



The Daylight Observation

Official Publication of the
Daylight Division, PCR / NMRA
Volume 39, Issue 4
October-November-December 2025

Daylight Director's Message:

By Walter Mizuno, Daylight Division Director

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One of Daylight Division's most active members, Dave Theis, has penned a guest message aimed at our membership. His message resonated with me, and I hope that it inspires you to get involved.

--Walter

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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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Guest Message: Growing the Daylight Division

By Dave Theis



While it's no secret that many of our senior members are getting older and our numbers have declined, I believe our hobby remains vibrant and active. The rumors of model railroading's demise are greatly exaggerated. What is true—and where we must focus—is that we need to attract new people to the hobby and recruit new members so that the NMRA and our Division continue to thrive well into the future.

To keep the Daylight Division strong, two things must happen: (1) the Division must create purposeful opportunities to attract new members, and (2) each of us must personally invite and encourage others to join.

Our division has been working hard on the first part. In the past, we've staffed booths at train shows to share information about the NMRA and the Daylight Division. While this exposure is valuable, we recognized that very few attendees signed up for the discounted membership, and there was very little conversion to full members. So we decided to try something different: hosting Division-sponsored events and clinics designed to introduce people directly to the fun and fellowship of the hobby.

One such event was held last January in Woodlake, CA, where participants learned soldering techniques and how to build model trees from scratch. The clinic drew over 12 non-members, one of whom has since joined the NMRA, with others considering membership. This success showed us the power of hands-on, welcoming events.

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Building on that momentum, the Daylight Division has scheduled another event for November 8th. This clinic will offer hands-on training in layout-building basics—from planning to laying track and installing turnouts. The day will include lunch and a presentation on how to become a member. With more events like this planned for the future, we aim to create real opportunities for recruitment.

Now comes the second part of the process—your role as members. Recruitment is most effective when someone is invited by a friend. Most people won't attend an event where they don't know anyone. However, if you extend the invitation and come along with them, their experience is far more likely to be positive and lasting.

So here's our request: invite at least one person to the November 8th clinic and join them at the event. Your involvement can make all the difference—not just for the guest, but for the health of our division. Yes, it may take a little effort, but the reward is a stronger community and the joy of sharing our hobby with new friends.

We've done our part by planning the event. Now we need you to do yours—extend the invitation and show up. Together, we can keep the Daylight Division strong, grow our membership, and share the fun of model railroading. See the flyer on page 9. I look forward to seeing you there!



Daylight Division Membership Gauge

August 31, 2015	130
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
June 30, 2025	84
July 31, 2025	85
August 31, 2025	87

Daylight Membership by County

<u>County</u>	<u># Members</u>
San Luis Obispo County	23
Fresno County	18
Santa Barbara County	17
Kern County	13
Tulare County	9
Merced County	4
Madera County	2
<u>Mariposa County</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Members	87

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Model Railroad Author Certificate

By Dave Grenier



In this installment we'll discuss the requirements for the Model Railroad Author certificate, which could also be known as Model Railroad Media Specialist. To qualify for this certificate, you must:

1. Prepare and submit material on any of the following subjects:
 - Model Railroading
 - Prototype Railroading, Applicable to Modeling
 - NMRA Administration (e.g. Officers or Committee Reports)
2. Submit a Statement of Qualifications form (SOQ).

The material being presented for consideration must be the work of the author, photographer, draftsman, artist, etc., applying for the certificate. A total of forty-two (42) points must be earned from a combination of material in the following areas.

A. Published Articles

This material that appear in printed or electronic media, such as magazines or newsletters and may include text, photographs, drawings, etc. A key requirement is that the publication must have an editor and that the author works with that editor to refine the material for publication. Material that has been published or accepted for publication may be claimed. A copy of the published material or the acceptance receipt from the publication must be submitted as proof. Points are awarded regardless of size or number of features appearing in any particular issue, per the following table:

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Points Earned Per Full Page				
Item	National Publication	NMRA National	NMRA Region	NMRA Division & SIGs
Article or Column	3	3	2	1
Photos or Art Work	3	3	2	1
Scale Drawing of Prototype	6	6	4	2
Scale Drawing of Track Plan	3	3	2	1
NMRA Data/RP Sheet-One Subject	-	6	-	-

Okay, now for some definitions. So, what is a “page” anyway? A “page” is about 800 words. Credit may be claimed for partial pages down to quarter pages. “NMRA Publications” (including SIG publications) with a circulation of more than 2,000 may be considered “National Publications”, while those with a circulation of more than 1,000 may be considered “Region Publications”. Materials published in 100% NMRA Club publications earn half the points as for an NMRA Division publication.

Material that is electronically published and has a formal editor is credited at the same rate as printed material. This would include the publications of Historical Societies, NMRA organizations, and others who have a formal editor to manage content and have moved to electronic publishing in addition to or in lieu of print publication.

Hey, that’s great, you say. I’ve already written dozens of articles for the Division newsletter, so I’m all set. Not so fast there, Bunky. No more than half of the total required points (21) may be claimed for Division or 100% NMRA Club publications. It takes more than being a prolific author of the written word to qualify for the Model Railroad Author certificate. Keep reading.

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B. Live Clinics

These are live, streamed, or pre-recorded presentations given at conventions or other NMRA live events. To be eligible for credit, the clinic must be prepared and presented by the member applying for the certificate, it must be at least 30 minutes in length, and it must include a handout or other record of the material presented (e.g. a PDF copy of the presentation material.) A copy of the record must be included with the certificate application. Points are awarded, as follows:

Points Earned for Live Clinics			
Item	National	Region	Division
Given At NMRA Sponsored Events	6	4	2
Given at NON-NMRA Sponsored Events	3	2	1

A live clinic can only be claimed for Model Railroad Author points once, even if presented more than once. Additional presentations of a clinic earn credit towards the Association Volunteer certificate, as follows:

Points Earned for Live Clinics			
Item	National	Region	Division
Association Volunteer Points	3	2	1

If you previously prepared and presented a clinic at a division event or convention in the past, if it meets the above requirements, namely lasted at least 30 minutes and included a handout, it can still earn credit. Just add it to your “[2025 Record and Validation Form](#)” with the appropriate information. (See Statement of Qualification below.)

C. Informal Publications

This is for material that does not go through a formal publication process with an editor and is most likely published on the Internet but could also include self-published books. published on a public electronic forum, such as the Internet. Key requirements are that material must be educational in nature and applicable to model railroading. No more than half of the total required points (21) for the Author certificate may be claimed for Informal Publications.

Written material on a blog, website, or online magazine meeting the requirements earns credit at the same rate as Published Articles in Region publications. (See above) All photos, drawings, etc. are treated as 1/3 of a page.

- Material published in more than one place or way (such as, both in a magazine and electronically, or in multiple electronic formats) can only earn credit once.
- The address (URL) of the material must be included with the certificate application.

Audio/Visual material such as online videos earns credit at the same rate as Clinics in Non-NMRA National Sponsored Events. (See above) Credit earned is for each hour of completed production time (e.g. a 1-hour video earns 3 points). Material presented via NMRAX or the NMRA YouTube channel earns credit at the same rate as Clinics in NMRA National Sponsored Events if not claimed as a Live Clinic.

- Material that is published in more than one place can only earn credit once.
- The address (URL) of the material must be included with the certificate application.

Podcasts earn credit at the same rate as Clinics in Non-NMRA Region Sponsored Events. (See above) Credit earned is for each hour of completed production time (e.g. a 1-hour podcast earns 2 point).

- Material that is published in more than one place can only earn credit once.
- The address (URL) of the material must be included with the certificate application.

General

- **Material claimed must be documented in a [2025 Record and Validation form \(fillable\)](#) and be reviewed by an NMRA member who must ensure the following:**
 - **Material covers model railroading; prototype railroading applicable to modeling; or NMRA administration.**
 - **Material is educational in nature.**
 - **Accessible on a public forum; not behind a paywall.**
 - **URL provided and functional.**
 - **Is original work of author, with appropriate citations or credit given to materially fairly included in the publication or presentation**

- Regional AP Managers are authorized to evaluate work for credit for both printed and electronically published work. Final determination of what material is acceptable for credit, and how much credit it earns, lies with the NMRA AP Manager.
- For all material that is the work of more than one person, each person may claim ½ of the applicable points, provided they did at least 40% of the work involved.
- Personal "blogs" do not receive credit as they do not normally meet the criteria.

The final requirement for the Model Railroad Author category is to submit a completed [2025 Statement of Qualifications \(SOQ\) \(fillable\)](#) form, which includes a list of all material claimed giving the subject matter, name of the publication or place of presentation, the dates, and the handouts or other documentation. The Record and Validation listing for informally published material must include an affirmation of an NMRA member who attests that the submitted material meets the standards above. The number of points claimed for each item must be shown. TIP: Use a spreadsheet to keep track of your points, transferring the totals to the Record and Validation form. Contact me and I'll send you the spreadsheet template I used for my Model Railroad Author certificate.

Submit the completed SOQ and Record and Validation forms, along with a copy of your NMRA membership card, to Dave Grenier, Daylight Division Achievement Program Chair, grenida@pacbell.net, for review. If mailing by USPS, contact Dave for his mailing address.

The Model Railroad Author certificate will probably take you the longest to achieve, since writing takes time. (I know all too well from writing these articles!) It can also be a source of great pride seeing your name in print and may be financially rewarding if your article gets published in a model railroad magazine. All I can say is "Go for it!"

For more information about the Model Railroad Author certificate, visit the NMRA website at www.nmra.org/author.

This concludes the ongoing series of Achievement Program articles started in July 2022. Next quarter's article will restart the series with "What is the AP?"



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Pacific Coast Region
National Model Railroad Association



Daylight Woodlake Meet



**Model Railroad Clinics:
The Basics of Building a Layout
9:00 AM, Saturday, November 8th, 2025
20130 Ave 336, Woodlake, CA**

Join us for an exciting day of hands-on clinics that will cover the basic skills and techniques necessary for building a layout. Topics will include:

- Layout Planning.
- Laying Track.
 - Installing Turnouts and Switches.
 - Wiring the Layout and Soldering Feeders to the Track.
 - Creating Scenery.
 - And Much More!

We will also have a John Allen Timesaver layout on hand for folks to try their hand at this classic switching puzzle.

- You do not need to be a member to attend.
- All materials will be provided.
- Lunch will be provided: The menu will be hot dogs, chips, and a drink.
- Please RSVP to Dave Theis at Pastordave.jsaw@Yahoo.com or call (559) 901-0386 if you plan to attend or if you need directions.
- For those who are interested, prior to the clinic Dave will have an open house for his Lionel Postwar Inspired "O" Gauge Layout from 8:00 to 8:30am.

We hope to see you there!



July 4, 2025 • Daylight Division member Paul Deis of Paso Robles was named Master Model Railroader #801. To qualify for this honor, Paul earned the following seven (of 11 available) Achievement Program certificates: Chief Dispatcher (2010), Association Volunteer (2021), Model Railroad Author (2021), Model Railroad Engineer Civil (2024), Model Railroad Engineer Electrical (2024), Master Builder Scenery (2024), and Master Builder Cars (2025). This is a well-deserved recognition of his efforts. Congratulations to Paul!

--Dave Grenier

Recently a group of us congregated at Paul Deis's home in Paso Robles to present him with his plaque and certificate.

He joins Tony Thompson MMR 772, Dave Croshere MMR 770 and Dave Adams MMR 780 as others in the Region who have recently become Master Model Railroaders. Congratulations to all on this achievement!

--Earl Girbovan, MMR #691



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International Railfair 2025

Saturday, November 8 and 9, 2025

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA, USA

More information:

<https://internationalrailfair.com/>



PCR Convention:

Extra 2026 North

Thursday, April 30 – Sunday, May 3

DoubleTree, Hilton Hotel Sonoma

Wine Country, One Doubletree,

Rohnert Park, CA 94928, USA

<https://www.pcrnmra.net>

Weekly Events:

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](mailto: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

The Daylight Observation The Official Publication of the Daylight Division, PCR / NMRA Volume 39, Issue 4 4th Quarter, 2025

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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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.

Every Tuesday 7:30 PM / [South Coast Society of Model Engineers](#) (Z, N, HO, O, G, Steam, Trolley, Diesel) Round robin meetings weekly at members' homes. Santa Barbara, CA / Contact: Bruce Morden, e-mail: bdmorden@sbceo.org

Monthly Events:

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

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: kenattr@thirdrail.com

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





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