



PACIFIC COAST REGION

OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mid-Year Meeting
Saturday, October 25, 2014 at 1:00 PM
DoubleTree by Hilton
9900 Balentine Drive, Newark, CA 94560

Minutes

A. QUORUM VERIFICATION / CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 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 Ray deBlieck, proxy for Mark Schutzer

Daylight Division Director Dave Grenier

The following Ex-Officio member was in attendance:

Secretary Lisa Gorrell

Others present were:

Contest Mgr Giuseppe Aymar

Coast Webmaster Pete Birdsong

RED member Carol Alexander

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 Mel Jones moved that the minutes of the April 30, 2014 board meeting be approved.

The motion was seconded by Dave Croshere. The motion passed.

F. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- F.1. President Pat LaTorres submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- F.2. Vice President Ed Merrin submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- F.3. Treasurer Larry Altbaum submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. Director Dave Grenier moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Director Dave Croshere seconded. Motion carried.
- F.4. The Secretary had no separate report.

G. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- G.1. Daylight Division Director Dave Grenier submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.2. Coast Division Director Mark Schutzer submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.3. Sierra Division Director Mel Jones submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.4. Redwood Empire Division Director Dave 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
There was no report.
- H.2. Membership Department
Doug Wagner submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- H.3. Publications Department
Gus Campagna submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

A comment was made that *Branch Line* is two words with no "the" in front.

- H.4. Convention Department
2014 – Pat La Torres thanked the 2014 Convention committee. Ray deBlicke reported that he has not received a completed report from the committee.
2015 – Newark Convention Chair, Dave Parks.

2016 – Sacramento Convention Chair, Scott McAllister. Ray deBlieck reported they are still working on the location.

2017 – No report.

Carol Alexander asked about updating the Convention Manual in regards to meals for judges. She is willing to serve on the committee.

Pat La Torres asked whether Coast Division should continue to host the PCR conventions every other year; that perhaps it could be every third year. He wants comments and suggestions sent to him.

H.5. Contest Department

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

For item 2: For a system to keep up to date the names of the division contest chairs, it was decided that the information be forwarded to the PCR Webmaster and the Callboard would have the most current information.

For item 1: For the proposal of having kit built and scratch built items have the same number of scratch building points allowed, Dave Croshere moved that PCR Convention Contest adopt the AP scoring convention. Ray deBlieck seconded the motion. The motion carried.

H.6. Achievement Program Department

There was no report.

H.7. Non-Rail

There was no report.

I. OTHER REPORTS

There were no other reports.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J.1. Brochure.

See Publications report above.

The brochures were accepted and thanks was given to the Brochure Committee. Dave Grenier will work with Gus Campagna to get the files on the website for download.

J.2. PCR Logo.

A committee comprising of Dave Croshere, Ray deBlieck, and Carol Alexander to narrow down the Logos to three for the Board to consider at the Spring meeting. The Logo will then be presented to the Membership.

J.3 Joint PSR/PCR Convention.

Ray deBlieck will explore a joint convention with PSR to be held in the Bakersfield area.

K. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

L. ANNOUNCEMENTS

L.1. Next Board of Directors meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13, 2014 at 1 PM at DoubleTree by Hilton, Newark, California.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Director Dave Croshere moved that we adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa S. Gorrell
PCR Secretary
10/26/14

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
OCTOBER 25, 2015, MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING

As I enter into my last half year as President of the PCR, I would first like to thank everyone that has put in effort to help move this region forward over the past seven and a half years. Has everything been wonderful? No. But, we have managed to work as a team and move the region forward, with some pretty good results. For the most part, I will save my comments on the long view rearwards for the 2015 annual meeting, but I am going to touch on a few things at this meeting, because they will require some thought and consideration by the members of the BoD that will be continuing on in service after I step down next year.

The biggest consideration will be the PCR's relationship and involvement with the various Special Interest and focus groups within the hobby. While the region has developed and nurtured a really good relationship with both the LDSIG and the OPSIG, we still have a ways to go with some of the other groups. Many of our members are narrow gauge modelers and are quite involved with this aspect of the hobby, in general it seems that this is not a two way street. On the wider view, it seems that the narrow gauge community sees the NMRA as that HO scale, standard gauge focused organization – a view that may be shared with many of the model railroad subgroups. Most of the non-NMRA narrow gauge modelers that I have spoken with also see the NMRA only as a national organization and really seem not to be aware of the regional or divisional side of our organization. Further, possibly because the narrow gauge community tends to be a very loose grouping of modelers, more tied together by scale and railroads of interest, there is not really a cohesive organization that the NMRA can reach out to. I feel that within the PCR, we would be well served to try and change his perception of the NMRA. By letting the narrow gauge modelers see that on the local level we can support each other and that both groups can benefit, we may also be able to help improve the perception of the national organization.

The PCR's relationship with the Garden Railway community seems to be very similar. While there are a number of PCR members that are involved with this aspect of the hobby, there seems to be much the same perspective of the NMRA from many of the garden railway folks that I know. This is a very large demographic that could add tremendously to the PCR and our divisions, as well as be of benefit to the overall health of the NMRA. With the National Garden Railroad Convention coming back to the Bay Area (Santa Clara) in 2016, we have an opportunity to put forward a better perception of the NMRA – again, especially on the local/PCR level – in the eyes of the garden railway community. This may be something as simple as approaching the committee putting this convention together and asking, what can we (the PCR) do to help? Perhaps something as simple as becoming co-promoters of the convention, which might provide coverage under the NMRA insurance policy. The key here is that we would be mindful that this is primarily their show and we would be riding in the back seat.

The third group that I see as an important area for the region to involve itself with is the Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM). The RPM movement has been an active and dynamic part of the hobby since at least the last fifteen to twenty years – if not longer. On the national level, this group has had an ongoing conflict with the NMRA for as long as I can remember. The sad

thing is that the source of this conflict seems to be primarily caused by the actions of NMRA members and our upper management, rather than the other way around. Besides the modeling techniques that have been pioneered by the RPM movement (some of which have made their way into various NMRA programs – though it seems more by accident than design), this group also appears to be a pathway into the FreeMo modular area of interest – HO and N scale. Both the RPM and the FreeMo groups seem to be drawing from the same younger demographic that the NMRA is somehow managing to miss. Again, we seem to already have a somewhat open door for access by the NMRA, through our relationships within the PCR. What we now need to do is work with these folks to refine and strengthen this tie. To be sure, this may mean that the PCR/NMRA might be the subordinate member of the relationship – but if both parties benefit from it, what does it matter who holds the throttle?

As I look forward to the next six months and beyond, I see the next big challenge for the PCR – and the NMRA in general – as making a concerted effort to develop a positive working relationship with these groups. If there is something which I see as essential to the growth, if not the survival of the PCR – with or without the national NMRA organization – it is that we NEED the input and strength that can be gained by a working relationship with all of these groups. We need to be able to figure out how to work with all of these groups, even if they choose not to step under the NMRA umbrella. Even if they choose not to be “officially” part of the NMRA, there is no reason that we cannot try to work out a co-habitation relationship between them and the PCR. While I have made some initial effort to contact members of some of these groups over the past few years, I will be looking for some member(s) that will be willing to continue on with this process during my last six months – and to continue on beyond next April and May.

Having had some time to get comfortable as a member of the board of 21st century Limited, I see this as another area where the region has potential to move forward and perhaps even show some growth. Having a member of the region’s board as a working member of their BoD will provide more opportunity to work both organizations toward growth and improvement of the hobby. Again, as I step down from the PCR board next year, a new member of this board will be asked to join their board and we will need to seriously consider what opportunities will be presented for growth and improvement of both the hobby in general and the PCR in particular. Once more, I really see no reason that the PCR NEEDS to be the controlling unit. The key point of focus HAS to be what is in the best interest of the hobby. The PCR in particular and the NMRA in general need to realize that sometimes it might actually be better to be the minority partner in a working relationship.

To touch briefly on the education and social side of the PCR, our 2014 regional convention was a learning opportunity for both the PCR and our neighbors both to the north and south, both regions having a large number of members in attendance. These opportunities included both things that were done really well and some that probably could have (should have?) been presented a little bit better. I’d like to take a moment and again thank Paul and his team for putting on a great convention. The biggest plus being yet another opportunity to meet friends (both old and new) and learn again why this is such a great hobby.

Beyond these points, I really don’t have much more to say. I’m sure that there are things

that I have missed (and others will probably gladly point them out to me) 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 3, 2014

To the Board of Directors:

This may be the shortest report I have provided to the Board, but that may be a good thing.

Briefly, my activities and energies have been directed primarily at enhancing or developing interest in attracting younger generations of modelers to the NMRA. Not to model railroading, but to the NMRA. In that endeavor we are handicapped by changing times and cultures, with organizations like ours becoming less appealing to young and even middle-aged hobbyists.

From my end, I have tried to facilitate and encourage an ongoing discussion and debate within our Region over what, if anything, is the right thing to do. This discussion has been active beyond PCR, and there are changes taking place in a number of quarters that have been interesting to follow.

Locally, we have made efforts that certainly can't hurt our attempts to draw younger people in, although whether they will work is yet to be seen. We have new sets of updated brochures to distribute at public events and our Regional and Divisional meets are being spruced up with new programmatic ideas, including inviting nonmember clubs and outside interest groups to attend and participate, and experimenting with meeting content that is "outside the box" such as op sessions on featured layouts.

Most of the Board was included in the emails regarding Christopher Palermo's creation of a PCR Facebook page. Since Mr. Palermo is under 50 (did I mention this as a target group?) I am encouraged by his initiative and interest. In my opinion, we older members are not where the changes should be coming from.

On the other end of the age spectrum issue, we have probably seen the last of contributions from Russ Clover. On my agenda was using his talents to create a new and improved PCR logo, but that will have to be shelved until another plan is available. In repeatedly pushing for this I do not intend to ruffle feathers or belittle the past good efforts of PCR members. Nor do I wish to denigrate what is for many a sentimental link to the earlier days of PCR. However, I do wish to encourage us to take a hard look at how outdated this logo is. It is not just an issue of design and content. It also has to do with the

crudeness, by today's standards, of the graphic techniques employed to create it. Russ did a heroic job of resurrecting something from a blobby, over copied mess, but it still stands out from the background as something from the dark ages. As the public face of PCR it needs to be recreated from the ground up. I encourage the Board to stop procrastinating on this and take it with the seriousness it deserves. Don't fall back on what my first girlfriend's mother said to me with a cynical smirk, "So fine feathers make fine birds, do they?" In fact, they do.

Respectfully,

Ed Merrin
Vice-President, PCR

PACIFIC COAST REGION
of the
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

October 16, 2014

The financial trend over the last few years has continued unabated. That is, our expenses continue to exceed our operating income. The change made to the BranchLine subscription rates is being realized, and I expect it to continue upward so long as subscribers renew. The income from subscriptions in the first six month of this fiscal year is up about \$775 over the same period last year. Printing and postage rates do continue to increase. This year the income statement indicates a loss of over \$850 compared to a gain of \$244 last year, but this is primarily due to having not received the PCR portion of the convention excess, estimated at about \$1,500. Hence, our operating gain for the period is about \$650. The proposed budget attempts to recognize these factors, and is presented for the Board's approval.

Beyond those comments, our financial position has not really changed. We do have sufficient resources to maintain our programs, and I do not see the need to make significant changes. That said, however, we should do all we can to increase our membership and increase our income.

I will not be with you at the meeting. Should there be any questions or comments, please contact me at 510-912-1076 (Cell) or at emerbaum@msn.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry Altbaum
PCR Treasurer

Pacific Coast Region - NMRA Budget

	Adopted 2014 Bud.	Actual 2014 6 Mths.	Projected 2014	Projected Variance	Proposed 2015
Operating Income					
Life Interest	40.00	14.88	30.00	(10.00)	30.00
BL Subscriptions	3,800.00	2,448.68	4,600.00	800.00	4,400.00
From Nat'l	2,000.00	958.00	1,900.00	(100.00)	1,850.00
Other	400.00	17.00	17.00	(383.00)	400.00
Bank Interest	50.00	21.84	45.00	(5.00)	45.00
Total Income	6,290.00	3,460.40	6,592.00	302.00	6,725.00
Operating Expense					
Operations					
Member Services	50.00	0.00	0.00	(50.00)	50.00
Member Promo.	75.00	0.00	50.00	(25.00)	150.00
Achievement	225.00	198.27	200.00	(25.00)	200.00
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	5,100.00	2,552.09	5,200.00	100.00	5,400.00
Postage	1,300.00	579.52	1,250.00	(50.00)	1,350.00
Use Tax	400.00	181.27	450.00	50.00	450.00
Other	450.00	209.58	225.00	(225.00)	250.00
Division Support	950.00	473.00	950.00	0.00	950.00
Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Web Page	240.00	119.70	239.40	(0.60)	250.00
Awards	350.00	0.00	300.00	(50.00)	350.00
Misc.	100.00	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	100.00
Total Expense	9,370.00	4,313.43	8,984.40	(385.60)	9,630.00
Operating Excess/Deficit	(3,080.00)	(853.03)	(2,392.40)	---	(2,905.00)
Convention Income					
Conv. Exc.		0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Total Income		0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Convention Expense					
Total Expense		0.00		0.00	
Convention Exc/Def		0.00	1500.00	1,500.00	
<u>Total Excess/Deficit</u>	(3,080.00)	(853.03)	(892.40)	---	(2,905.00)

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

30-Sep-14

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Income Statement**

	6 Months Ended Sep/14 =====	6 Months Ended Sep/13 =====	Variance Fav/<Unf> =====	% Var =====
Income				
PCR NMRA Rebate	958.00	1,006.00	(48.00)	4.8%
PCR BL Subscriptions	2,448.68	1,673.64	775.04	-46.3%
Convention Proceeds	0.00	1,676.03	(1,676.03)	100.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Income	\$3,406.68	\$4,355.67	(948.99)	21.8%
	-----	-----	-----	
Expenses				
Supplies - Achiev. Prog.	198.27	0.00	198.27	
Postage - Branchline	579.52	267.96	311.56	-116.3%
Printing - Branchline	2,552.09	2,442.52	109.57	-4.5%
Awards - President	0.00	406.07	(406.07)	100.0%
NMRA Division Rebates	473.00	497.50	(24.50)	4.9%
Taxes, Fees, Licenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Use Tax - BranchLine	181.27	192.44	(11.17)	5.8%
Web Services	119.70	119.70	0.00	0.0%
Misc. Expenses - Branchline	209.58	238.96	(29.38)	12.3%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Expenses	\$4,313.43	\$4,165.15	148.28	-3.6%
	-----	-----	-----	
OPERATING PROFIT	(906.75)	190.52	(1,097.27)	575.9%
	-----	-----	-----	
Other Income & Expenses				
Life Interest	14.88	22.15	(7.27)	32.8%
Convention Interest	21.84	31.78	(9.94)	31.3%
Misc. Income - Operations	17.00	0.00	17.00	
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Other Income & Expenses	\$53.72	\$53.93	(0.21)	0.4%
	-----	-----	-----	
PROFIT BEFORE TAXES	(\$853.03)	\$244.45	(1,097.48)	449.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
NET PROFIT	(\$853.03)	\$244.45	(1,097.48)	449.0%
	=====	=====	=====	=====

30-Sep-14

Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Balance Sheet

	Sept. 2014 =====	Sept. 2013 =====	Inc/<Dec> ====Var====	% ==Var==
ASSETS				
Current Assets:				
Cash				
General Checking	\$5,118.57	\$7,475.79	(\$1,865.88)	-31.5%
Convention Checking	44,353.05	44,313.54	64.10	0.1%
Life Savings	29,520.06	29,486.78	43.63	0.1%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Cash	78,991.68	81,276.11	(1,758.15)	-2.8%
	-----	-----	-----	
Convention Adv. Recv.	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Current Assets	80,991.68	83,276.11	(1,758.15)	-2.7%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$80,991.68	\$83,276.11	(\$1,758.15)	-2.7%
	=====	=====	=====	
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
HOBO Payable	\$367.26	\$316.20	\$316.20	
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	367.26	316.20	316.20	
	-----	-----	-----	
CAPITAL				
Retained Earnings	81,477.45	82,715.46	(1,658.76)	-1.5%
Year-to-Date Earnings	(853.03)	244.45	(415.59)	-449.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL CAPITAL	80,624.42	82,959.91	(2,074.35)	-2.8%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	\$80,991.68	\$83,276.11	(\$1,758.15)	-2.7%
	=====	=====	=====	



Daylight Division Report

October 3, 2014

The Daylight Division held two meets since the April Board of Directors meeting in San Luis Obispo. The Spring Meet was also in San Luis Obispo during the Coast Rails 2014 convention on Friday, May 2, in the "Owl" clinic/breakfast room. Since the convention already had a full complement of clinics, layout tours, contests, and other activities, we only had the business meeting portion of the quarterly meet. As expected, it was lightly attended by only 12 people, including one guest from Coast Division. Bruce Morden was finally presented with his 2013 Daylight Member of the Year Award from last year's PCR convention in Dublin. It was announced that Andrew Merriam of San Luis Obispo had recently earned the title of Master Model Railroader. Chuck Harmon of Fresno, having earned his MMR in January, was presented with his MMR plaque. Both were honored again at the Saturday evening Awards Banquet.

The Summer Meet was held on Saturday, August 16, at the home of Gary Siegel in Santa Barbara, with 25 persons in attendance, including several guests. Chuck Harmon, MMR and Contest Chair, presented a clinic on how to judge models using the PCR judging matrices. Beginning with this meet, Daylight will have judged model contests at the meets, so we needed to train the members to be judges. After breaking into teams of three or four, we judged different models of Chuck's that had already been judged for his AP certificates. Surprisingly, the points we awarded were pretty close to what had been previously awarded. Following Chuck's clinic, Bruce Morden gave a short clinic on small layouts, including one in a cigar box! He also had his John Allen-inspired classic Time Saver on display. The message was no matter how little space you have available; you can still have a layout.

Following Bruce's clinic, we broke for a pizza lunch, and then we had the quarterly business meeting. As part of my report, I pleaded with the members in attendance that we needed a new Superintendent, as I was now Director and still AP Chair, as well as Daylight and PCR Webmaster. After some discussion and a phone call home, Neil Fernbaugh of Visalia volunteered for the position. I promptly appointed him the new Superintendent to serve out the remainder of my term (until mid-2015). After concluding this bit of "railroading" and other Division business, including the White Elephant Auction, we adjourned to a fun operating session for the rest of the day on Gary's 200' x 185' SP Santa Cruz Division, an operations-oriented 1:32 standard gauge layout, covering more than half of Gary's backyard and into his neighbors' yards on both sides. We ran with 1st and 2nd generation diesels over the point-to-point 750' mainline with 5 passing sidings runs from San Jose to Santa Cruz. A fun time was had by all.

Upcoming Events

November 15, 2014, 9:00 AM, Daylight Fall Meet at the Scout Shack in Exeter. Meet host Brewster Bird is planning a fabulous day of clinics, layout tours and more. Come join us for some Daylight Division hospitality! See the Daylight website for details.

December 6, 2014, Daylight Division's 7th 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Grenier

Director, PCR Daylight Division

Coast Division Report
PCR Board Meeting – October 25, 2014
Fremont

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 Elks club in Alameda.

Finding meeting sites continues to be an ongoing concern but we now seem to have a couple of sites that we can rotate through. The September meet was held at the Elks club and this is a great site for us, the rent is a little more than we usually pay but it is still very reasonable. We had good attendance at the meet as the San Leandro / Alameda area seems to be fairly well centered around our Bay Area attendance base. Our next meet will be December 7th at the Boy Scout headquarters in San Leandro.

Attendance at the meets is in the range of 80 to 100 people. The Coast Auction has had 400 to 500 items the last couple of meets so it is covering the cost of the meet.

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. Frank Markovich has been filling in for a lot of these positions. This seems to be an ongoing problem in all volunteer organizations and we really haven't found a solution to it.

Mark Schutzer
Coast Division Director



Director's Report

Sierra Division October 25, 2014

I. The Sierra Division has held two meets since the last BOD meeting held in San Luis Obispo.

1. On May 24th we held our meet in the Ione School Auditorium during Ione's Annual Labor Day Rail Car and Motorfest Celebration. Rail car rides were available to ride on the Amador Central. Deborah Coleen Cook gave a clinic on a book she has written about the history of the Amador Central Railroad. It was nicely done. She was available for book signing after our meeting. Sacramento Modular Club was also set up and running their largest layout to date. There were many fine modules to view and trains to run. Lunch was catered by Dickie's BBQ. There was a short meeting. It was decided to cancel our August meet in Chico due to conflict with Portola Railroad Days, August 8, 9 & 10, in Portola. Scott McAllister announced that he will not be running for Superintendent in October. Also, Chief Clerk Bob Warner will not be running. Elections will be held in our October Meeting. Photo Contest: Black and White--Gary Ray, 1st; Jim Collins, 2nd; Gary Ray, 3rd. Caboose Contest: Pat LaTorres, 1st; Jim Collins, 2nd; Pat LaTorres, 3rd. Tree Contest: Gary Ray, 1st; Jim Collins, 2nd.

2. On October 11th, we held our meet at the First Christian Church, Folsom Boulevard in Sacramento. After remarks and introductions by Scott McAllister, Dick Ollendorf made a pitch for the National N-Scale Enthusiast Convention, June 24-28, 2015 in Sacramento, to be held at the Double Tree on Aden Way. These conventions are well attended with 400-500 attendees. Gary Ray gave a hands on clinic, making realistic Valley Oak trees. This was an excellent clinic and many trees were made by the participants. It was done in two parts with a lunch break and another clinic in between while waiting for parts to dry. The other clinic was by Howard Shively on making low cost storage boxes. It was an interesting and useful presentation. Mary-Moore Compagna pitched International Rail Fair and the need for volunteers to sign up. The business meeting was held, followed by elections. See Section III of this report. RJ Meyers agreed to replace Jim Collins as Membership Chairperson. Scott McAllister was

nominated for Director to the PCR Board. Contest results as follows: Buildings--RJ Meyers, 1st; Dave Cordell, 2nd; Gary Ray, 3rd. Photo #1--Color Track or Structure--Gary Ray, 1st; Dan Evans, 2nd; Jim Collins, 3rd. Photo #2--Portola Rail Museum or Feather River Canyon--Gary Ray, 1st, 2nd & 3rd.

II. Upcoming Events

1. Sierra Division sponsored High Sierra Model Railroad Tours on November 1st--Reno Layouts, November 2nd--Carson City and Fernley layouts. Two days, 21 layouts plus Aztec Mfg. Schedule should be available at

<http://www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/pdf/sierra-layout-tour-2014.pdf>.

2. International Rail Fair November 8 & 9, 2014, Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville, CA. Parking is free. Admittance is \$8.00 per person, under 12 free.

3. Next meet scheduled for January 31, 2015 with time and place to be announced.

III. Election Results for 2015 Officers

Superintendent:	Jim Collins (Jimcol@charter.net)
Chief Clerk:	Jim Firehock
Paymaster:	Al Rowe

V. Miscellaneous

1. Trains Emporium in Reno is out of business as of September 30, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Jones

Fall 2014 RED Director's Report

In response to Superintendent Dick Foster's questionnaire our spring meeting had its emphasis on operations. The meeting starting with a short introduction and then even less business. Shortly thereafter the popular 'Show and Tell' portion transpired. Many fine models were shown and modeling techniques shared. Then to operations, RED's speaker Jim Providenza gave a talk on beginning ops to one of our largest gatherings in recent years. After Jim's fine talk the meeting reassemble at Tom Swearingen's home layout to try some of the new ideas of operations. All seem to enjoy the new format and wanted more in the future.

Our annual summer picnic couldn't be held at Ron Kaiser's Westside Farm which had just been sold. We went back to the Western Railroad Museum in Rio Vista where we haven't been in seven years. We had a fine picnic under the shade trees; we rode on the trolleys and explored their prototype equipment.

A joint experiment was conducted with the Central Valley Lines. The CVL is a modular group in the Santa Rosa area with modelers of all ages, which includes many fine young enthusiasts. The two ideas presented were a first look at operations and the advantages of DCC. This was a successful meeting with many RED members contributing. Some of the advantages of NMRA were pointed and hopefully those advantages will be utilized by the younger CVL members in the future.

Also with the idea of spreading the message Carol Alexander again spearheaded a booth at the annual Santa Rosa Home and Train Show. RED members helped with manning the booth consisting of our mobile layout and a few displays. NMRA information and brochures were handed out. It is interesting to note the Home Show depends on train enthusiasts to increase attendance.

The RED continues in good shape. Memberships seem steady and our finances are in good order.

Dave Croshere
RED Director

PCR Membership Department Report

October 5, 2014

Doug Wagner

The PCR membership statistics for the past year, September 30, 2013 to September 30, 2014, looks like this:

Membership on September 30, 2013 – 1,047

Membership on September 30, 2014 – 1,005

These figures compares to our most recent all-time high of 1,497, which occurred in July 2011—the month of the National Convention in Sacramento. Where 191 joined using the 6-month Rail Pass membership.

As you can see, that is a net loss of 42 for the past year ending September 30, 2014. 13 of the 42 net loss, was due to the passing of 13 PCR members. On the bright side, we had 67 new members join, with 26 of those 67 joining up using the 6-month Rail Pass membership. Starting with September 30, 2013 to March 31, 2014, to use as a barometer as to how the 6-month Rail Pass program works for PCR, we had 17 join, using the Rail pass program, between September 30, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Out of those 17, 12 have remained on as members. Whether the remaining 50, of those 67 stick around, we will have to wait and see after the next 6 months. We saw a rise in 6-month Rail Pass membership sign ups just before the annual PCR convention, in San Luis Obispo, as we have seen right before the most recent PCR annual conventions. That was the same situation that occurred just before the 2011 NMRA National Convention, where we had 191 join using the 6-month Rail Pass membership, alone, in July, 2011. Guess people like going to conventions!

Calculating all the figures, and I hope I did the figuring right, not including the passing of the 13 PCR members, we had 92 members decide not to re-join the NMRA. It would appear that we can recruit new members, but can't retain some of them to stay on. There are several reasons as to why members leave—and you have probably heard them all. And if you are member of the Yahoo Groups, Regions and Divisions, there is always a thread going on about this very same problem—membership retention. In several of these threads, there are some saying we should look at how the Narrow Gauge groups operate as they seem to have many more members and can retain them. Not being familiar with the Narrow Gauge groups, I don't know if this is a fact. Others like the grass-roots of the PCR and its divisions, but don't like the NMRA, itself. But I guess the bottom line, there is no really single answer as to membership retention. One division, back east, welcomed its new members with a DVD made showing the different facets of what it provided—from layout tours to clinics. Probably pricey, but it seemed to work for them. I know that each PCR division membership chair does contact each new member—either by phone call, email or letter—or all 3. We might want to consider a welcome package from the Region, included with a one-time hard-copy issue of the Branchline. I know that every member gets the Branchline, for the first issue of the year, but if someone has joined using the Rail Pass membership, after the first issue, they may not see an issue of the

Branchline. As it appears, most new members do not sign up for the Branchline or NMRA magazine. I know that the Branchline is available online, so new members can be directed to it online, which I do with new members in the Daylight Division. The NMRA magazine, though, is not available online, as far as I know. I'm not well-versed enough into the DVD part to know how much of a cost that would be, but maybe something to look into. But with the divisions in the PCR sending out welcomes of some sort to all new members, the PCR sending out something might be redundant, but at least they would know about the PCR.

Now that I have rambled on for longer than I anticipated, the bottom line is that most of the work of membership retention will have to be done at the local level—the divisions. But, if we can get a coordinated effort from all divisions, so that we are on the same playing field, we might be able to retain most of our members. I will be contacting all division membership chairs to see how they are going about the effort to recruit, welcome and retain their members, and see if I can finally recruit someone for the position of Membership Promotions Chairman and Education Committee Chairman!

Doug Wagner
Membership Department Manager



PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT

October 12, 2014

Report for Mid-year BOD Meeting on October 25, 2014

The website also is doing well with Dave Grenier as its webmaster. We added a feature to the website called "Layout Stories" and so far four have been submitted. We are hoping that more folks will take advantage of this feature and spin some tales about their layouts.

The Branchline continues to be an excellent magazine under the capable hands of Editor Chuck Harmon. I do not see the Branchline or website costs until the financials are posted so I do not know if we are paying more than before. I know that our subscription numbers vary from issue to issue and that they have been rising over the last three by over one hundred subscribers. The 2nd quarter BL went to 711 members and the 4th quarter went out to 826 members. The Ballot issue was sent to 1153 members.

We have asked subscribers if they want to take the Branchline online only and so far under twenty have taken this route. We print about 20 extra copies of each issue for use at trains shows and to have copies for damage replacements. We mailed 3419 copies last year. We have 398 members who do not subscribe (taken from average mailings and the full mailing in January).

Nothing has been done about advertising in the Branchline. No one wants to be in charge of selling advertising. We do have a rate sheet if anyone is interested.

Russ Clover did an excellent job of re-working the Division logos at no cost to the Divisions. The logo above is one that Bill Scott's son did a while back.

I cannot make the meeting because the NWP Historical Society is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the completion of the NWP this weekend at our restoration site in Petaluma.

There is a new brochure that the committee finished up. It is intended to promote the NMRA and PCR. It should be printed by each Division when they need some for a Train Show or other promotion. It prints on legal paper and is folded into four panels. I have attached a copy to my report.

[PCR Brochure-new.pdf](#). The old Brochure intended as an introduction to the hobby is called [newPCR Informational Brochure.pdf](#)

Respectfully,

Gus Campagna, PCR Publications Manager



Which PCR Division Am I In?



Coast Division – Includes the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties in California.

Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast>



Hawaiian Division – All the area of the State of Hawaii.



Redwood Empire Division – Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties in California.

Web Site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~campgus/>



Daylight Division – Includes the counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties in California. Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight>



Sierra Division – Amador, Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba Counties in California and all of the

Counties of Nevada except Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye. Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra>

Welcome To The Pacific Coast Region and the National Model Railroad Association



We are glad you have joined us and we look forward to your participation in the activities this wonderful hobby has to offer to each and every one of us!

This packet has been prepared for you in an effort to advise you of the many benefits of your membership in the Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association. You are encouraged to use as many of the benefits as you need to further your model railroad goals. Z

Greetings From The President Of The PCR

It is a great pleasure to welcome you as a new or returning member of the Pacific Coast Region and the National Model Railroad Association! This brochure is our effort to acquaint you with some of the benefits and activities your membership has to offer, and we look forward to meeting you and participating with you in the hobby. I recommend you begin your association with us by attending one of the quarterly Divisional meets in your area. All Divisions advertise their quarterly meet schedules in the PCR Branch Line newsletter, and on each one of their individual web sites, as well as the PCR's web site, which is located at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/>. From the PCR's web site,

(Continued on page 2)



Benefits Of Being A Member of the NMRA



The NMRA is the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. It is a non-profit educational association whose purpose is both to promote the hobby of model railroading, and to help set standards within the industry. But the NMRA is far more personal than that. The NMRA is people - people across the globe, people in your area, and people just down the street who love model railroading and want to help others get that same enjoyment out of the hobby.

Here is a list of some of the benefits of membership:

- ◆ Kalmbach Memorial Library - perhaps one of the finest resources available to anyone interested in railroads or model railroads... members get special discounts and first crack at special releases.
- ◆ Fellowship of other modelers
- ◆ The Achievement Program - there's no better way to improve your modeling
- ◆ Regional and National conventions
- ◆ Access to Master Model Railroaders - they come from all over the world to the National convention. MMRs attend most Regional and Divisional functions, too!

- ◆ Monthly Scale Rails magazine
 - ◆ Participation in the "Modeling With The Masters" program
 - ◆ Insurance coverage for club layouts, meets and shows
 - ◆ NMRA Standards & Recommended Practices
 - ◆ Heritage & Living Legends Collector Cars
 - ◆ Participation in photo, slide and model contests with fellow members
 - ◆ Members' Aid Program. Got a question? We've got the answers!
 - ◆ Pike Registry -- Register your model railroad name
 - ◆ Tape/Slide and Video Clinics - rent them by mail... perfect for home viewing or club presentations
 - ◆ 100 % NMRA Club - The extra benefits of having all of your rail club members also members in the NMRA
- For further information contact your Division's Member Aid or visit the NMRA's web site at <http://www.nmra.org/>

(Greetings From The President — Continued from page 1)
 you can link to each one of the 5 Divisions in the PCR. If you have any questions, please contact one of the volunteers listed in each issue of the Branch Line, or your respective Division newsletter. One of our pleasures is helping the new member get involved and maximizing your enjoyment. Hopefully, one day, you too, will become a volunteer and pass this great hobby on to someone else.

The PCR And Its Divisions



Quarterly Meets

Once each quarter, each PCR Division holds a meet somewhere within their boundaries. One of these meets will be near you, but you may attend any Division meet within the entire NMRA. They are a lot of fun to attend! These meets usually include ~~2~~ or 3 clinics of interest where fellow model railroaders share their methods and techniques or experiences with us. ~~Then~~ there is a short business meeting to keep everyone abreast of current events in the Association. ~~And Divisions do hold auctions, along with refreshments.~~ You will also have the opportunity to meet and talk with other modelers, solve problems that you may be experiencing with your modeling. ~~We~~ also hold a contest at each event for modeling and photography. As a member, you are encouraged to enter your efforts, and can win a ribbon or a plaque. All PCR Divisions hold quarterly meets and ALL NMRA members are welcome to attend them.

Achievement Program

The NMRA recognizes those modelers who have attained competence in several categories of model building, layout construction and operation, and provided service to the hobby. You can obtain one, two or as many of the Achievement Certificates as you desire. When you have obtained the required number as set forth in the NMRA program rules, you will be recognized as a Master Model Railroader and awarded a handsome plaque for display.

Layout Tours

At ~~all~~ Division meets, and at other times of the year, ~~each~~ Division may sponsor layout tours to give you an opportunity to visit members having operating layouts. You will get ideas you can use on your own layout, as well as have a lot of fun meeting other modelers. Why not get together with several members to tour around and look at the layouts open for visiting? You will increase your enjoyment and a friend may point out some feature you missed seeing. Tours are usually held in conjunction with a quarterly Division meet, but some Divisions have layout tours throughout the year, not associated with the quarterly Division meets. See as many as you can each day, or go only one day if other activities prevent full participation.

Publications

The Pacific Coast Region publishes the quarterly PCR Branch Line to keep the members advised of region affairs and upcoming events, and is made available to those members who subscribe to the Branch Line. The PCR also has a web site at www.pcrnmra.org/, and an electronic version of the Branch Line is posted at this web site. Each PCR Division publishes their own individual newsletter, which is sent out several weeks before each Division meet. It is mailed out to all NMRA members residing within the boundaries of their respective Divisions, and is also posted electronically at each Division's web site. All are worthwhile publications, and great supplements to your monthly NMRA Scale Rails, which is sent from the National organization to all who subscribe to it.

Conventions

PCR Conventions

Each year, the Pacific Coast Region holds its annual convention, usually around May 1. These conventions are rotated amongst the Divisions of the PCR, and are sponsored by local model railroad groups. The conventions usually run 5 days, and offer incredible opportunities to learn new model railroading techniques, brush up on old ones, talk trains, view incredible videos and movies and meet fellow model railroaders from all over the Region -- and beyond -- as PCR conventions are widely recognized to be amongst the best conventions in the Nation. Further information on the PCR Conventions can be found on the PCR's web site at www.pcrnmra.org/convention/conv.shtml

National Conventions

Each year, during the summer months, a national convention is held. This convention rotates amongst the Regions of the NMRA, and normally brings together 1,000 to 2,000 model railroaders for an intense week of fun, learning, tours and other activities. A prototype train excursion for conventioners is not uncommon. There is so much to see and do, no one can possibly do it all at these National Conventions. You are bound to have a good time, and activities are always planned for family members who are not modelers if you want to make it a vacation trip. What an opportunity to see the different parts of this great country that you might otherwise have never had a chance to visit! For more information visit the web site at www.nmra.org/convention/

PCR Contest manager report to the BOD of Oct 2014.

Item 1: Scratch-building Category points realignment.

Background information.

I am proposing a change to the judging protocol that has been the norm in PCR the last few years as it relates to the scratch-building category. See revised Contest Directory dated October 24, 2009. Copies of specific pages are enclosed: appendix 1 verifies the date of the revision; appendix 2 is the page in the Directory dealing with the scratch-building guidelines and points matrix.

Presently, the scratch-building category uses a matrix of 15 maximum points awarded to a model entirely scratchbuilt(i.e. greater than 90%). The same scratch-building category allows a maximum of ten points if the model is kit-built even though it could have a considerable number of scratch-built parts. Pro and Con arguments have been put forth as to which method is the fairest in awarding points.

The pervasive general feeling is that a kit-built entry is immediately disadvantaged before it is even judged compared to a scratchbuilt entry, supposedly disenchanting a number of would be entrants to the Contest.

The Contest Directory specifically states: “ (As a judge) you are primarily concerned with the quantity of scratch-building. The quality is judged under Construction “.

Thus, it stands to reason as immaterial to have an artificial limit to the points awarded a kit-built model. A fully scratch-built model of a high degree of complexity would, by its very nature, score higher than a kit-built model of the same complexity. The exception would be a kit-built model using the kit for its core elements yet sporting difficult to fabricate additional details that far surpass the **amount** of details in the scratch-built model even though both were regarded as complex-to-build models.. In this scenario the kit-built model should score higher than the scratch-built one.

It is then up to the discretion of the judging team to award what they perceive to be the correct number of points for the entries, as long as the judges are very precise and discrete in the assignments of points after giving full consideration to the complexity and amount of the scratchbuilt parts.

It then becomes imperative that we teach our judges the correct methodology of assigning points and not leaving anything to chance or whim. All judges need to attend a refresher course in the art and science of judging the evening before judging takes place; location and time to be announced on the Convention website.

Resolution:

My proposal to the Board is to assign a maximum of 15 points in the Scratch-building Category regardless of whether the entry is scratch-built or kit-built.

As an additional benefit, this would also place us in line with the scoring system presently in use for AP Certificates and would thus allow PCR to utilize the scoring in Contest to be applied directly to AP scoring as well, without duplicating our efforts as we do not always have a substantial number of judges available.

Item 2:

My second point is in regards to the Contest Committee (see appendix 3: this is page 2 part C of the Contest Directory). It explains what the Contest Committee is about and who belongs to it.

There needs to be communication between the Divisions' Superintendents and the PCR Contest Manager as to who presently holds the chair for Division Contest. There have been a considerable number of changes at the Divisional level recently. Coast Division, Sierra Division and Daylight Division have all seen multiple changes in that position. It would be a good touch if the Superintendents of the Divisions would inform the PCR Contest Manager by e-mail of the names and e-mails addresses of the new current Division Contest chairs.

{ Yes, I could hunt them down, but it would be much simpler to be kept informed since Divisional newsletter directories (my best source) are not necessarily kept up to date. }

Same goes for the Convention Contest Chair. Much simpler if the Convention Chair would send an e-mail to the PCR Contest Manager with a name and e-mail address. This way, the lines of communication would be easily established.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Giuseppe Aymar, MMR



PACIFIC COAST REGION NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION CONTEST DIRECTORY

Revision of 24 October, 2009

I. *Intent, Scope, and Changes*

- A. Pacific Coast Region (PCR) contests are held in conjunction with the annual PCR Convention. This directory is intended to assemble PCR contest materials for the use of the PCR contest committee and PCR members. This directory consists of a main body setting forth official PCR definitions, rules, duties, and procedures, and a series of appendices containing copies of forms, judging guidelines, suggestions for completing forms, and descriptions of current contest practices.
- B. The PCR Contest Manager may make changes to the main body of this directory with the approval of the Board of Directors. Changes to appendices may be made as specified in each appendix.

II. *Contest Personnel and Duties*

- A. The PCR Contest Manager is appointed by the President and is generally responsible for conducting the PCR contest program. The PCR Contest Manager is specifically responsible for:

- Working with the Convention Contest Chairman to arrange and conduct PCR contests at the annual convention.
- Informing the Convention Contest Chairman of contest requirements and estimated contest expenses.
- Recruiting judges and supervisors for judging.
- Creating and maintaining the required forms and records.
- Arranging for the production, presentation, and engraving of awards.
- Publicizing PCR contests in the PCR newsletter, and informing the editor of contest winners.

SCRATCH BUILDING

"This deals with all parts of the model which have been FABRICATED BY THE BUILDER." (PCR Contest Directory)

How much did the modeler build from scratch, and how difficult was the scratch building?

This category deals with all parts of the model which have been fabricated by the modeler from basic wood, metal, plastic, or other shapes and materials. Are major portions of the model built from scratch, or just some parts and details? Consider the amount of effort required to convert basic materials into finished parts. Bending grabirons from wire, for example, is less difficult than soldering together piping or railings. Consider any planning or design work that was necessary. Drawing your own plans is considered part of scratch building, **if** the plans are submitted with the model. Scratch building from prototype plans, photos, or measurements is usually more difficult than scratch building from kit plans or a magazine article.

Casting or photo-etching is considered scratch building, although less difficult than making several identical parts from scratch. Did the modeler carry out all the steps from a scratch-built master to finished duplicates, or were either the masters or the duplicates created by others?

You are primarily concerned with the *quantity* of scratch building. The *quality* is judged under Construction.

Open Scratchbuilding Scoring Guide

Model Complexity	Little Scratch					Some/Partly Scratch					Much/ Mostly Scratch		Extensive/ Completely Scratch built				
Simple	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	14	15	17	18	19	20
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	15	16	19	19	20	21
Moderate	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	17			0	21	22
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13						
Complex	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			21	22	23	25
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15						

Kit Scratchbuilding Scoring Guide

	Little Scratch		Some Scratch			More Scratch		Much Scratch		
10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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- Informing the Achievement Program of candidate entries for merit awards and of the names of judges and event chairman. *J. AI) Mex,,- :? W;|| ..e.c--e-ive-- r- [eA1r l-o-.oYG..je,..:."e...-r et.vJ4:rrf:-1.*
- Recommends changes to this directory, seeking approval for such changes, and keeping the directory current
- Settling contest disputes.
- Presiding over the Contest Committee. *PCR Contest manager, Convention Contest chair, All the Divisions Contest chairmen.*

B. The Convention Contest Chairman is chosen by the Host Contest Committee, and is generally responsible for arranging facilities and staffing for PCR contests, and working with the PCR Contest Manager to conduct the contests. The Convention Contest Chairman is specifically responsible for:

- Arranging rooms, furniture, equipment, etc., for PCR contests.
- Arranging clerical staffing and security for PCR contests.
- Arranging reimbursement for the cost of awards and other convention-related contest expenses.
- Publicizing PCR contests in convention literature.
- Assisting the PCR Contest Manager to recruit judges.
- Arranging for and conducting any contests sponsored by the Host Convention Committee.

C. The PCR Contest Committee consists of the PCR Contest Manager, the Convention Contest Chairman, and the Division Contest Chairmen. The PCR Contest Committee is responsible for:

- Coordinating PCR and Division contests and contest procedures.
- Publicizing and promoting PCR and Division contests.
- Advising the PCR Contest Manager and Board of Directors.

D. Event Chairmen are appointed by the PCR Contest Manager as needed to arrange and conduct Photography, Leernotive -petfmnrances, and Switching Contests, and the PCR Contes :lager will determine their duties.

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