Dave Grenier, grenida@pacbell.net, if you are interested in lending a hand with this great and beneficial way to promote our hobby. We will need everyone in the area to help out even if for an hour.

DAVE'S DISPATCH

(www.pcrnmra.org/daylight) for more details on layout tours not available at the time this was being written

The smart money is on bringing the whole family and coming a day or two before the meet and staying a day afterwards to take advantage of the varied activities planned for this year's Festival. Come early and enjoy the broad spectrum of events, many of which are free. Celebrate the history and future of railroading along the Central Coast with rides on Amtrak's Coast Starlight up the historic Cuesta Grade and Amtrak California Pacific Surfliner along the Central Coast, as well as live steam train rides and historic trolley rides. Model railroads of all scales will be on display all over the region. Recreational events include music concerts, films, and hands-on crafts for the youngsters, and more. Historic Hearst Castle in San Simeon is also nearby. For more information and a schedule of events, visit the Festival's website, www.ccrf.org

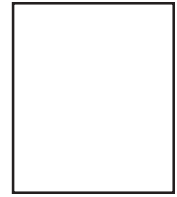
See you at Oceano in October!
Dave Grenier, Superintendent



What are you doing for your hobby?



The Daylight Observation
3564 W. Fedora Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722



Label

Fall Meet is October 8, 2011

DAYLIGHT DIVISION FALL MEET AND THE CENTRAL COAST RAILROAD FESTIVAL

The Daylight Division's fall meet will be held at the Historic Southern Pacific Depot in Oceano [www.oceanodepot.org], 1650 Front Street, Oceano California on October 8th.

This meet will be in conjunction with the Central Coast Railroad Festival. This is a meet where you should plan on spending the weekend.

We have a full day planned. In addition to the Clinics, Contests, Layout tours and Business Meeting we will have usual white elephant auction (please bring your no longer wanted items wrapped in newspaper).

Directions

If you are coming from the North on HWY 101 from San Luis Obispo take the Hwy 1/Pismo Beach exit. Stay on Hwy 1 south thru Pismo Beach 3.5 miles. After you cross the UP tracks on a bridge the depot will be on your right.

If you are coming from the South, Take 101 N to exit #182/Los Berros Rd/Thompson Rd go 0.3 miles, Turn Left on Los Berros Rd, go 4.7 miles, Turn Left on Valley Rd, go 0.4 miles, Turn Right on Cienaga St (Hwy 1) go 2.1 miles and the depot will be on your left.

