



PACIFIC COAST REGION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting

Saturday, October 12, 2013 at 1:00 PM

Sands Inn and Suites

1930 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, California

Minutes

A. QUORUM VERIFICATION / CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM

The following voting members of the Board were in attendance:

President Pat La Torres

Vice President Ed Merrin

Redwood Empire Division Director Dave Croshere

Sierra Division Director Mel Jones

Coast Division Director Mark Schutzer

Daylight Division Director proxy Dave Grenier

The following Ex-Officio member was in attendance:

Secretary Tom Crawford

Others present were:

Audit Committee Chair, and 2013 Convention Chair Dennis Stokely

Convention Department Manager Ray deBlieck

Branch Line Editor Chuck Harmon

Member Terry Taylor

Member Glenn Geissinger

Member Matt Hoffman

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

C. Written Communications

There were no written communications.

D. Members Comments

There were no member comments.

E. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting

Director Croshere moved that the minutes of the April 3, 2013 board meeting be approved. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

F. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- F.1. President LaTorres submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- F.2. Vice President Merrin submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- F.3. Treasurer Altbaum submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- F.4. The Secretary had no separate report.

G. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- G.1. Daylight Division Director proxy Grenier submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.2. Coast Division Director Schutzer submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.3. Sierra Division Director Jones submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.4. Redwood Empire Division Director Croshere submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.5. Hawaiian Division is currently without a Director, and there has been no activity.

H. Department Reports

- H.1. Administration Department
Bylaws Committee Chair Tom Crawford submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. The discussion of the issue presented in the report is covered under item H.4, Convention Department.
- H.2. Membership Department
There was no report.
- H.3. Publications Department
Branch Line Editor Chuck Harmon noted that he needs callboard updates when they occur. After every election and any other time there are changes, updates should be sent both to him and the PCR Secretary.

Chuck further noted that if we raise the Branch Line subscription price, the number of subscribers will drop and the fixed costs, which are the major costs, will need to be spread over a smaller number of subscribers, thus raising the cost per subscriber even more.

Webmaster Dave Grenier submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

H.4. Convention Department

2013 - Convention Chair Dennis Stokely submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

2014 - Convention Chair Terry Taylor gave an update on the 2014 convention. A write-up on the convention is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

2015 – Convention Department Manager Ray deBlieck does not yet have a bid package. He has 3 suitable hotel proposals and has 2 groups under consideration to host the convention. He expects to have in done in the next few weeks.

2016 – Nothing yet.

General issues. Convention Department Manager deBlieck noted that for National conventions people do not have to be NMRA members to attend – they can be members of an affiliated group participating in the convention (e.g. a SIG), or pay a nonmember fee. He noted that we could easily change our Manual of Operations to allow this for our conventions.

On the issue brought up by the Bylaws Committee that there is confusion regarding fiscal responsibility, it was agreed that the host committee is indeed responsible for the costs regardless of who signs the contracts. The Bylaws Committee was charged with proposing changes to the Manual of Operations to make this clear. This should include verbiage that the convention agreement must specifically address fiscal responsibility. Mr. deBlieck stated that the President had instructed him to sign the 2015 hotel contracts.

H.5. Contest Department

Contest Department Manager Giuseppe Aymar submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

H.6. Achievement Program Department

There was no report. It was noted that we have two new MMRs, Giuseppe Aymar, MMR #513 and Frank Markovich, MMR #514.

H.7. Non-Rail

There was no report.

I. OTHER REPORTS

There were no other reports.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J.1. Income Augmentation/Branch Line Costs

Director Schutzer reported that the actual costs for the Branch Line are \$2.08 per issue or \$8.32 per year, so if we raise the fee \$2 to \$8, this will resolve of most of the deficit.

Director Croshere moved that the President notify National that the Branch Line rates are raised to \$8 annually, to be effective as soon as possible.

The motion was seconded and approved.

This item is now closed.

J.2. Hawaiian Division

President LaTorres reported that he had contacted all of the Division Members, and only got a few responses and there didn't seem to be any interest one way or the other of being a separate division. We will leave the division as "dormant" for now and will take action at the next board meeting in April. The sense of the board was that we will probably dissolve the Division and make them members of Daylight Division.

This item is still open.

J.3. Membership Brochure

The second brochure was printed and distributed. It came in slightly over budget.

This item is now closed.

K. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

L. BUDGET

L.1. Budget for FY 2014

The budget submitted by the Treasurer includes the \$8 Branch Line fees, even though it may take several months for the actual fees to be raised by National.

Director Croshere moved that budget as submitted be approved.
The motion was seconded and was approved.

M. ANNOUNCEMENTS

M.1. Next Board of Directors meeting

The next meeting will be a on April 30, 2014 at 1 PM at the Sands Inn and Suites, San Luis Obispo.

M.2. Other Announcements

There were no other announcements.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Director Croshere moved that we adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Crawford
PCR Secretary
10/12/2013

ITEM	Report
B	Agenda
	2013-10-12 PCR Board of Directors Meeting Agenda.pdf*
E	Minutes for Approval
	2013-10-12 PCR Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Complete.pdf*
F	BOD Reports
F.1	2013-10-12 President's Report.pdf
F.2	2013-10-12 VP Report.pdf
F.3	2013-10-12 Treasurers Report.pdf
G	Director's Reports
G.1	2013-10-12 Daylight Director's Report.pdf
G.2	2013-10-12 Coast Director's Report.pdf
G.3	2013-10-12 Sierra Director's Report.pdf
G.4	2013-10-12 RED Director's Report.pdf
	Other Reports
H	
H.1	2013-10-12 Bylaws Committee Report.pdf
H.3	2013-10-12 Webmaster's Report.pdf
H.4	2013-10-12 2013 Convention Report.pdf
H.5	2013-10-12 Contest Report.pdf
	Unfinished Business Issues
J	Unfinished Business as of 2013-04-03.pdf

* Not included in final minutes distribution.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
OCTOBER 12, 2013, MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING

A lot has happened over the last six months, not all of it what I would have wanted and not all of it in the best interest of the region. But, it has happened, the region has survived and we will move forward. This report is my perspective on what has occurred and what I would like to see over the next six months – and perhaps a bit beyond. This is not something that is being put out for discussion, it is what I perceive to be the current situation and the future potential for the PCR. No part of this report is intended to be a personal comment on any members of this region and anyone that feels that it is, might look closely in a mirror to see if there is something in their own actions that they might need to address. Please keep in mind that my attitude as President of the PCR is that this board is here first and foremost to serve the members of this region, to look out for the best interest of this region and its assets, and to work towards the advancement and promotion of the hobby of model railroading in Northern California and Nevada – and to a lesser extent, the entire western United States. We are not here to promote anyone's egos or personal agendas or to deal with any personal conflicts which they perceive. Anyone on this board that feels otherwise, please do the entire region a favor and step aside so we can get back to our primary responsibility.

Since it was the first item addressed in my report at the annual meeting last April I will make the first official matter to address be the ongoing relationship between 21st Century Ltd and the PCR. As of their last business meeting, at their request and in my capacity as President of the PCR I have joined the Board of Directors for that organization. At the completion off my term as President, that position will be filled by a member of the region's board. At some point later in this meeting, I'll be asking Ray deBlieck will give more specifics on that action and other potential activities which they may want to pursue in cooperation with the PCR. To tie into the motion which was passed at the 2012 BoD annual meeting, the 21st Century Ltd. Board di not choose to accept the proposal that was presented to them by this board. My personal feeling is that due to flaws in that motion, this was the best course of action.

As those who have read the October 2013 issue of the NMRA Magazine, or heard Charlie Getz speak at the last Coast Division meet are aware, the NMRA in cooperation with Home Depot, Athearn Trains, Walthers, and Woodland Scenics will be promoting the "Build a Memory" promotion, to try and help folks get involved in the hobby of model railroading. While not getting too deeply into it at this point in time, if representatives from any of the PCR divisions would like to get involved, please contact Charlie, or Page Martin, NMRA Marketing Director.

While at the 2013 National Narrow Gauge Convention, I approached by some members of the PSR, regarding the prospect of a joint annual convention with the PCR. I recommended that they get in touch with our Convention Dept. Manager and passed on the contact information to Ray. At this point, I don't believe that there has been much time for anything to happen in that regard. Though, Paul and his committee have also assured me that they will be promoting the 2014 convention heavily in the PSR, so we should expect to have a number of our neighbors from the south joining us here next year.

Though I'm sure that most are aware, I'd like to note that two PCR members have become Master Model Railroaders numbers 513 and 514 – congratulations to Giuseppe Aymar and Frank Markovich for joining this rather exclusive group. I would also like to thank the folks in all four of our mainland divisions that have been working hard to promote the Achievement Program, by encouraging their members to work toward earning the various A.P. certifications.

I'm sure that there are things that I have missed and we may hit on them later on in this meeting – or not.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat LaTorres, President, PCR/NMRA



PACIFIC COAST REGION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Vice President's Report
October 12, 2013

To the Board of Directors:

Since the last Board Meeting we have continued to focus on issues of recruitment and retention, with a focus on “backfilling” our ranks with members younger than ourselves. At that time I had reported on the work of a Board-appointed committee to design a brochure, suitable for distribution at public shows and other events, that introduced modelers to the NMRA and the attractiveness of membership.

Since then another unofficial committee was put together, largely due to the efforts and enthusiasm of long time PCR member Russ Clover. Russ has been interested in the dialog that has developed about the greying of our membership and what it means for the future of PCR and NMRA. He had developed text for a brochure that would introduce the hobby of model railroading to novices, people who might have been curious or who have had a spark of interest in the past but never knew what to do about it. After several meetings, during which we poured over photos and diced and chopped text Russ put together a remarkable document. In a few simple pages of text and photos newbies are led through the steps of creating an operating model railroad empire. They are also given information about how to find out more, and of course a low-key nudge that NMRA exists and is there to help. The goal was to encourage them to get into the hobby rather than to immediately sign-up for NMRA membership.

At the recent Santa Rosa Train Show both brochures were available at the RED booth and were appreciated by a number of “browsers” who were drawn to us not by signs or static displays but by a small donated N scale layout with a perpetual motion train going around that RED, under the direction of Carol Alexander, has been rehabilitating. Small children jumped up and down at the chance to operate the throttle knob. It was the only train display there that wasn't off limits for touching. I take this as a demonstration that it is the trains that matter and they should be center stage.

In short, it appears that our continuing efforts need to be multifaceted. We need to bring in our contemporaries by being open and friendly to outsiders, we need to entice younger modelers into the NMRA by adapting our ways of doing things towards their interests, and we need to groom younger people of all ages so that they are fertile ground for recruitment in the future. Our tracking of success versus failure should not be limited to total membership numbers, but to age distribution. So far, the data we have is not

encouraging. But our efforts have been increasing of late, so we can be optimistic.

One additional challenge may be to fix our database. As I've mentioned in my Branch Line columns, accurate assessment of age from the spreadsheets provided by National is only possible for about half of our members. Although the data is probably OK, or at least they are normally distributed, there is the chance that they are biased. Resolving this problem should be another PCR project.

Respectfully,

Ed Merrin
Vice-President, PCR

PACIFIC COAST REGION
of the
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

September 30, 2013

The Region financial picture is essentially unchanged from that of the past few years. Interest income is low, BranchLine expenses continue to exceed income by a substantial amount, and we continue to use convention proceeds to bolster operating funds. Last year, we benefited from the sale of estate items belonging to the Region. This year, there was no income from the sale of merchandise. In total, including the Convention excess we realized, we experienced a gain of almost \$250, but as there is not convention income for the rest of the fiscal year, I project a year-end loss of nearly \$1600 all told. That said, in spite of my firm conviction that operating costs should be covered each year by current year income, I believe we should continue on our present financial path with the one important modification I suggested six months ago.

It is essential to recognize that the cost of supporting our member BranchLine subscriptions continues to exceed the income derived. And, the cost of producing and distributing the BranchLine continues to climb. I project that BranchLine costs will exceed income by about \$3500 (\$1300 if the National rebate is applied fully). I've therefore built the proposed budget for FY 2014 with a subscription increase to \$8.00. This will not solve the entire deficit for the publication, but should lower the losses to about \$1000. I know there is a committee looking at this, and should their proposal differ, I leave it to the Board to revise the budget as appropriate.

In summary, the finances of the Region are decreasing, and though we have more than sufficient reserves to weather the current financial climate, we should take action to help stem the outflow.

I will not be seeing you at the meeting on October 12, as Linda and I will be in Florida. Should you have any questions or comments, please email me at emerbaum@msn.com or call me on my cell, (510) 912-1076 prior to the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Altbaum

Larry Altbaum
Treasurer

Pacific Coast Region - NMRA Budget

	Adopted 2013 Bud.	Actual 2013 6 Mths.	Projected	Projected Variance	Proposed 2014
Operating Income					
Life Interest	70.00	22.15	45.00	(25.00)	45.00
BL Subscriptions	3,200.00	1,673.64	3,300.00	100.00	4,400.00
From Nat'l	2,250.00	1,006.00	2,100.00	(150.00)	2,200.00
Other	400.00	0.00	0.00	(400.00)	400.00
Bank Interest	75.00	31.78	60.00	(15.00)	60.00
Total Income	5,995.00	2,733.57	5,505.00	(490.00)	7,105.00
Operating Expense					
Operations					
Member Services	50.00	0.00	0.00	(50.00)	50.00
Member Promo.	150.00	0.00	50.00	(100.00)	150.00
Achievement	150.00	0.00	100.00	(50.00)	150.00
Supplies	100.00	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	100.00
Bank Charges	10.00	0.00	0.00	(10.00)	10.00
Fees & Taxes	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	20.00
Accounting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Branchline					
Printing	5,200.00	2,442.52	4,700.00	(500.00)	4,800.00
Postage	1,500.00	267.96	1,200.00	(300.00)	1,300.00
Supplies	100.00	431.40	850.00	750.00	800.00
Division Support	1,300.00	497.50	1,100.00	(200.00)	1,100.00
Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Web Page	250.00	119.70	239.40	(10.60)	250.00
Awards	250.00	406.07	410.00	160.00	350.00
Misc.	100.00	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	100.00
Total Expense	9,180.00	4,165.15	8,769.40	(410.60)	9,180.00
Operating Excess/Deficit	(3,185.00)	(1,431.58)	(3,264.40)	---	(2,075.00)
Convention Income					
Conv. Exc.		1,676.03	1,676.03	1,676.03	
Total Income		1,676.03	1,676.03	1,676.03	
Convention Expense					
Total Expense		0.00		0.00	
Convention Exc/Def		1676.03	1676.03	1,676.03	
<u>Total Excess/Deficit</u>	(3,185.00)	244.45	(1,588.37)	---	(2,075.00)

Note - Items in bold are discussed in the Treasurer's report.

30-Sep-13

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Income Statement**

	6 Months Ended Sep/13 =====	6 Months Ended Sep/12 =====	Variance Fav/<Unf> =====	% Var =====
Income				
PCR NMRA Rebate	1,006.00	1,064.00	(58.00)	-5.50%
PCR BL Subscriptions	1,673.64	1,634.16	39.48	2.40%
Convention Proceeds	1,676.03	2,428.00	(751.97)	-31.00%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL Income	\$4,355.67	\$5,126.16	(\$770.49)	-15.00%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Expenses				
Postage - Branchline	267.96	704.12	436.16	61.90%
Postage - Achiev. Prog.	0.00	19.56	19.56	100.00%
Printing - Branchline	2,442.52	2,484.15	41.63	1.70%
Awards - Operations	0.00	346.86	346.86	100.00%
Awards - President	406.07	0.00	(406.07)	
NMRA Division Rebates	497.50	524.50	27.00	5.10%
Taxes, Fees, Licenses	0.00	20.00	20.00	100.00%
Web Services	119.70	119.70	0.00	0.00%
Bank Service Charges	0.00	(42.00)	(42.00)	-100.00%
Misc. Expenses - Branchline	431.40	331.49	(99.91)	-30.10%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL Expenses	\$4,165.15	\$4,530.38	\$365.23	8.10%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
OPERATING PROFIT	190.52	595.78	(405.26)	-68.00%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Other Income & Expenses				
Life Interest	22.15	30.44	(8.29)	-27.20%
Convention Interest	31.78	33.82	(2.04)	-6.00%
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TOTAL Other Income & Expenses	\$53.93	\$64.26	(\$10.33)	-16.10%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
PROFIT BEFORE TAXES	\$244.45	\$660.04	(\$415.59)	-63.00%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
NET PROFIT	\$244.45	\$660.04	(\$415.59)	-63.00%
	=====	=====	=====	=====

30-Sep-13

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Balance Sheet**

	Sept. 2013 =====	Sept. 2012 =====	Inc/<Dec> ====Var====	% ==Var==
ASSETS				
Current Assets:				
Cash				
General Checking	\$7,475.79	\$9,341.67	(\$1,865.88)	-20.00%
Convention Checking	44,313.54	44,249.44	64.10	0.10%
Life Savings	29,486.78	29,443.15	43.63	0.10%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Cash	81,276.11	83,034.26	(1,758.15)	-2.10%
	-----	-----	-----	
Convention Adv. Recv.	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Current Assets	83,276.11	85,034.26	(1,758.15)	-2.10%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$83,276.11	\$85,034.26	(1,758.15)	-2.10%
	=====	=====	=====	
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
HOBO Payable	\$316.20	\$0.00	\$316.20	
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	316.20	0.00	316.20	
	-----	-----	-----	
CAPITAL				
Retained Earnings	82,715.46	84,374.22	(1,658.76)	-2.00%
Year-to-Date Earnings	244.45	660.04	(415.59)	-63.00%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL CAPITAL	82,959.91	85,034.26	(2,074.35)	-2.40%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	\$83,276.11	\$85,034.26	(1,758.15)	-2.10%
	=====	=====	=====	



Daylight Division Report

October 12, 2013

The Daylight Division held two meets since the April Board of Directors meeting at the PCR Convention in Dublin. There was also an unplanned change in leadership just prior to the Division election.

The Spring Meet was held May 11th in Bakersfield at Coco's Restaurant and hosted by Doug Wagner. After a no-host breakfast, Doug screened an informative video about Southern Pacific operations in California during the 40s and 50s. Following the quarterly business meeting and White Elephant Auction, we adjourned for layout tours of the GEHAMS HO and N scale layouts in downtown Bakersfield, then to Amtrak's National Train Day festivities, including more layouts, at the Bakersfield Depot, and concluding with Kevin Birbeck's home N scale layout. There were 17 members and 2 guests in attendance.

A few days before the meet, Chief Clerk/Paymaster Suzie Paff submitted her resignation. At the meet, Bob Sexton volunteered to take over and was appointed by Superintendent Dave Grenier to complete Suzie's term until elections could be held in August.

The Summer Meet was held August 17th at the Spike 'n' Rail Steakhouse in Selma, just off CA-99 at the old windmill and hosted by Steve Fischer. A plated breakfast was served to the 21 members and 9 guests in attendance. For a change of pace, there were no clinics, allowing the business meeting to start after breakfast and sign-ins were completed. Division election results were announced by the elections committee; thirty-nine ballots were returned unanimously re-electing Dave Grenier as Superintendent and electing Bob Sexton as Chief Clerk/Paymaster. According to Doug Wagner, this was the most ballots ever returned in any previous Daylight election. Layout tours were at the Fresno Model RR Club HO layout in the historic SP Selma Depot at the nearby Pioneer Village and the Hillcrest & Wahtoke Railroad at the Christmas Tree Farm in Reedley. The H&W is a 15" gauge live steam railroad spread out over 20+ acres. In addition to riding on the train, some members actually ran the 2-8-0 Consolidation locomotive.

The next Daylight meet will be 9:00 AM, November 16, 2013, at the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, located in the historic 1894 SP Freighthouse in San Luis Obispo. (This morning was its grand opening after being restored.) Meet hosts Andrew Merriam and George Gibson are planning a fabulous day of clinics, layout tours and more. Come join us for some Daylight Division hospitality!

Throughout 2013, we have had numerous technical problems trying to produce the *Daylight Observation* newsletter and have not distributed printed copies since November 2012. After being discussed at the last three Daylight meets to let the membership what was happening and why, a motion was made and passed unanimously at the August 17 meet to eliminate the printed version and have only a digital version of the newsletter available on the Daylight Division website. Postcards will be mailed to the members that do not get e-mail to inform them of the date and location of the next Daylight meet and that the Observation is available on the website. Members with e-mail addresses on file will receive notifications via e-mail.

The Achievement Program is alive and well in the Daylight Division! There are currently 11 members actively pursuing 23 certificates. The following AP awards have been awarded this year:

Chuck Harmon	Master Builder – Cars
Andrew Merriam	Master Builder – Cars
Andrew Merriam	Master Builder – Structures

Both Chuck and Andrew have earned six of the seven certificates needed for Master Model Railroader and are working on their seventh certificate. We should see two new MMRs in Daylight Division soon.

Upcoming Events

December 7, 2013, we will be presenting the 6th Annual Open House and Layout Tour. Several home and club layouts in the Fresno/Clovis area will be open to the public for viewing. Gary Saxton is coordinating the event.

February 2014, Daylight Division Winter Meet. Date and venue to be announced.

March 8 & 9, 2014, we will have an information table at the annual GEHAMS Model Train Show in Bakersfield. Dave Grenier is coordinating the volunteer schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Grenier, Superintendent / for Paul Deis
Daylight Division Director

Coast Division Report
PCR Board Meeting – October 12, 2013
San Luis Obispo

The Coast Division held two successful meets in the time between the last Board Meeting. Our June meet was held at Boy Scout headquarters in San Leandro and the September meet was held at the Janet Pomeroy Center in San Francisco

Finding meeting sites continues to be an ongoing concern and Frank Markovich spends a lot of time finding sites. We have the December meet lined up at the Boy Scout HQ and have the Pomeroy Center reserved for the March 2014 meet.

Attendance at the meets is in the range of 60 to 90 people with the better attendance numbers at the Boy Scout HQ. The Auction continues to be very successful due to the large estate that is still being liquidated. At each of the past two meets the Auction sales have exceeded \$10k, and Coast receives 10% of the proceeds.

Coast continues an active recruiting effort with Steve Wesolowski and Darrell Dennis leading a team of volunteers manning a table at the Bay Area train shows. Thanks to 21st Century for funding the new PCR banner as it looks much better than the old banner we had.

Coast Division continues to look for volunteers to man a whole host of positions. One of the biggest challenges continues to find enough volunteers to fill all the positions. In many positions the same folks have been doing the same job for a long time and folks are getting burned out. This seems to be an ongoing problem in all volunteer organizations.

Mark Schutzer
Coast Division Director

Director's Report

Sierra Division October 12, 2013

I. The Sierra Division has had three meets since the last BOD Meeting in April, 2013 during the PCR Convention in Dublin.

1. On May 11th we held our meet at the First Christian Church, 3901 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento, at 10:00 A.M. Scott McAllister called the meeting to order. He presented what he envisioned for Sierra Division under his leadership. He asked for volunteers for clinic presentations and to host meetings at different locations outside the Sacramento area. The decision was made to have the next meet on August 24th in Reno, with photo and stock car weathering contests.

2. On August 24th we held our meet at the club house in Dennis Druy's gated community. The meet was hosted by Dennis and Jim Petro. Kevin Caldwell brought his Squirrel Valley Railway Co., fully detailed, DCC, N Scale, switching module. Anyone wanting to operate trains on the module was able to do so before the meeting started and during the lunch break. Scott opened the meeting about 10:30 A.M. with 35 members in attendance. Dave Massatti presented a slide show on SP's narrow gauge Slim Princess in the Owens Valley area. Next, we judged the weathered stock cars and photo contests items. For weathered stock cars first place went to Dick Witzgen, second place went to Walt Schedler and third place went to Jim Petro. In the photo contest, Norm Morris won first place, Dave Massatti, Bob Warner and Jim Collins tied for second place, and Walt Schedler and Norm Morris tied for third place. Lunch was served and afterwards we walked to Dennis Druy's home to view his layout that is under construction. We were able to view the dozen framed photos given to him by Union Pacific. Next, we went to Jim Petro's layout and operating session. Then, on to Jim Price's 3,000 square foot layout of SP Oakland to Reno. It was a great day of fun for all.

3. I will be unable to attend the October 12th meet to be held at the First Christian Church, 3901 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, because I am attending the BOD meet on the same day in San Louis Obispo. The agenda for the Sacramento meeting is as follows: 9:30 A.M. Set-up; 10:00 Business Meeting; followed by Railtown presentation by Dave Rainwater; Clinic by John Henry Martin; Clinic by Ed Pultz; Lunch; Vote for models and photography; hands on clinics; AP Program information by Dave Bayless and Giuseppe Aymar; Awards and Door Prizes; Adjournment. The next Sierra Division Meet will be on February 8th, 2014.

Director's Report - October 12, 2013 - Continued

II. Upcoming Events

1. High Sierra Model RR Tour is on again this fall, November 1st, 2nd, 3rd, in the Reno-Carson City Area. Contact Jim Petro for details.

2. Our annual fundraiser, International Railfair, November 9th and 10th, at the Placer County Fairground, Roseville, California.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Jones

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION
FALL 2013

The RED now has a new Superintendent in Dick Foster. Dick is a very well organized person and the RED is fairing quite nicely under his leadership. Thanks to Dick for accepting the nomination and agreeing to continue to edit the Call Board. Verne Alexander has agreed to continue as Chief Clerk for another two years.

Our summer meet was at Sturgeon's Saw Mill, which is an old time steam mill in the redwoods. RED paid \$5.00 towards each member's lunch at the event. Many wives were in attendance and we had almost forty happy and intrigued members.

We again had a booth at the Santa Rosa Home and Train Show. The idea of the booth is to try and attract new members. We have given some effort to upgrading our booth's general appearance and statement . We have improved an N gauge layout that was donated to us. The layout draws people into the booth and we intend to continue making improvements in the future. We also displayed a few model photos which captured some interest and we intend to do more next time around.

RED member Bill Murry built a large inventory of structural models, cars, locos and kits during his many years of modeling. Bill donated his entire collection to the RED. We secured a separate booth at the Santa Rosa Train Show to sell Bill's collection. The proceeds from the sale brought in about \$2000.00. The balance of the collection will be given out as door prizes at subsequent meetings.

The RED seems to have a renewed interest and enthusiasm amongst our members.

Dave Croshere
RED Director to PCR

PCR Bylaws and Manual Committee Report

October 12, 2013

It has come to the attention of the By-Laws and Manual Committee that there is some confusion in the Divisions about fiscal responsibility for conventions.

Some members of one Division believe that if the PCR representative (i.e. President or Convention Department Chair) signs the contracts, then the host Division is not responsible for any losses. The actual verbiage of Paragraph 9.G.1.b is:

“If the Convention operates at a loss, the Fund will reimburse 50% of the loss not to exceed \$750.00 to the Host. “

It does not state who is responsible for the loss if the PCR representative signs the contracts.

This gets to another issue regarding who is responsible for signing the major contracts. Paragraph 9.H.2 of the Manual states that:

“Major Expenditures. The Host Committee will provide the Convention Department with copies of all major agreements with the convention facilities, banquet caterers, transportation companies and convention kit, or other major financial arrangements with the PCR Division in which the convention is located.”

It does not state who signs the agreements.

The Manual of Operations needs to be updated to clarify exactly who signs what, and who is responsible for what. The Bylaws and Manual Committee cannot move forward with proposing a modification until the Board provides clear guidance and clarification as to what they want.

An e-mail was sent to the Board in August identifying the specific issues and sections in question with the intent of getting that clarification from the board.

The committee cannot proceed until that clarification is provided.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Crawford
Bylaws and Manual Committee Chairman

Webmaster Report

October 12, 2013, Annual Board Meeting

The website has been maintained as it has been since the last report, with a few additions and updates. The layout of the “Clinics” page was revised and 24 clinics presented at the Iron Horse Express 2013 Convention were added. The NMRA Convention information has been updated to the Detroit 2014 Convention.

While looking at the graphs (below) for this report, I noticed our bandwidth (data transfer) usage has steadily increased since the April report and was rapidly approaching the monthly limit of 20 GB. Assuming that this trend would continue as more people are downloading larger graphics-intensive newsletter files, I contacted Earthlink, our web hosting service, to inquire about our options if the limit was exceeded.

One option was to pay an excess bandwidth charge of \$.02 per MB or \$20 per GB. The other option was to upgrade to the next level billing plan, “Business Website Plus” for \$34.95 per month, which has a 3000 GB limit. The service rep said nobody had ever reached that level, so we should be good. Since I did not have the authority to incur additional charges, I visited their website to investigate the various billing plans.

After looking at their website, I surmised we should be at the “Website Plus” service level, as we currently pay \$19.95 per month. I contacted Earthlink again and inquired why we had a limit of only 20 GB when the website says we should have a 2000 GB limit for the price we were paying. He checked our account and said we had the old “Starter Site” billing plan, which had been discontinued years ago. He upgraded us to the new “Website Plus” billing plan at \$19.95 per month, our current cost.

Beginning Sunday, October 13, we will be on the “Website Plus” level billing plan, which increases our bandwidth limit to 2000 GB (up from 20 GB) and disk storage space to 200 GB (up from 10 GB), with no change in price. We will also gain access to several new apps, such as Coppermine photo gallery, WordPress blogging, Joomla! content management, social media interface, online surveys, Wiki, web analytics, scheduler, plus several other new technologies and scripting languages.

Future Plans

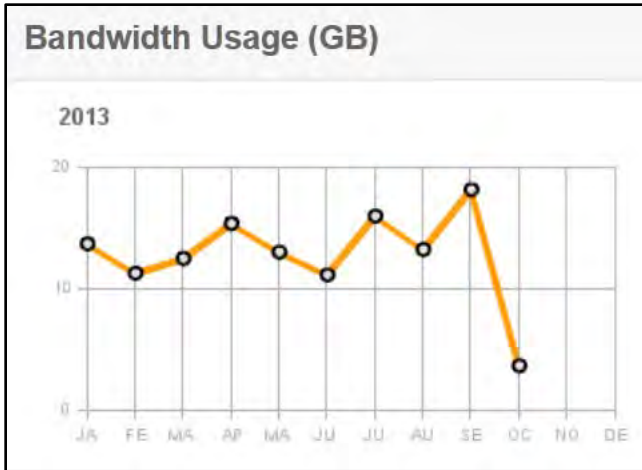
I am working with Giuseppe Aymar, MMR and our Contest Department Manager, to update the Contest Information Directory to include previously approved changes regarding removal of references to the slide contest and updated photo categories. This effort will be completed within the next few weeks.

I want to redesign the PCR Master Calendar webpage to have the same “look and feel” as the main PCR website pages to improve its appearance and coding. The new apps we’re getting may figure into this effort, as I learn what is possible with them.

I want to learn more about the apps that came with the website billing plan upgrade to determine if any of them could be used to improve our website and the users’ experience with it.

Domain Statistics: (pcrnmra.org)

Disk usage: 3.16 GB / Limit 10.00 GB (32%)
Bandwidth: 15.14 GB / Limit 20.00 GB (76%)



E-mail Statistics

Mailboxes used: 9 of 100
Forwards used: 26 of 100
Mailing Lists used: 1 of 100

Respectfully submitted,
David Grenier, PCR Webmaster

IRON HORSE EXPRESS CONVENTION REPORT

Holiday Inn Dublin, CA

April 3 -7 2013

Final net registration was 250 and the convention ran a surplus of \$3,337.07 which was divided between the PCR and Coast Divisions. Forty-eight registrations were first-time attendees. I made an effort to recruit people who had not worked on previous conventions because I feel we need to widen the group of people in the Coast Division who work on conventions. That created a few issues because I forgot they were new and didn't explain job responsibilities adequately.

FACILITIES (Dennis Stokely)

We knew going in that the facilities would be tight. This came from the overall lack of size and the hotel's unique ballroom arrangement where the divided rooms were 50%, 25% and 25% instead of the traditional equal size thirds. The contest room was also smaller than we would have liked and the non-rail and auxiliary clinic rooms were very remote. Additionally we had four layouts on site in the lobby, parking lot and a meeting room.

Although space was at a premium, the hotel staff's co-operative attitude made it work.

Another concern we had was the ratio of two-bed to single bed rooms. Although that did not materialize as much of a problem, significantly underestimating the total room requirement did. We set the original block at 180 nights but ended up with 208. As with the meeting space issue, the hotel's co-operation and flexibility keep us above water.

The hotel contract was structured in a way that provided the meeting space free with a significant meal commitment. We decided the best way to achieve the meal requirement was to include the awards banquet in the registration. We were able to keep the registration a reasonable price because of the lack of cost on meeting space. While the registration count easily covered the meal commitment, we did not adequately allow for the volume of no-shows resulting in a higher meal expense than we would to have incurred if we had a better methodology.

We had the reverse situation with the breakfast the morning of the Annual Meeting. We assessed a token payment in order to try and get a handle on the count for the hotel. Unfortunately, in spite of being on the website, included in one of the e-mail blasts and being in the convention program that everyone received on Wednesday, there were numerous people who turned up Sunday morning expecting to be fed without having purchased a ticket in advance. Fortunately between the 10% overrun and no-shows we had adequate food, but it did cause gaps in the buffet coverage.

REGISTRATION (Tom Crawford)

Tom's report is attached. Although registration went well, I think the registrar's "flawlessly" comment may be a bit exaggerated. As Tom points out, we needed a better method of handling cash sales, but the changing style of registration from paper (with checks) to on-line (with plastic) also created issues. The primary problem is a poor audit trail between the registration system and actual deposits. This is a joint Registration/Treasury/Company Store issue that needs to be addressed.

TREASURY (Dave Loveless)

Dave's report is attached. Net proceeds were \$15.00 higher than the \$3,322.07 reported as we allowed for bank fees for the month we closed the account. Those fees were waived by the bank. As noted above the registration program and receipts per the treasurer's records do not easily match. This inaccuracy was compounded by the Registrar and Treasurer recording refunds differently. The second item can be resolved by better planning but the receipts issue will become more of a problem with greater PayPal and multiple payments use.

WEB SITE (Dave Grenier)

Dave's report is attached. He points out several issues with PayPal and the Company Store that potentially can be resolved with some of the newer technologies coming into the market. However, this just reinforces the concern about the need to improve the registration and accounting system integration..

CLINICS (Dave Connery)

Dave's report is attached. This convention had fewer last minute changes than I recall from any recent convention which I believe was the direct result of Dave working with presenters before any schedule was published. The hands-on clinics were a nice addition to the mix and worked well in spite of their remote location. In addition to recruiting several local speakers for clinics, Dave also convinced Beverly Lane, the Curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, to speak at the awards banquet. Her presentation was very well received.

LAYOUTS (Bob Osborne)

Bob's report is attached. As noted above, a lot of the issues he highlights in his report resulted in my not spending enough time early on with him in defining expectations, but overdependence on the Coast Tours organization also is a factor. The existence of an organization that knows the layouts and has mapping capability already in place makes using their resources a logical course of action. However, the overlap of the Coast Division convention years and Bay Rails has negated this potential synergy both in 2009 and 2013. As long as the Coast Division convention years compete with Bay Rails there will be an issue with competing priorities.

Bob's observations on map copies are conservative. We made copies many times over by being too conservative in the quantity we were expecting to hand out. By using the hotel copy facilities the expense was higher than if we had just made a map packet for the registration envelopes.

A significant number of layout owners did not attend the convention which presented a problem in distributing name badges, layout owner ribbons and cross-bucks. I did not realize until we began distribution of the layout ribbons just how few layout owners were actually convention attendees. I do not recall that as an issue in previous conventions.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES (Paul Newhouse)

We had one fantastic tour, one bomb and two that were acceptable but could have been better attended. We had to cancel the Military Vehicle Museum due to poor registration. At least that was obvious early enough to allow us to not have bus issues. The Lawrence Livermore Lab was a hit and an early sell out. Niles Canyon and the Speeders were both undersubscribed. The short time interval since doing both in 2009 was most likely a factor.

Outside activities at conventions in the Coast Division never seem to generate as much interest as those when we are remote.

NON-RAIL (Nancy Stokely)

Nancy's report is attached. Although non-rail attendance is growing, as with outside activities, the verbal interest expressed by registrants prior to the convention frequently exceeds the participation once the event occurs. The non-rail room also served as the distribution point for door prizes which worked well for staffing purposes.

DOOR PRIZES (Mary Moore-Campagna)

The process of requesting prizes from convention attendees resulted in some very nice items and is something that should be continued by other conventions. Obviously the request needs to be made prior to the convention and can be incorporated into pre-convention publicity blasts.

PUBLICITY (Steve Wesolowski)

In addition to Steve's entertaining publication write-ups we also did a series of e-mail blasts to the Region membership and separately to convention registrants by the Registrar. In addition to the door prize request, blasts highlighted outside activities, clinics, layouts and other general interest topics. The three week cycle we used worked well, but could have been started earlier as we had a couple of topics we didn't cover as well as we may have wanted. The attendance figures (including the 48 first timers) do not show a weakness in member awareness so maybe we didn't lose much with a late start.

SWAP MEET (Tom Blinn)

We had a slow start on table sign-up but the final result was a success with all sellers indicating a satisfactory evening.

PROGRAM (Gus Campagna)

The printer Gus has used for prior convention programs is no longer in business and this was the first time for his new supplier. All seemed to go well on the print side, but as usual some of us were tardy in getting Gus copy, which is a comment either Dave or I should have made concerning the website.

VOLUNTEERS (Karen Keifer)

Several of the committee members recruited their own volunteers which worked well, and those that Karen enlisted were great. I would preferred to see all of them spending less time working and more at other events. That is more bodies working fewer hours.

COMPANY STORE (Dennis Stokely)

As Tom noted in the registrar's report we needed a better system. Part of the issue is that we only ordered a few extra shirts and hats so we didn't expect much activity beyond passing out the pre-orders and selling convention cars. We ended up with PCR patches from a previous convention, the hands-on clinic sign-ups and convention car decals to contend with as well as our planned items.

We purchased shirts based on prior year quantities and began sales in Medford so people had them to wear in advance for publicity. On-line store sales exceeded our initial order and we needed to purchase a second run just prior to the convention. Our margin on the shirts was

thin and we wanted to avoid left-overs which resulted in having too little inventory. Although that disappointed some people, I still think the procedure was better than having shirts to dispose of after the convention or only doing pre-orders.

CONTEST (Dick Foster/Giuseppe Aymar)

The contest room was tight. Part of the space issue was the room itself was small, but the number of "unjudged" models and the space for crafts (judged but generally bulkier than a train model) ate into the available area as well. Had we had the staff to cover a second room it may have alleviated some of the problem but the only available rooms were remotely located in the hotel and not really practical even with additional people. This definitely needs to be addressed by future conventions as it appears to be a growing trend.

Submitted by
Dennis Stokely
Convention Chair

2014 Convention Report

We invite each of you to pass onto your divisions the following info about the Coast Rails 2014 PCR Convention (Trains to Hadley Jct.) in San Luis Obispo. It will run from Wednesday starting at 9:30 AM for registration on April 30 and ending with the Sunday morning breakfast and members' business meeting on May 4. Sandwiched between will be a lot of model railroading activities including clinics, contests, prototype & layout tours, operating sessions (even if you have never done one before), breakfasts, banquet, swap meet, plenty of outside activities that are family oriented and more! Go to <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2014> for details.

Full-Fare is \$89.00, Non-Rail or Spouse is \$69.00, and Youth is \$50.00. Register early and take advantage of the "Early Bird" special (a discount of \$10.00 fm full fare) to those who register before midnight Jan 31, 2014. We also have a special "First Timer" fare of \$69.00 for PCR members that have not registered for the past 5 conventions. Nearly all fares include convention registration, banquet, clinics (except Modeling With the Masters) and layout tours etc. The One-day fare of \$35.00 does not include the Banquet. Extra banquet tickets are \$20.

Registering for the convention is a cinch. Go to <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2014/registration.html> then fill out either the [printed version](#) or the **Online Registration Form**. If by mail; write a check to **Coast Rails 2014**, mail the form and check to: Coast Rails 2014 c/o Doug Wagner 14008 Tierra Blanca Ave Bakersfield, CA 93314. The Convention Hotel is the [Sands Inn & Suites](#), 1930 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93401 located just south of US-101. The convention room rates are: King Suites \$127.50 / Queen Suites \$127.50 / King Deluxes \$119.20 / Double Queens \$119.20 / Single Queens \$95.20. Use Group Code "PCR2014" when making reservations by calling the hotel directly at (805) 544-0500 or " Toll-free: (866) 539-0036. Staying there helps pay for the clinic rooms etc.

We will also have a series of Modeling With The Masters clinics, presented by Clark Kooning, MMR. This is a series of hands-on make-and-take clinics, usually only held at NMRA National Conventions. Sign-up and reserve your seat by Sunday, March 30, 2014. These will be extra-fare clinics and have limited attendance (18 participants for each clinic, except for the Building a Turnout Using Fast Tracks, which is limited to 12 participants per session). Each session lasts 2½ to 5 hours and starts with a workshop, followed by a hands-on session where you will actually build a model aided by Master Model Railroader Clark Kooning. He will assist you, answer your questions and share his modeling expertise, skills and techniques. When the session is finished, you will be able to take your project home. Choose from MWTM: BUILDING A LASER STRUCTURE KIT (N & HO) / MWTM: SCRATCH BUILDING IN STYRENE (N, HO, S, O) / MWTM: LEARNING TO BUILD A DPM KIT PROPERLY (N & HO) / MWTM: BUILDING A TURNOUT USING FAST TRACKS / MWTM: SCRATCH BUILD A CATTLE RAMP / and MWTM: SCRATCH BUILD A PUDDLE JUMPER BRIDGE.

Bring the family and plan to have a lot of fun.

Terry

Contest Report for the BOD meeting of Oct 12th, 2013

I just completed my second year as PCR Contest chairman, and by all accounts that was the length of time I had promised to serve when Bill Scott (then the active chair) approached me with the idea of replacing him. " Sure, I will do it, but only for two years is that OK with you? " (**now** I can see that devilish smile of his, which did not register at the moment). Much has been accomplished in those two years and much needs to be accomplished from my original list. So we press on.

On a business level I would like to approach the Board with the idea of establishing a specific budget of \$750.00 to run Contest. Right now I am asked by the Convention Committee to come up with possible expenditures so they can appropriate the monies. It has been my experience that we spend approximately \$400 to replace the plaques w/logos and ribbons plus another \$250.00 for the judges luncheon (approx. \$10.00 per person). That would leave us with \$100.00 in case we need to buy last minute supplies. That way the Convention Committee can plan from the beginning. That's it. By the way, I feel that the luncheon is extremely important: it rewards the judges who are giving up of their time and not partake in clinics or tours, and additionally it cements a camaraderie which I suspect Contest will benefit in years to come.

I thank the Board and specifically 21st Century Limited for allocating funds to appropriate the OTT lights which have been used extensively at IHX with great success.

We need to make sure the popular Vote ballots are included in the registration packets. It seems they were left out last year. We made do, thanks to the quick work of Dave Grenier with his magic touch. I have informed the Contest Convention chairman to remind the registrar of such.

I like to thank Gus Campagna and Carol Alexander for lending the projector and running the projector respectively at the Banquet, plus the work done by Carol Skold and Carol Alexander behind the scenes. Its beginning to look like an all RED affair!!!!

I would, at this time, thank Dennis for all his hard work in making sure we, in the Contest room, were well taken care of. He did a superlative job. Everything we asked was met with an efficient and courteous response. Thank you Dennis.

We are well past 100 total judged entries (more than National had in Atlanta) and I am working on improving that number every succeeding year.

I like to thank the Board for the opportunity to continue running the Contest.

Giuseppe Aymar, MMR

(wow, does that look good behind my name)



PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

BOD Meeting
Unfinished Business
As of October 12, 2013

ISSUE: Hawaiian Division

Current Issue/Status

We need to decide what to do about the Hawaiian Division. Final action to be handled at the April 2014 Board Meeting.

History

BOD 2012-05-02 Meeting:

Hawaiian Division is currently without a Director, and there has been no activity. President LaTorres will send letters to Hawaiian division people about how they would like to be handled. He asked the Secretary to remind him about this in August.

BOD 2013-04-03 Meeting:

President LaTorres has been communicating with individual Hawaiian members. There is no resolution at this time.

BOD 2013-10-12 Meeting:

We will leave the division as “dormant” for now and will take action at the next board meeting in April. The sense of the board was that we will probably dissolve the Division and make them members of Daylight Division.

ISSUE: Convention Contracts

Current Issue/Status

There is confusion regarding fiscal responsibility and contract signing for convention host committees. The Bylaws Committee will propose changes which address this.

BOD 2013-10-12 Meeting:

On the issue brought up by the Bylaws Committee that the issue of confusion regarding fiscal responsibility it was agreed that the host committee is indeed responsible for the costs regardless of who signs the contracts. It was noted that if the host committee was a Division, the PCR board historically has covered the losses (e.g. 1998 and 1999), and would continue to do so. Ray decided that he wanted to sign all the hotel contracts. The Bylaws Committee was charged with coming up changes to the Manual of Operations to make this clear. This should include verbiage that there must be a convention agreement which specifically addresses fiscal responsibility.