



The Daylight Observation

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Daylight Director's Message: The Future of the Hobby

By Walter Mizuno, Daylight Division Director

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During my tenure as the Director of the Daylight Division, I've had the pleasure of reaching out and meeting model railroaders from our region. Many of you are aware of the debate as to whether or not the hobby is dying.

From my recent observations, I'd say that the hobby is doing pretty well.

A couple of clubs in our division invited Scale Trains to host a gathering as part of their Road Trip promotion of the company and brand. Both the Fresno Model Railroad Club and the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society hosted Scale Trains in Selma and Bakersfield on August 4th and 5th respectively. I was fortunate to be able to participate at the evening meeting in Selma. The Fresno Model

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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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Railroad Club graciously provided a hamburger cookout with all the fixings. The weather cooperated as well, making the outdoor event very enjoyable.

My understanding was that there were over eighty attendees in Selma that evening. Many of them I had never met before. As part of the evening's activities, the Fresno Model Railroad Club had an open house of the club's layouts.



Model railroaders discussing the finer points of layout design.



It was great to see a father sharing the hobby with his young son.



Here is my takeaway from the evening's festivities:

- 1) There's plenty of people that are interested in model railroading, young and old.
- 2) Offer an enjoyable event and you'll generate interest.
- 3) Many Daylight members had the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with friends they hadn't seen for a while.
- 4) It was fun to meet other modelers and share our passion for trains.

So, do I think that this hobby is in decline? My answer is no, but we need to share our passion with others and help others get more enjoyment from the hobby. We've been fortunate to be able to add new members to our division, but I'd like to continue adding new members to our roster. If you have a friend who has an interest in model railroading, invite your friend to the next division activity. If you have an opportunity to show off your layout or models to your friends, do so. Share your hobby. It may get them interested. Remember, November is National Model Railroad month.

As a side note, Shane Wilson and his wife Michelle, of Scale Trains, were enjoyable to talk to, but their dog Bear stole the show.



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Master Builder – Cars Certificate

By Dave Grenier



In this article, we will review the requirements for the Master Builder – Structures certificate. When you think of “structures”, don’t just think of buildings and bridges. The NMRA definition of structures is anything man-made that is not motive power or rail cars. Structures include all kinds of houses, garages, stores, factories, stations, bridges, signals, signal towers, docks, power line towers, cranes, ships, and so forth.

To qualify for this certificate, you must build twelve (12) scale structures with at least six (6) different types of structures represented. The modeler must demonstrate the ability to construct a variety of structures, not just variations of the same type. For example, a brick depot and a wood frame depot would qualify as different types of structures, as would a depot and a water tank, even if both were built from wood.

One of the six types of structures must be a bridge or trestle. Don’t panic and start thinking of long elaborate curved wooden trestles. Remember there are many different types of bridges out there. Bridges include rail, automobile, and pedestrian bridges. A simple automobile bridge over a creek would be sufficient. The idea is to demonstrate that you know how to build a bridge that looks like it can support the intended load. There is no requirement that the bridge must be installed on your layout; you can build it as a separate model. Sorry, but a well-detailed 2x12 plank across a gully won’t qualify!

At least six (6) of the structures must be scratch built, which means that at least 90% of the model’s pieces were sized and constructed by the modeler. The only commercial parts allowed are light bulbs, electronics, paint, decals, figures, and basic wood, metal, or plastic shapes.

Note that you can use commercial scribed wood or styrene and still meet the scratch-built requirement.

If the thought of “scratch building” intimidates you, remember there is little difference between scratch building and assembling most craftsman kits that have provided you with the plans and materials. If you take these same plans to the hobby shop, buy the materials yourself, cut and assemble them, that qualifies as scratch building. If you draw your own plans, that’s even better. Be sure to mention that in the model’s description so you can earn extra points for it.

The remaining six structures, if not scratch built, must be super-detailed with scratch built or commercial parts. To be considered “super-detailed”, the model must have considerably more detail of excellent quality than is usually expected. There are all sorts of ways to super detail buildings. Look closely at photos of prototypical buildings and notice the details such as electrical fixtures, gutters, downspouts, signs, ladders, roof details, and so on. For buildings, include an interior with furniture, wall coverings, drapes, etc. Also provide a way to see it with a removable roof and/or interior lighting. A battery and a push-button switch provide a simple way to power it. Document any scratch-built parts you made to increase your score.

The models can be any scale. Here’s a perfect opportunity to try a scale different than your usual scale. After all, the Achievement Program is about learning more about the hobby. What better way to learn something new than to try a different scale? Who knows? You might just be pleasantly surprised by the experience. Give it a try!

Finally, you must earn 87½ or more Merit Award points on six of the twelve models. Note that the other six models don’t even have to be judged! The six models are judged on the quality of the craftsmanship, including the finish and lettering, the quantity of details and number of scratch-built parts, and how well it captures the look of the prototype.

AP Merit Award judging can be done in one of two ways: 1) during an NMRA-sponsored contest at a convention or division meet; 2) arrange for judging at another time separate from a convention or meet. You can bring your work to where the judges are, or they will even come to you! When you’re ready to have your models merit judged, contact the Daylight Division AP Chairman (me!) to arrange a time and place. You can e-mail me at grenida@pacbell.net or call me at (408) 431-8989.

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For more information, see the NMRA [Achievement Program Structures category](#) webpage. Also refer to the online articles "[Master Builder - Structures](#)", and "[The Building Inspector](#)", both from the NMRA Bulletin, August 1991.

Forms available for this category:

- 2019 SOQ Form: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
- 2019 Evaluation Form: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)

Once you have completed all the requirements, prepare a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) form and an attachment giving detailed descriptions of each of the twelve models. The detailed descriptions for all models should identify all scratch-built features, all commercial parts used, all materials used in building it, operational features, kit manufacturer (if applicable), and copies of at least six Merit Awards (or the signed Judging Forms). Photos of the models are helpful, but not required.

Submit the completed SOQ, attachments, and **a photocopy of your NMRA membership card** to the Daylight Division AP Chairman and you are on your way toward another certificate! Contact me for the mailing address. If you have any questions about the AP requirements or completing the paperwork, don't hesitate to contact me at grenida@pacbell.net.

Next installment: Master Builder – Scenery



Daylight Membership by County	
<u>County</u>	<u># Members</u>
Kern	22
San Luis Obispo	21
Fresno	15
Santa Barbara	15
Tulare	6
Merced	4
Mariposa	2
Madera	1
Total Members	86

Daylight Division Membership Gauge	
August 31, 2013	138
August 31, 2022	85
September 30, 2022	84
October 31, 2022	83
November 30, 2022	82
December 31, 2022	82
January 31, 2023	83
February 28, 2023	83
March 30, 2023	93
April 30, 2023	91
May 31, 2023	91
June 30, 2023	89
July 31, 2023	87
August 31, 2023	86

Daylight Division Report

by Doug Wagner,
PCR Membership Manager



The Daylight Division held its Summer Meet, in Goleta, on July 29th, at the Goleta Depot. Heh, we valley guys love traveling to the Santa Barbara area to escape the San Joaquin Valley's brutal summer heat! Bruce Morden organized the event and, again, did an excellent job and we thank him for it! It takes a lot of effort and time to organize these meets. The Daylight Division would also like to thank Bob Chaparro and Neil Fernbaugh for presenting two outstanding clinics! The meeting was attended by 13 NMRA members and 11 visitors.



*Goleta Depot
was the setting
for the Daylight
Division's
summer 2023
meet*

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Neil Fernbaugh presenting his hands-on clinic on the subject of weathering freight cars using a variety of methods

Photo by Milton SansSoucie



Bob Chaparro's clinic gave the many attendees a large number of useful tips for tuning up freight cars

Photo by Doug Wagner

John Ryan shows off the cab and short hood portion of a GP35 locomotive he built out of wood for use on the 7.5" gauge track at the depot

Photo by Milton SansSoucie



After the clinics, the gang was able to tour layouts in the area: Dana Driskel's N scale LA&SL, Christine Horn's Märklin pike, Don Newman's HO SP Pomona Division, Gary Siegel's indoor HO L&N Eastern Kentucky Division and outdoor #1 gauge SP Santa Cruz Division, Bruce Morden's HO SP Santa Barbara Subdivision, George Gibson's HO and HOn3 DK & Pacific Mountain, as well as the indoor HO and outdoor 7.5" gauge railroad at the Goleta Depot.



Gary Siegel's HO Louisville & Nashville is always impressive

Don Newman's HO SP Pomona Division has many beautiful structures





Bruce Morden's multi-level layout has a track plan designed for realistic operation

The next Daylight Division get together will be held during the Central Coast Railroad Festival, which occurs October 6-8, 2023. But we all know that you'd rather be enjoying the layouts instead of some dumb meeting, so the meeting will actually be a luncheon meet-n-greet, to take a break for lunch, while traveling around touring the local layouts. The no-host luncheon will be at the **A-Town Diner, 7305 El Camino Real, in Atascadero, on Saturday, October 7th**, starting at 11:30 AM, which is just down the road from Central Coast Trains. That makes it very convenient for the winner of the \$100 Central Coast Trains Gift Certificate, to go visit Anita, at Central Coast Trains, and use the gift certificate (**Disclaimer: You MUST be an NMRA member to be able to win the Gift Certificate**). The gift certificate drawing will be the ONLY meet event thing we do at the luncheon! Be sure to keep up with the latest news in and around the Daylight Division by visiting the Daylight Division's web site at:

<http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/index.html>



Daylight Division's Newest Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>City/Sate</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Henry Hauge	Solvang, CA	7/26/2023

Welcome aboard!

Dear Daylight members:

The Central Coast Railroad Festival (<https://ccrrf.com/>) will be held from October 6 through the 8th. There are about 30 layouts at 20 locations to visit. Here's the schedule for the Festival <https://ccrrf.com./schedule-2023.html>.

Please plan to join the rest of the Daylight members in Atascadero on Saturday, October 7th. We are planning to meet at the A-Town Diner in Atascadero and share a no-host lunch and enjoy the fellowship of other Daylight members. At the conclusion of the lunch, we will hold a raffle for a \$100 gift certificate to Central Coast Trains. Sorry, only NMRA members qualify for the drawing, but any number of guests can join us for lunch.

Hope to see you there.

Walter Mizuno

Director, Daylight Division

COME JOIN THE FUN AND CAMARADERIE.
SHARE A DAY WITH FELLOW MODEL RAILROADERS.



Daylight Division's no-host lunch: 11 am Saturday, October 7th

**A-Town Diner
7305 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA 93422**

We'll be raffling off a \$100 gift certificate to Central Coast Trains at the conclusion of lunch. Note, that only current NMRA members are eligible.

Before or after the meeting plan to attend the Central Coast Railroad Festival



<https://ccrrf.com/>



More Goleta Photos

Top 3 photos are by
Bruce Morden



Bottom 3 photos are by
Milton SansSoucie



SP Historical and Technical Society Convention

Wednesday, Oct 25 – Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023

3100 Camino Del Rio Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93308, USA ([map](#))

Description <https://sphts.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-Convention-flyer-FINAL.pdf>

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

Railroad Prototype Meet

Sat, October 28, 8:30am – 1:00pm

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bakersfield, 3100 Camino Del Rio Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93308, USA ([map](#))

Description This is part of the SPHTS Convention. Details are at

<https://sphts.org/convention/>

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

Modular Layout Weekend at CSRM

Sat, November 4 – Sun, November 5 10am – 5pm

California State Railroad Museum, 125 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814 ([map](#))

Description NMRA Sponsored Modular Layout Weekend at the California State Railroad Museum. Museum is open to the public 10 am to 5 pm both days.

Museum admission: Adults - \$12 Youths (ages 6-17) - \$6 Children under 5 - Free

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

International Railfair

Sat, November 11, 10am – 5pm, and Sun, November 12, 10am – 4pm

Cal Expo Building C 1600 Exposition Blvd Sacramento, CA ([map](#))

Description Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm,

[International Railfair](#) Model Railroad Show. The International Railfair show is run by members of the [Sacramento Modular Railroaders](#), the [Sacramento chapter of the European Train Enthusiasts](#), [Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Association](#), and the [Sierra Division](#) of the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA.

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

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Northern Nevada Model Railroad Tour

Nov 17 – 19, 2023

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

RED Meeting

Sat, November 18, 11am – 3pm
Monroe Hall, 1400 W College Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401, USA
([map](#))

Description <https://www.nmra-red.org/>
[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

Northern Nevada Model Railroad Tour

Nov 17 – 19, 2023

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

Sierra Division meeting

Sat, December 2, 10:30am – 4:00pm

Stockton, CA, USA ([map](#))
[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

Sierra Division Zoom meeting

Sat, December 9, 10:30am – 12:00pm

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



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