



The 2019 Pacific Coast Region convention in Sacramento will feature a great array of operating sessions, tours and clinics . *Early Bird Registration Discount has been extended. See details below.*

Check out the great operating session opportunities we'll have available:

- Bill Dillon's Roseville Roundhouse
- Phil Gulley's Union Pacific and summit County RR in Auburn
- Dave Stanley's Morada Belt Railway
- Walt Schedler's SP Dunsmuir Route in Colusa
- Pending confirmation on the Sacramento Modular Railroad— may also hold OP session. Stay tuned.



The convention will also be hosting some great layout tours:

- Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society - HO Hon3
- Terry Haven's HOn3 layout
- Bill Berg's HO Layout

Here's the latest list of clinics. Check out the new additions.

- Jim Collins – [Using AnyRail to Design a Module Track Plan – The Basics](#)
- Phil Gulley – [3D Printing for Model Railroaders](#)
- Earl Girbovan – [Fences for Your Layout \(Part 1 – Wood Fences\)](#)
- Randy Pfeiffer – [Layout Design with 3rd Planit CAD, Part I](#)
- Earl Girbovan – [Fences for Your Layout \(Part 2 – MetalFences\)](#)
- Klaus Keil – [Inexpensive Intermodal Container Models](#)
- Robert Pethoud – [Cheap and Easy Trees](#)
- Jesse Walden – [An Operating System for Smaller Layouts](#)
- Walt Schedler – [Backdrops for the Colusa Shasta Division](#)
- Steve Moore – [2019 National NMRA Convention Preview](#)
- Al Turnbull – [Basic Scenery Tips and Techniques](#)
- Paul Deis – [Tuning Up Your Rolling Stock for Reliable Operation](#)

Editor's Note:

This list of clinics was revised February 12, 2019. Other updates may occur, but will not be reflected here in the Branch Line. Rather, please check the convention website.

<http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/>



USPS 870-060
ISSN 07449774
Volume 76 Number 2
Jan - Mar 2019

- Al Turnbull – [Trees, Trees, and Stuff](#)
- Thomas Blinn – [Wiring Your Layout for JMIR – Do's and Don'ts](#)
- Irwin Nathanson – [Miniature Wonderland versus Gulliver's Gate](#)
- David Clemens – [Mainline to Shortline: Creating the Camas Prairie Railroad](#)
- Paul Hobbs – [TTX – An Unnoticed Giant](#)

Continued on page 4

PCR Call Board

Officers, BOD	President, Ed Merrin Vice-President, Carol Alexander Treasurer, Bob Osborn Secretary, Chris Palermo Director - Daylight, Neil Fernbaugh Director - Coast, Frank Markovich, MMR Director - Sierra, Tom Van Horn Director - RED, Steve Skold	707-542-3620 707-484-5428 925-420-6880 650-208-3150 559-805-4520 408-505-2727 209-626-0352 707-539-1782	edmerrin@comcast.net pcrVicePres@pcrnmra.org brakemanbob@yahoo.com chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com marmot47@sbcglobal.net frank@frankmarkovich.com tomvca@aol.com sandeskold@att.net
Administration	Manager, Ed Merrin Budget and Finance Committee [President, Vice-President and Treasurer] By-laws and Manual Committee, Steve Skold Nomination Committee Chair, Dave Connery, MMR Ballot Committee, Jim Provenza Honors Committee, Ray deBlieck Storekeeper, Ted Moes Audit Committee, John Houlihan Historian, Dave Connery, MMR	707-542-3620 707-539-1782 925-735-0134 415-472-6715 510-521-9778 510-749-7099 559-435-0874 925-735-0134	edmerrin@comcast.net sandeskold@att.net dgconnery@sbcglobal.net rrjim@aol.com RaydBCS@aol.com ted@tjmoes.com oscalejohngmail.com dgconnery@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Manager, Doug Wagner Member Services, Bob Ferguson Promotion (Vacant) Member Aid, Rod Smith Education (Vacant) Special Interests, Seth Neumann	661-589-0391 925-228-6833 510-657-3362 650-965-4687	CarlDW@aol.com BobPCRCD@aol.com Railgeezer@aol.com sneumann@pacbell.net
Pubs.	Manager, Gus Campagna Editor, Chip Meriam Webmaster, Dave Grenier Social Media, Chris Palermo	707-664-8466 530-899-2609 408-431-8989 650-208-3150	campgus@earthlink.net chipmeriam@comcast.net pcrWebmaster@pcrnmra.org chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com
Conv.	Manager, Tom Crawford 2019 Sacramento Co-Chair, Jim Collins 2019 Sacramento Co-Chair, Chip Meriam	510-790-0371 209-566-0935 530-899-2609	tom@thecrawfordfamily.net jimcol@charter.net chipmeriam@comcast.net
Contest	Manager, Giuseppe Aymar Daylight Division, Chuck Harmon, MMR Coast Division, Jim Eckman Sierra Division, Gary Ray RED, Giuseppe Aymar	707-291-0701 559-299-4385 650-996-6728 530-990-1276 707-291-0701	Giuseaymar@aol.com harmonsta@yahoo.com jim_eckman@roninengineer.com gerber1926@gmail.com Giuseaymar@aol.com
AP	Manager, Jack Burgess, MMR Daylight Division, Dave Grenier Coast Division, Earl Girbovan Sierra Division, Dave Bayless RED, Giuseppe Aymar, MMR	510-797-9557 408-431-8989 650-248-9255 530-613-5784 707-291-0701	jack@yosemitevalleyrr.com grenida@pacbell.net egirbovan@netzero.com davebayl@pacbell.net Giuseaymar@aol.com
Daylight	Superintendent, Neil Fernbaugh Clerk / Paymaster, VACANT Editor, Brewsater Bird Contest, Chuck Harmon Achievement, Dave Grenier Membership, Doug Wagner Member Aid, Bob Pethoud Webmaster, Dave Grenier	559-805-4520 559-967-6773 559-299-4385 408-431-8989 661-589-0391 559-438-7705 408-431-8989	marmot47@sbcglobal.net mec569@yahoo.com harmonsta@yahoo.com grenida@pacbell.net CarlDW@aol.com pethoud@comcast.net grenida@pacbell.net
Coast	Superintendent, Doug Smith Clerk, Dan Rom Paymaster, Bob Ferguson Editor, Tom Crawford Contest, Jim Eckman Achievement, Earl Girbovan Membership, Ronnie LaTorres Member Aid, Rod Smith Webmaster, Pete Birdsong, MMR	925-362-8974 925-719-2811 925-228-6833 510-790-0371 650-996-6728 650-248-9255 510-317-7456 510-657-3362 859-552-5467	funrun27@yahoo.com k3d2dotrom@yahoo.com BobPCRCD@aol.com tom@thecrawfordfamily.net jim_eckman@roninengineer.com egirbovan@netzero.com veronicashadow@yahoo.com Railgeezer@aol.com rrpetteb@gmail.com
Sierra	Superintendent, Chip Meriam Clerk, Dave Fryman Paymaster, Al Rowe Editor, Chip Meriam Membership, Jim Collins Webmaster, Gus Campagna	530-899-2609 925-360-1377 916-961-9911 530-899-2609 209-566-0935 707-664-8466	chipmeriam@comcast.net fryperson@hotmail.com hofunar@aol.com chipmeriam@comcast.net jimcol@charter.net campgus@earthlink.net
RED	Superintendent, Scott Lockhart Clerk / Paymaster, Dud Peters Editor, Scott Lockhart Program, Dave Grundman Contest, Giuseppe Aymar, MMR Achievement, Giuseppe Aymar, MMR Membership, Gus Campagna Webmaster, Gus Campagna	707-775-9889 707-292-1495 707-775-9889 707-584-1964 707-291-0701 707-291-0701 707-664-8466 707-664-8466	scottnl1947@gmail.com dudpeters@yahoo.com scottnl1947@gmail.com dave_pat_1999@yahoo.com Giuseaymar@aol.com Giuseaymar@aol.com campgus@earthlink.net campgus@earthlink.net

The Branch Line
The Official Publication of the
Pacific Coast Region/ National
Model Railroad Association

Vol. 76, No. 1 1st Qtr, 2019

The Branch Line is published quarterly to inform members of Region activities and to provide educational articles for the advancement of railroad history and the art and science of model railroading. It is distributed to members of the Pacific Coast Region. Electronic versions are posted on the website, www.pcrnmra.org.

Copyright 2018, Pacific Coast Region, National Model Railroad Association. Permission to reprint granted to all affiliates of the NMRA. Others may request permission to reprint from the Editor:

Chip Meriam
 2260 Cherry Glenn Court
 Chico, CA 95926
 Phone (530) 899-2609
 e-mail: chipmeriam@comcast.net

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Branch Line (USPS 870060, ISSN 07449771), is issued four times a year in the months of January, April, July and October. Deadline for all materials is the first of the month preceding publication. No material will be returned unless requested and sufficient postage is provided. Membership in the PCR is included in NMRA dues. A subscription to the BRANCH LINE is \$8.00.

The BRANCH LINE is published by the Pacific Coast Region, 530 Fig Tree Lane, Martinez, CA 94553.

Periodical Postage paid at Martinez, CA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to - BRANCH LINE, 1915 William Drive, Penngrove, CA 94951.

All comments about materials contained in the BRANCH LINE should be mailed directly to the PCR Publications Manager, 1915 William Drive, Penngrove, CA 94951.

Inquiries regarding membership application, renewal, or change of address should be directed to the NMRA, P.O. Box 1328 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328.

Contents

Reports

From the President.....5
 Convention Department Update.....7
 Contest Report.....8
 From the Editor.....9
 Candidate Statements.....10
 Achievement Report.....14
 SIG Report.....16
 Coast Report.....26
 RED Report.....28
 Sierra Report.....29

Feature Stories

2019 Convention..... 1
 The Answers Are Out There.....17
 Tales Of The Santa Cruz Northern.....19
 Looking Back.....21
 Innovators in Model Railroading.....23
 Spotlight On A Local Club.....25

Regular Goodies

Call Board..... 2
 Statement of Publication.....3
 Member Tracker.....3
 Welcome New Members.....6
 In Memoriam.....11
 2019 PCR Convention Announcement.....12
 2019 PCR Convention Registration Form.....13
 NMRA Membership Renewal Form.....15
 Opting Out of Branch Line Subscriptions.....16
 Time Table.....30
 Web Announcement.....31
 Branch Line Deadlines.....31
 Club Information.....33
 Membership Gauge.....38

PCR Membership Tracker

<u>Division</u>	<u># Members</u>
Coast	423
Sierra	271
Redwood Empire	129
Daylight	113
Total PCR Members	936

continued from Page 1

- Robert Pethoud – Building and Operating a Shelf Layout
- Bob Chaparro – Citrus Industry Operations
- Gary Ray – Prototype Model Railroad Planning, Design, and Operation
- Chris Palermo – Mid-Century Modern Structures for the Transition-Era Layout
- Randy Pfeiffer – Layout Design with 3rd PlanIt CAD, Part II
- Paul Weiss – Blood, Sweat, Tears, and Lumber
- Frank Markovich, MMR – Using A Prototype As Inspiration For A Private Road Name
- Jon Schmidt – Car Movement on the Central Vermont Using JMRI
- Jim Zeek – Box Factories
- David Parks – LCC Essentials for the Beginner
- Jim Zeek – Modeling Sawmills for Operations
- Gregory Madsen – A More Prototypical Approach to Car Forwarding Software
- Al Turnbull – DC/DCC Wiring
- Michael Eldridge – Laser Cut Building and Kit Development – from Concept to Finished Model Bob
- Chaparro – Right of Way and Trackside Details
- Chip Meriam – Forms, Signs, and More
- Ed Hall, MMR 242 – Basic Airbrushing
- Randy Pfeiffer – Layout Design with 3rd PlanIt CAD, Part III
- Gary Ray – The Butte County Railroad
- Chris Palermo – Modeling Roads – Three Techniques Demonstrated
- Jeff Allen – A Model Railroad in a Math Classroom
- David Fryman – Remotely-Controlled Electromagnetic Uncoupler
- Jeff Asay – The Iron Feather
- Kerry Cochran – Western Pacific MOW Cars: History and Modelling part 2
- Loren Dunlap – Western Pacific Railroad China
- Jeff Moore – McCloud River Railway
- Ken Rattenne – “The West in Western Pacific”
- Janet Steeper – Western Pacific Menus and Food Service
- Eugene Vicknair – “The Quincy Railroad”
- Evan Werkema – Western Pacific Diesel Excursions
- Mark Williams – History of the California Zephyr train
- Mark Williams – The “Zephyrette” RDCs
- Cathy von Ibsch – History of the Zephyrettes
- Virgil Staff Films – California Zephyr Films

Editor’s Note:

This list of clinics was revised February 12, 2019. Other updates may occur, but will not be reflected here in the Branch Line. Rather, please check the convention website.

<http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/>

PCR's next convention will be May 2 to May 5 at McClellan Conference Center, 5411 Luce Ave, McClellan Park, CA 95652 near Sacramento. Online and PDF registration forms are now available at the website: <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/registration>. We will keep you informed but don't forget to check the convention website regularly for updated information. (*Editor's Note: You can also find a registration form on page 13*)

For more information on these and other events, visit PCR's website. If you meet others who need information on NMRA and how to join, ask them to visit NMRA's website or find membership information there.



Early Bird Special Extended to March 15 !



From the President

By Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

Change is Afoot

As I gather my thoughts and prepare to write my next to last column, the last six months of my four years at the helm of PCR has begun to hover over my shoulder. I can say it has been an eventful time, for me at least, and it has been an honor and a privilege to have had this responsibility. I'm going to cover two very important topics this time, so please bear with me and keep reading.

There have been some rough, bumpy spots along the way, for example much of this past year. But we have gotten through them, mostly because of the heroic efforts of PCR members who have cared enough about the health and future of our organization to subject themselves to considerable personal inconvenience for its benefit.

Which leads us to the question of who will be leading PCR for the next two years. This February will be election time once again, this time for the offices of President and Vice President. And as we did for last year's selection of Division Directors, we will be utilizing the web-based service ElectionBuddy to handle the distribution of our ballots and the tabulation of the results. The statements of the nominated candidates are available elsewhere in this issue and they will be included with the ballots sent to you by email as well. We have one candidate for each office, but voters can write in candidates as well. As was the case last year, there will be no ballots printed here in the Branch Line for mailing in.

We had great success with using ElectionBuddy last year, with 38% participation in contrast to the 10-12% we had in past elections. The only drawback was that a minority of PCR members who are eligible to vote had not provided NMRA with an email address. For those members we sent out identical but printed ballots by mail. About 12% of them participated.

Besides increasing the number of PCR members who actually vote, the savings from not sending printed copies of the Branch Line to members who have "opted out" of receiving them just to get ballots out to them more than covered the modest fee charged by ElectionBuddy. However, the cost of printing and mailing ballots to over 100 members without email addresses was quite a bit higher than the ElectionBuddy fee.

You probably guessed what comes next. **If you use email but have not provided an address to NMRA, please do so now—our ability to timely communicate information to you depends on it, and we don't misuse addresses.**

All it takes is going to the NMRA website, signing in as a member if you haven't as yet, and making sure your profile is accurate and up to date. During the past election period over 20 emails bounced back. Some of them had been

typed in to the NMRA member database incorrectly and some were old addresses that were no longer valid. We were able to correct some but not all of these. By correcting your email information you'll receive the monthly NMRA Turntable as well as announcements of upcoming PCR and Divisional events.



And this leads us directly to our next topic.

For some years now, PCR has been in the red. Not by much, but at a steady rate. Although we are not in danger of running out of money soon, the long term financial outlook for our organization is not good. Your Board would be irresponsible if it did not take steps to do something about it. We have looked for sources of new revenue and continue to do so, but because of these shortfalls we are hampered in our ability to allocate funds for purposes that have the potential for improving the model railroading experiences for our members.

The one item in our budget that has stood out is the increasing cost of printing and mailing the Branch Line. In fact, this expense item is largely responsible for our recurring deficits. Printing and mailing costs have risen (in the case of printing, it goes up each year) and subscription rates don't cover it. Over the last few years the Board has considered various measures, including adding advertising, raising the annual subscription from its current \$8.00 level, and encouraging members to "opt out" of receiving the printed version (even if they are paying the subscription fee added to their annual dues). Furthermore, the Branch Line's content has to be limited because of the additional cost of printing more pages per issue. Meanwhile, the general public has free access to each issue, in full color no less, on the PCR website.

The major remaining option is to cease publication of the printed Branch Line and convert to all digital distribution. Within PCR that step has actually already taken place. All four Divisions have ceased printing their newsletters and now distribute them via their websites and in some cases by email (obviously this again assumes that members have a valid email address on file). Besides saving costs, this step has allowed editors to produce much more colorful and fun to read newsletters with needing to adhere to budget constraints.

In some informal discussions I have had with members I have been aware that this can be perceived as a drastic step. In Board discussions two members expressed concern that we would lose some of our older members, perhaps some of those that have chosen to not use computers or have email. I decided to find out what other NMRA Regions have been doing about this.

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

I went to all their websites, including those based in Canada, Australia/New Zealand, UK, and Continental Europe. I looked for information about their publications and how they distribute them. I then reached out my fellow Regional Presidents, explaining our situation and whether any of their Regions had been down this path.

I received responses from ten of the other 18 Regional Presidents, many of which were extremely helpful I found that all of our concerns have been shared by most of them. More to the point, I have confirmed that nine Regions have digital only distribution of their newsletters; Australasian, European, Lone Star, Mid-Central, Niagra Frontier, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Thousand Lakes. Four others may be digital only but I don't have confirmation. Sunshine Region considered this but chose instead to raise the subscription price.

The Board of Directors met online and after more discussion decided that with all the financial and other issues the best course of action was to print the Branch Line for mailing for one more year and convert to digital only after October 2019. You'll be able to download copies from the

PCR website or, if you want to receive it faster, provide us with your email address and you'll receive an announcement with a direct link when each issue is available. We appreciate that this will be difficult for some members and we are planning efforts to minimize this inconvenience. We expect to be entertaining discussion on online forums and at meets and other venues. There is more to be written in the Branch Line and we expect this to be a topic at the annual Business Meeting in Sacramento. In addition, I and any of the other Board members would be happy to hear from you on an individual basis.

With that, I will sign off and wish you all a good holiday season.

Ed Merrin
President PCR/NMRA



Welcome Aboard ! PCR's Newest Members

Member	City, Sate	Date Joined
	Daylight	
James Cuevas	Santa Barbara CA	11/15/2018
	Sierra	
Stephen Shiflet	Camichael CA	10/24/2018
Aaron Splawn	Roseville CA	10/24/2018
Pierre Martin	Reno NV	10/29/2018
Duncan MacDonald	Sheridan CA	11/5/2018
Denise Schmidt	Gold River CA	11/28/2018



May 2 - 5, 2019
Sacramento



Pacific Coast Region Diamond Jubilee

Chip Meriam, Co-Chairman,
Diamond Rails Forever 2019



The 2019 PCR Convention Committee held an “on site” meeting November 3 at the McClellan Conference Center, location of the 2019 “Diamond Rails Forever” convention coming up during the first week of May 2019. We also visited the Lion’s Gate Hotel where most of the convention attendees will be lodging. The Lion’s Gate will be the venue for the Saturday night banquet and the PCR breakfast and business meeting on Sunday morning.

We are happy to report that the convention facility is easy to reach with access from Interstate 80, there is more than ample parking available, and the hotel, although off site, is conveniently located within walking distance. Our visit to the hotel included lunch and we found the food to be very good. We extend our thanks to Scott McAllister for arranging for the convention site and hotel.

We have Brian Witt working on Prototype Tours, Scott Inman working on Layout Tours and Operating Sessions, Gary Ray working on SIG Activities and Operating Sessions, Chip Meriam coordinating the Contests, and Dave Bayless lining up the Clinics. My co-chairman, Jim Collins, is busy updating the Diamond Rail Forever website as details fall into place. Jim’s last update was December 11. Jim has updated an extensive list of clinic offerings, confirmed our keynote speaker, and published the banquet menu selections. Of major note: **The deadline for Early Bird registration has been extended to March 15, 2019.** Take advantage of this opportunity to save \$30 on the registration package. (see registration form on page 13)

Hotel reservations can be made beginning January 15. Special rates apply for convention attendees so be sure to book your room early.

Be sure to check the website often for further updates at: <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/>

PCR is Celebrating 75 Years

The Pacific Coast Region was formed in 1944, as the first region in the NMRA. This year we are 75 years old, the first Region in the NMRA to reach this milestone. If you have any ideas on how we should celebrate this milestone please share them with the PCR Historian, Dave Connery at dgconnery@sbcglobal.net. We will only be 75 once!

Contest Report

By Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Manager, PCR Contest
Department
Diamond Rails Forever

Memories kept alive- The beauty of the Contest's " Show Room "

A long, long time ago, say 60 years just for fun, wow! A nine year old boy was gluing together a paper car made from cutouts. Remember those cutouts you would find in periodicals? The wheels were simple disks of paper, the doors were just an imprint. Yet he was so proud of having put it together even in this barebones simplicity. Then he started wondering: "how can I make the wheels turn?" He proceeded to make a paper steering wheel, used toothpicks for axles and by golly the wheels turned. He fashioned Scotch Tape as a hinge so the doors could be opened. With a few changes the model became much more interesting. It evolved from a static to a working model, expanding the potential for play. The pride and glee of that accomplishment still resonates in his heart to this day.



What a small thing to do but what a great accomplishment. Time passes with a vengeance yet the raw feelings remain embedded in our consciousness. Most of our Christmas joy, for example, is rooted in childhood memories and we relive them yearly via the Christmas tree, caroling and spending time with family. Our joy of modeling things resurfaces periodically when we get ready to add to our railroads or bring our treasures in the form of trains or arts & crafts or photographs for display at meetings. It is then that our heart feels a warmth of happiness no

matter if our treasure is only a paper car.

Such is the world of Contest and Show & Tell. It offers a venue to share our creations for others to enjoy and, hopefully, lose themselves in time and space. It is the essence of our "modeler's showroom" (we know it as Contest or Show & Tell).

Contests have been called anachronistic and passé'. Who needs them in this age of fantastic models available right out-of-the-box? Not so fast, say us well seasoned folks. They bring back the wide eyed childhood feelings of anticipation and surprise, anchoring us to a past that shaped us in the fabrication of our future life's endeavors. Let's bring back that magic and wonderment to our gatherings. As our collective age in this hobby has reached the sexagenarian mark, why not reintroduce the child of enchantment and surprise? We can achieve it by simply deciding to participate in this celebration. Let's bring a part of us to be shared in the "showroom" so that others can, for a few moments, enjoy creativity and wonder if they could not do so themselves. It might be the spark and incentive they need to make their own paper steering wheel and toothpick axle. No matter how simple it might be, it would still become their very own creation.

When we ask you to bring an entry to the "showroom" (Contest Room) we are not asking for you to create a work of art. We are simply asking that you bring an entry. No matter how simple or incomplete it might be, it would represent a creation of your hands and mind - your love for this hobby. Blessed are the kids at heart for this hobby is full of them - no matter how exotic and prototypically their minds want to imagine their fantasy world to be.

Can I count on you to make this upcoming Convention the one when you finally decide to not hold back out of fear but to allow us to enjoy your creation? Remember there are four categories to enter: models, photographs, arts & crafts (like paintings, sculptures, shadow boxes, memorabilia, etc.). There is also just a show-only, non-judged category that will simplify how the entry is catalogued.

A good source of information is the PCR's website under Contest. Peruse through it to get all the information you need. If still you have unanswered questions, feel free to contact me by e-mail at giuseaymar@aol.com.

Keep dreaming and resolve to partake in our showroom. Our hobby needs kids like you.

Ciao e Buone Feste a tutti

As I write this column it seems appropriate to me that this is the last “piece of the puzzle” that must be put in place to complete this issue of the *Branch Line* on the last business day of the year 2018 which, in four days, will roll over into last year. I almost made the mental mistake of referring to this issue as the last one this year, but alas - it is the first of the new year. So, everyone, Happy New Year!

With the new year come some changes, as is typical. Although there is nothing radically new in these pages there are a few things to look for:



First, we have a first look at two of the possible new faces of our leadership. Be sure to see the Candidate’s Statements beginning on page 10. Second, we have a few changes to the Call Board as there are some new people taking over in various positions at the divisional and regional levels, Third, we are planning a new convention for the new year, the Diamond Rails Forever celebration of the PCR’s 75th year. It will be May 2 through 5 at the McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento. You will find stories about Diamond Rails Forever on pages 1, 4 & 7 as well as a registration form on page 13.

Another change of note are the plans to move the *Branch Line* to an all electronic publication. This is a change that will be more evident in later months. Our current president, Ed Merrin, does a thorough job of explaining this in his column beginning on page 5. I must admit that it’s been a bit of a joy to see a magazine, albeit in black-and-white, arrive in my mailbox each quarter as it has for years. But I am keenly aware of the “nuts and bolts” and “dollars and cents” realities that led to the decision by the Board of Directors to make the move to all electronic. A major advantage of doing so is the loss of the size and content re-

straint that comes with printed media. To further explain, I must limit the publication to 40 pages in order to keep us in compliance with the contract PCR has with the commercial printer. With an electronic version, on our own website, we have no such limitation.

Now a few thoughts that popped into my mind while getting this issue together:

It’s been a few months since I have received any new club information. We are delighted to add new clubs to our list, so if you are part of one, or know of one that’s not listed, please get the information to me.

On page 25 you’ll find an article titled “Spotlight On A Local Club”. This was first run in the RED *Call Board* as part of the Fall 2018 issue. It caught my attention because I visited the Mendocino Coast Model Railroad & Historical Society in the spring of 2017, and I had ideas about doing just such an article for the Sierra Division *Short Line*. I never did, so I’m glad to see someone else did. My thanks to Scott Lockhart for agreeing to share this with all of us.

Chris Palermo continues to interview interesting and accomplished “innovators” in his column. This time we have the good fortune of hearing from Kathy Millatt of Model Railroader Video Plus and Model Railroad Hobbyist Trainmasters TV. See page 23. As always, Chris solicits our suggestions for other interview subjects and I suggest we all try our best to help.

Finally, my thanks to Steve Harvath, 2019 Convention Publicity Chair, and Chris Palermo, PCR Secretary, for compiling the impressive list of convention activities starting on page 1. The two of them are working together to keep us all updated as new clinics, tours, and operating sessions are added. And don’t forget to check the convention website frequently.

<http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/>

Happy Reading!



CANDIDATE STATEMENT - Chris Palermo - President

Thank you for the privilege to offer my candidacy and introduce myself to some of those across the Region whom I don't know. I was born in 1964 and my model railroading journey began in 1974 when I received a Trix N scale train set as a gift. That was fun, but everything changed a few years later when Model Railroader ran a cover story on Bob Brown's On3 Tuolumne Forks. Here was scale model railroading at its finest: era-specific, highly-detailed, with a consistent theme that was "different" (narrow gauge) and perfectly executed. I was hooked on the hobby for good.

I never really left the hobby during college education, starting a family and building a career. As a college freshman, I amused my dorm-mates by building a Roundhouse/MDC 2-8-0 kit in my room. Later years saw the construction of small HO layouts in four different homes. My present layout features generic California Central Valley produce operations of the transition area and fills half a two-car garage in San Carlos. I concentrate on car-building, structures, scenery, electronics and switching-oriented operations.

I joined NMRA in 1997 but wasn't really active until 2014 when my business had matured and I became an empty-nester. I have three grown daughters in their twenties. My wife Jeanne and I enjoy travel, entertaining others and gardening. I'm a partner-owner of a 25-lawyer patent law firm in San Jose; we do about \$10 million in business annually. In the recent past I've served as PCR's Secretary, social media coordinator, and co-chair of the 2017 Region convention in Bakersfield. I've earned the Author and Volunteer certificates in NMRA's AP I'm working on Scenery and Electrical now.

I come as a candidate in a time of generational change and significant transition in how our hobby is promoted and experienced. Large home layouts have become uncommon and modules may be the future as housing costs soar for many in the West. Huge numbers of modelers experience the hobby through online outlets. They are less involved in in-person activities despite wide use of social media, and NMRA has fewer volunteers as a result. Scratch building has declined, yet RTR models have advanced in quality and proto-realistic modification and display of them is popular. Operations sessions attract avid devotees and good layout design has become a hobby of itself. PCR needs to adapt to these trends and serve everyone interested in them.

We also need a few immediate changes. We cannot continue the practice of budgeting for net income losses year-over-year, so I will work with our Treasurer to budget us into the black. Some specific cost cuts are on the horizon, but we also need new spending to address the trends above, so I'll be exploring new partnerships, advertising and membership promotion options. I'll work to find common ground with 21st Century Limited (an independent corporation) to use PCR resources in support of a fantastic 2021 National NMRA convention in our Region. Above all, my goal is for all members to experience positive, active leadership in PCR and to join me in volunteering to achieve growth and improvement in our association.



CANDIDATE STATEMENT - Frank Markovich - Vice President

Why am I running is the first question that I should answer. The reason is simple; I want to help promote the hobby, not only with the NMRA but in general. The past 8 years, I have built, with Mike Blumenssadt, 3 Build a Memory layouts to promote the hobby. Together we have given over 8 clinics on building a small layout (both at Coast Division meets, at the PCR, and special events in the Coast Division). We have displayed the layouts at Great Train Expo events (2 per year), at the Los Altos History Museum, and at other train and model train events; all to help build up the hobby. I have served the division in the following positions: Contest Chairman – 4 years, Youth Chairman – 3 years, Division Superintendent - 4 years, and most recently Division Director – past 2 years.

continued on page 10

from page 9

Frank Markovich - Vice President, ct'd.

I have served as a committee member at the National on the Recruitment and Retention Committee. I have given over 20 clinics at the Coast Division, the PCR, and the NMRA national over the years. I was contest chairman for the 1981 NMRA national convention in San Mateo. I have entered many contests and have won over 10 first place awards at NMRA national conventions as well as many in the PCR and Coast Division.

I am Master Model Railroader 514. I have a On3 layout at home and am open a couple of times a year – always for O Scale West. I model a fictional road based on the West Side Lumber Company. I have been building models for over 60 years. I have had articles in the NMRA national magazine (various names), N scale magazine, and The Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette.

I took over running the West Side Reunion five years ago and have worked to revitalize it. The attendance was dwindling when I took over, and now it is about double of when I took charge. It is a historical and modeling get together in the spring each year.

Besides the above, I feel that my professional experience can be applied to the PCR. I was a part-time community college instructor for 47 years, an engineer and engineering manager for over 35 years, and a engineering director for 5 years. I managed at times anywhere from 4 to 35 individuals from draftsmen, assemblers, technicians, engineers, and other managers. This has given me a broad breadth of experience, not only in dealing with individuals from many backgrounds but in business areas such as planning, finance, program management, etc. I can bring that experience to the PCR if elected as Vice President.

The PCR, NMRA, and our hobby in general are facing many challenges, and we need to support our current members and work at recruitment of new members. We need to have conventions that are vibrant and present members with clinics that provide both new members with ideas and experienced members with challenges. I know many people don't want to see change, but for our hobby to grow in the PCR we will need to do more outreach events, help the newcomers at every opportunity, and build fellowship in the hobby. I am committed to working as a team on these things.

I will work for you and the organization if elected as PCR Vice President.



The Golden Empire and Historical Society, of Bakersfield, has a new web site. The new web site is now located at www.gehams.club.

We welcome you to please take a look and render any suggestions, comments, constructive criticism, or any other advice, as to any improvements or items you'd like to see on the web site. You may send any suggestions or comments to GEHAMS Web Master, Mike O'Brien, at obsmobile2002@yahoo.com

It is a still a work in progress, so please check back on a regular basis for any updates.

Thank you.

Doug Wagner - Bakersfield, California

Have you changed your address or other membership information?
Notify Headquarters
Email: nmrahq@nmra.org
Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am—4pm ET)

In Memoriam		
Member	City, State	Date Joined
	Daylight	
Henry Haught (Lifetimime Member)	Bakersfield	1/1/1961
	Coast	
James Gillmore	Concord, CA	1/1/1958
Redwood Empire		

Pacific Coast Region - NMRA



2019 Convention

DIAMOND RAILS FOREVER

SACRAMENTO, CA

MAY 1 - 5

McClellan Convention Center—McClellan Park

Lions Gate Hotel

To Register:

<http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/registration>

Or

See the registration form on the next page



**PCR/FRRS
Diamond Rails Forever 2019
PCR/FRRS Convention
McClellan Conference Center
5411 Luce Ave
McClellan Park, CA
May 2 - 5, 2019**

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Diamond Rails Forever 2019
c/o Gus Campagna
1915 William Drive
Penngrove, CA 94951-9524

E-mail: drf2019registrar@pcmmra.org

Website: www.pcmmra.org/conv2019

Please Print

Registration Form

Visit the website to pay with PayPal or credit card

Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Address			City		State Zip Code + 4	
Home Phone		E-mail Address			NMRA or FRRS #	
Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> PCR <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail <input type="checkbox"/> FRRS				NMRA Region or Club Affiliation		
Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times: _____						
I can help more. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me <input type="checkbox"/>						
Primary Scales and Interests <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> WP <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____						
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form if more than one)						
Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> PCR <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail <input type="checkbox"/> FRRS		E-Mail (if Different)			NMRA or FRRS #	
Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times: _____						
I can help More. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me <input type="checkbox"/>						
Primary Scales and Interests <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> WP <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____						
FARES: <i>Please fill in Qty and Form will compute the total</i>				Qty	Unit Cost	Total
NMRA/FRRS Early Bird Regist. Pkg. (reg, banquet, & brkfast) (until 3/15/19; \$155 after)					125.00	
NMRA & FRRS Registration ONLY					80.00	
First Timer Pkg. (PCR Members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions)					115.00	
Non-Rail or Spouse Registration (includes non-rail lunch, no banquet or breakfast)					40.00	
NMRA & FRRS Banquet only					50.00	
PCR Breakfast only					25.00	
Youth Registration (12-18 years or student)					70.00	
Day Fare (No Banquet) <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat					40.00	
Convention Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL					30.00	
Convention Car (ea) [Tidewater Southern, HO-scale, 50' PS1 car by Kadee]					35.00	
Convention Car (Set of 2)					68.00	
Join FRRS (reduced rates for convention)		Active membership			25.00	
		Family membership			40.00	
Join the NMRA (must be member of NMRA or FRRS to attend)		9 month Rail Pass (allowed one time only)			19.95	
		Full NMRA membership/PCR subscription			75.00	
Payment by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (Use website for credit card or PayPal) Make checks payable to: Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association					TOTAL	
No Refunds After April 10, 2019						

Achievement Program -

By Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department



Master Builder Motive Power

Given the continuing release of new super-detailed diesels and steam engines which flow into our hobby each year, it would not be surprising if the amount of scratchbuilding of locomotives continually decreases in direct proportion. The

Master Builder – Motive Power certificate includes a requirement to scratchbuild a locomotive and that requirement may mean that this certificate is one of the hardest to earn. (Although I'd say that earning Association Volunteer certificate is much more time consuming!) Like the other certificates, the full requirements for this category are available on the web at www.nmra.org.

Motive power refers to any type of steam, diesel, or electric locomotive, traction unit, maintenance vehicle, or other type of self-propelled vehicle that runs on track. That definition therefore includes everything from speeders and streetcars to the newest diesels. Not included are powered models of prototypes that were not powered (vehicles such as a powered hand cars) or unpowered models of prototypes which were powered.

The requirements for Master Builder - Motive Power follows the same general format as the other Master Builder certificates. To qualify for this certificate, you must build three models of railroad motive power. If desired, these models can be of different gauges and/or scales. They must meet the following criteria:

All of the models must be capable of self-propulsion.
Each of the models must score at least 87½ points in an NMRA contest or under the AP Merit Judging program.
Each of the models must be super-detailed with either commercial or scratchbuilt parts.
In addition to being super-detailed, at least one of the three models must be scratchbuilt.

Currently, one of the favorite aspects of our hobby is kit-bashing/super-detailing diesel locomotives. Such a modeling project, if it scores the minimum 87½ points, would meet the requirements for the two non-scratchbuilt models.

To qualify as scratch built, the model must contain the following scratch built items:

Steam locomotives - Frame, boiler, cab, tender frame and body, and either valve gear or main or side driving rods.

Other motive power - Body, frame, cab, truck side frames, and pantograph or trolley poles if applicable.

Items such as the motor, gears, drivers or wheels, couplers, trucks, etc. are all excluded from the requirement for being scratchbuilt. Note that the term "scratchbuilt" implies that the modeler has done all of the necessary layout and fabrication that produces the final dimensions, appearance, and operating qualities of the model. This is a good statement of the intent and spirit of the "scratchbuilt" requirement. Notice that it does not say that the use of a few commercial detail parts will disqualify the model as being "scratchbuilt". In general, the same standard applies that is used in contest judging: "Completely Scratchbuilt" means that 90% or more of the model was scratch built. (But you still need to scratchbuild the specific items listed above.)

This means that in contest or merit judging, the model you are claiming as "scratchbuilt" should have earned at least 11 points in that category out of a possible 15 points.

Once you complete these requirements, submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) that identifies the models and the commercial parts used, etc. The easiest way to do this is to enter the model in a Divisional, Regional, or National modeling contest and simply attach a model contest form which includes this information and also documents your score. Send the completed SOQ to your Divisional AP representative, along with a photocopy of your NMRA membership card and you are on your way toward another certificate!

I am happy to announce the following Certificates of Achievement:

Doug Smith - Association Volunteer

Chris Palermo - Model Railroad Author

Chris Palermo - Association Volunteer

Congratulations to both of you!

If you are interested in the AP Program or Golden Spike Program, contact me for more details. My phone number, address, and e-mail address are listed in the Call Board on Page 2.





NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC. ®

P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
Phone: (423)892-2846 Email: nmrahq@nmra.org

RENEWAL NOTICE

Name:			
Address:			
City:	State/Country	Zip:	
Phone:	Birth Date:	Scale:	
Email:	Occupation:		

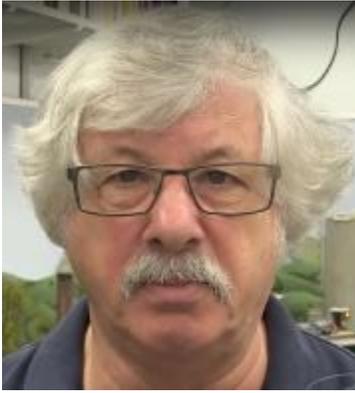
NMRA Membership	1 Year	2 Year	Total
Member with NMRA Magazine Subscription ~ All Rights and Benefits; includes NMRA Magazine.	\$ 75.00	\$ 150.00	
Member without NMRA Magazine Subscription ~ All Rights and Benefits; <u>does not</u> include NMRA Magazine.	\$ 47.00	\$ 94.00	
Family ~ Spouse or minor child of above member in good standing; DOES NOT include the NMRA Magazine or voting rights. Name: _____ DOB: _____	\$ 9.00	\$ 18.00	
Student ~ Anyone under 18 years or student between 19-25 years of age. All rights and benefits and includes NMRA Magazine. DOB: _____	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00	
Sustaining ~ Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Associations, Businesses) All Rights and Benefits and includes NMRA Magazine.	\$ 120.00	\$ 240.00	

Total Due	NMRA Membership	\$
	Region Subscriptions	\$
	Merchandise Total	\$
	NMRA Donation	\$
	Total	\$

Credit Card No: - - - **Verification Code**

Expiration Date: _____

**We accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover & AMEX. US Funds Only.
Make checks payable to NMRA.**



Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann



Our big event coming up is the annual PCR/OP/LDSIG meet January 25-27, the venue will be Sheraton Sonoma County/Petaluma, online signup is available at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sigs/>. Donation is \$20. The program will consist of:

Tours on Friday afternoon (go up early before the traffic and enjoy the railroad resources of the North Bay), I am planning on riding the SMART from end to end and we will post a station and time for those wanting to make a group excursion out of it. This will take about 2 hours after which we will be near Petaluma and the hotel. We'll have another activity in Petaluma, so check the website for final details.

No-host dinner at the hotel Friday night, happy hour at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7:00 Registration at the hotel will open at 8:30 AM on Saturday followed by the usual program of clinics, panels and consulting from 9:00 AM to about 4:30 PM.

Confirmed Clinics will cover Evolution of Paul Weiss' Central Vermont in Northern California (CVinNC), Car Forwarding on the CVin NC using JMRI-Ops, Alternate Designs for the State Belt, a least one clinic on North Bay Railroads.

Layout tours within about 20 miles of the hotel Saturday night from 7:00-10:00 PM and we will likely have an organized meal, too.

Operating Sessions Sunday. Invites for the Ops will sent by email to registrants so signup soon at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sigs/>.

Check the website and follow the PCR list for more details as they become available.

I had the opportunity to participate in Desert Ops in Arizona last month. This is a semi-annual meet based in Phoenix and they have several excellent layouts to offer! We ran at 3 layouts, close to the event hotel in Tempe and were invited to bonus session at the Scottsdale Club at McCormick Railroad Park (worth a visit if you are in the area!) and at a private layout in Tucson. We missed a bonus session at Verryl Fosnight's excellent UP Wyoming Division in Cornville (near Sedona) but Verryl hosts visitor events there a couple of times a year. This is a great venue if you want to bring your significant other as Sedona has many non-railroad activities. Contact me if you are interested in these events in the future.

Also, we are hosting BayRails March 15-17 of 2019. BayRails is aimed at visitors traveling from well beyond the Bay Area and we are always looking for hosts layouts and helpers.

Seth Neumann - sneumann@pacbell.net

Opting Out of Branch Line Subscription

by Gus Campagna, PCR Publications Manager

If you subscribe to the PCR Branch Line Magazine, now \$8.00, you can opt-out of receiving the printed version. Just write to me at campgus@earthlink.net and I will add you to my list. When I get notification that the Branch Line is at the printer I send out an e-mail to the members who have opted-out.

If you are a life member, you automatically get the printed version of the Branch Line, but you can also opt-out if you'd like.

Remember the Branch Line is available to everyone on-line. 



SEE PAGE 39



The Answers Are Out There

Weathered Barn

by Robert Pethoud, Member Aid Chairman,
Daylight Division

Retirement has altered my hobby priorities. I used to be willing to pay for products that would save me time, since modeling hours were in very short supply. Now, I have more modeling time and my natural stinginess has kicked in to suggest putting in some hours in order to save a few bucks. So when I decided I wanted a barn on the one-turnout switching layout I'm currently building, I chose to make it from scratch. I saved the cost of a cast stone foundation by gluing and staining some gravel; I built the walls board by board without expensive scale-dimensioned wood by cutting the boards myself from a sheet of basswood; and I cut and stained my own HO scale shingles from some 3x5 file cards. All three processes were quicker and easier than

and the next two columns, and they led to a sense of accomplishment that doesn't usually come from using commercial products.

I Googled "weathered barn" images to get ideas and inspiration for my project. A small rectangular example built on the side of a hill and featuring board-and-batten siding caught my eye, but I didn't try to model it exactly. I eliminated the battens to simplify construction and I chose a stone foundation to add visual appeal.

Some of the foundation will be hidden by the hillside, once the barn is installed on the layout, but I made it 3/4-inch high all the way around the structure. To get started, I gathered the following materials:

3/4-inch square poplar strips

Gravel: I purchased a 5 lb. bag of "Jade Bean Pebble," distributed by Exotic Pebbles & Aggregates, Inc. in Carlsbad, CA

Aleene's Tacky Glue

Durham's Water Putty

Brown leather dye

India ink

Isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol

The usual hardware and scrap wood



I expected, as I'll describe in this

Continued on page 18



For the basic frame I cut four pieces of the poplar and fastened them together with scrap wood and screws, but with no glue. When I was satisfied with the result, I disassembled the frame so I could attach stones to individual foundation walls. Next, I poured out a few hundred of the pebbles, used tweezers to pick out the ones I wanted, and put them into a small container. I chose stones which were roughly rectangular and about 1/8-inch x 1/4-inch in size. After gathering more stones than I thought I would need, I began the most tedious part of the process, which was gluing the stones in place. For each wall of the foundation I took the following steps:

Lay out pebbles for one horizontal layer, starting with the lowest, choosing ones that more or less fit together. I have four layers of stones in my foundation.

Squeeze out a bead of Tacky Glue onto the poplar wall frame where that stone layer will go.

Use tweezers again to place the pebbles into the glue bead.

Repeat the above three steps with the next layer up

The “Jade Bean Pebbles” I’d purchased were light green in hue, very far from what I wanted the final color to be. After they were all fixed in place, I stained them with leather dye and India ink to make the stones a darker and more neutral gray color. One teaspoon of brown leather dye in a pint of rubbing alcohol and one teaspoon of India ink in another pint gave me two solutions which are useful for weathering structures, freight cars, and various other subjects. I used two or three coats of each, applied with a brush, to get the results you see in the photos.

The penultimate step in constructing the foundation is to apply the mortar between the stones. I used Durham’s Water Putty for this, dumping the powdered putty onto the wall with a coffee stirring stick. Some of the putty clung to the rock faces instead of falling into the crevices between the stones, so I used a small brush to clean off those faces. Once the mortar was in place, I applied alcohol with a medicine dropper to make it set up.

After the mortar is dry, the last step is to reassemble the four foundation walls. At this point, after some time spent admiring the magnificence of the scratch-built stone foundation, we’re ready to begin work on the walls, which will happen next time. Until then, you can reach me with comments and/or questions at pethoud@comcast.net



Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

No Claws, Wedgies or Fat Tires - Part 1

by Jim Providenza

I don't know about you, but I'm a horrible consumer. I mean, if I was really good, I'd be buying almost every new freight car appropriate for my era that comes out. The good folks at Kadee, Intermountain, Rapido, and Athearn (just to name a few), not to mention such resin kit manufacturers as Westerfield and Funaro and Camerlengo should just be in love with me. Well, I don't, and suspect they aren't or wouldn't be really anyway.

What I do do though, is purchase one or two high end freight cars a year. Ready to run or kit, it doesn't matter.

What these do is become benchmarks. Now I will admit that I love the great strides manufacturers have made in the hobby. And yet I am also well aware of the effects that inflation over the last three or four decades has had on the value of the dollar (worth less than 20% of what it was say 35 or 40 years ago).

The good news is that an Accurail kit at around \$18 today is not much different in constant dollar cost than the Athearn kit at \$4 when I was a kid. But the high end kits approaching or even exceeding \$40 each are, let us say, not so good news. Don't get me wrong. Wonderful models, and well worth the cost. But at any given time the SCN has around 165 cars on the railroad plus another 30 - 40 off the layout ready to rotate in 7 or 8 at a time between sessions. I don't even want to begin to think about what it would cost to replace those (well, yeah, actually I have thought about it - \$6,000 at an average of \$30 a car).

So I will keep the car fleet I have. But I really want it to look as good as the best out there. And that requires upgrades – a somewhat formalized 'betterment program' as some prototype railroads might have termed it. This pretty much requires a set of standards. Not just adherence to our NMRA Standards and Recommended Practices, but developing a set of standards for car equipment and appearance. This standard, lets call it a Layout Standard, will be different for different modelers. But each of us should work at developing one. It does not have to reach full fruition all at once, and more on that, with an example, later.

But it should be reasonably consistent across your models at one time. Some standards you could adopt would be 1) all metal wheels, 2) all semi-scale wheels, 3) all Kadee or all 'scale' couplers, 4) remove all coupler trip pins and add plastic or rubber brake hoses, and 5) all cars weighted to NMRA standards.

With the exception of item 4 (maybe, depending on how you define 'operations') all these standards relate to operations. Another set of Layout Standards concerns prototype appearance and that brings us to the title of this Tale.

I first started down this particular slippery slope with brake wheels. How often do you see photos for freight cars published in various modeling magazines where a boxcar, otherwise painted a nice boxcar red (or GN's Big Sky blue or Vermillion or Glacier green!) has a big, fat black plastic power brake wheel on the end. The rim must be four times scale thickness – looks like the tire on a mountain bike. So, when I started the current Santa Cruz Northern which is set in 1971 I was looking at all these new cars, mostly Athearn and Model Die Casting. Kadee had just come out with their packages of scale brake wheels. I bought (and installed) a bunch. And still do, as needed. Such a visual improvement for such a small amount of work! And they come molded in three or four different colors! The photo of the end of the Rio Grande Cookie Box shows this pretty clearly. Compare this to the photo of the SP Cement Hopper (an upgraded Roundhouse model) to see how big a difference there is.



"Fat Tire" Brake Wheel

Continued on page 20



From page 19

Next up, box car doors and the claws on the lower door tracks. Compare the photo of the side of the Cookie Box to the photo of the double door Norfolk Southern boxcar. A simple bit of trimming to remove oversize guides and re-shape the rollers on the bottom of Athearn, etc. cars is another big win for little effort. Yes, the doors themselves are probably still too short, but now they look much more like the prototype.

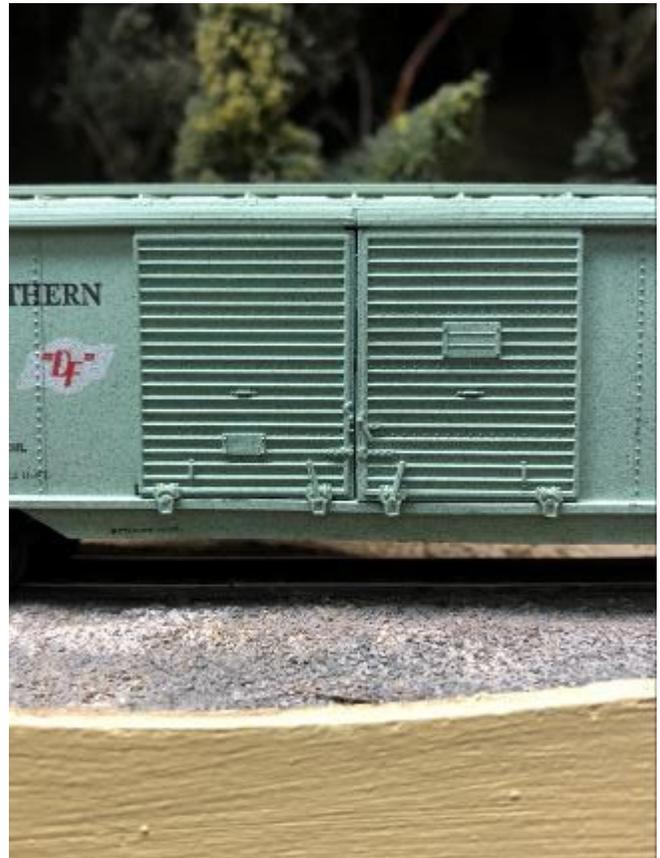
Come back next time and we will pick up with Wedgies and look at a few other easy upgrades as well.



Kadee® Near-Scale Brake Wheels



Giant Claws



Claws Removed

Check Out This Link:

Subject: Rocklin Man Builds Railroad In Backyard

<https://www.kcra.com/article/rocklin-man-builds-railroad-in-backyard/25671460>

Looking Back

by Dave Connery, MMR, PCR Historian

Voices –

An Interview with Jack Burgess, MMR



Jack is well known within PCR and throughout the nation as the premier prototype model railroader. He is probably the first modeler to create a completely accurate prototype model railroad layout and certainly anyone who has been in either the model railroad hobby or the general railfan hobby for any time knows Jack as “Mr. Yosemite Valley”. In 2004 he wrote the definitive book on the railroad “Trains to Yosemite”, a 364 page tour-de-force of the railroad, historically accurate and complete with all the information modeler’s crave when trying to replicate a railroad.

Jack grew up in Bakersfield and his first models were of airplanes and tanks. There was a hobby shop about a mile from his home and every Saturday when he got his allowance, he would head for the hobby shop. He was very young at the time and he did not understand how decals worked so he cut them out and pasted them on his model. At about age 12 Jack received an Athearn train set for Christmas. He obtained a piece of plywood from his dad and a place in his father’s four stall garage (no doors) to set up his train. It was a standard layout with papier-mache’ for hills and mountains, using a book by Bill McClanahan he purchased. In the book there was a drawing of a guy dreaming of this fantastic layout but in front of him was bare plywood with track – that was how Jack started. This was not very satisfying so Jack started a second layout using a plan from Model Railroader. The switches he could afford were very inexpensive and when he asked at the local hobby shop, no one seemed to know how to wire this layout plan. Jack went back to other models. After a time Jack wanted to get back in the hobby so he built a 2’ X 6’ layout, hand laid the entire track—but could not afford an engine or power pack. He hoped that when he could eventually afford a locomotive that it would be able to make it up the grades that Jack had built into this layout.

During this time, Jack was still in his early twenties,— and visited a hobby shop in Oakland owned by legendary modeler Russ Simpson. At the time, Russ was giving monthly seminars to small groups of modelers (2 to 4 in each class). Jack attended these to learn how to scratch-build turnouts (he could not afford commercial turnouts in those days), working with styrene, airbrushing, weathering and all together about 12 subjects. Russ would then repeat the sequence of classes for a new group.

Jack joined a model railroad club in the Newark area, which was really a group of guys helping one fellow build a layout in his home. It was frustrating because every time they met the first task was always to clear off all the stuff that had accumulated on the layout surface since their last work session. Jack then started a club of his own but this one was organized to visit other layouts. One of these layouts was that of legendary modeler John Allen in Monterey. In those days, a friend and Jack would go out and walk around the railroad yards photographing equipment. Jack had decided to model 1939 by this time so he would carefully measure and take photos of cars built before 1939, not knowing about the Official Railroad Equipment Registers (ORERs) containing all the measurements for cars.

This friend, who was building fantastic models, gave Jack an opportunity to meet other good modelers, including Bob Brown MMR. As a result of seeing what could be done, Jack scrapped his current models and started over. This evolved into attending Coast Division Meets and becoming interested in contest modeling. In 1968, the NMRA Convention was held in San Francisco. Jack could not afford to attend but he had Bob Brown enter a caboose Jack had built for the contest. Jack’s model won 1st Place in the novice category and this really motivated Jack to get involved in contest modeling. At the time Jim Tangney, MMR was the Contest Chairman and Jack and his wife Jacque got involved in judging. By serving as a judge, Jack learned a lot. He was particularly impressed with the models by Jim-Tangney, which were always incredible. Jim was a real inspiration for Jack.

In 1967, Jack settled on modeling the Yosemite Valley Railroad. He had already decided to model a small California railroad and had narrowed it down to the YV, the West Side Lumber Company, or the Sierra. Russ Simpson was modeling the West Side; the photos in the Sierra book were limited. So he selected the YV. A couple of months later, Jack received a copy of Hank Johnson’s book “Railroads of the Yosemite Valley” as a gift from his parents and assumed every photo of the railroad had been published. At that time, Jack decided he would model every piece of equipment on the railroad on his chosen modeling date in, August 1939. About this time he was contacted by someone in the model railroad industry who was putting together an order for some

Continued on page 22

dry transfers and asked Jack if he would like to participate by creating part of the sheet with YV lettering. Jack created the lettering he would need for his models and when the order was completed, Jack got his part of the dry transfer sheets.

When others knew Jack's interest in the YV he started to learn about people who had photos of the YV and realized there were photos out there that had never been published. He got a contact for Fred Stoes in Santa Cruz and Jack contacted Fred to see if he could visit and view the YV photos. Jack was 30 by this time. Fred was a good photographer and apparently liked Jack and produced contact prints of all 60 photos of the YV from his collection. Then Jack met Ted Wurm who loaned Jack his YV negatives and asked only that when Jack printed copies-that he give Ted a set Jack has continued to collect YV photos and now has nearly 3,500 historic photos.

Jack now has modeled all the locomotives and cabooses that were on the YV in 1939 and nearly every piece of rolling stock. He is currently working to complete the remaining cars. Toward this goal, he needed to build models of the MOW ballast cars. He talked with Robert Stears who at the time was doing short run resin models kits. Jack drew the plans, Sterns and Doug Junda produced the kits, and Jack picked up the six cars he needed to finish that part of his roster. (Junda and Stears are now the principals in San Juan Model Company, who have purchased and now offer the Grandt Line model railroad products among other lines).

There came a time when Jim Tangney wanted to retire as Contest Chair and by that time Jack had considerable experience as a judge, an entrant and building models. He agreed to take the Contest position because he likes contest modeling and likes to help people reach their goals. When modelers challenge themselves to improve their skills and succeed, Jack feels he has helped that person become a better modeler and find greater satisfaction in the hobby.

Jack got involved in the Achievement Program and became MMR #136 in 1988. (The Prototype Modeler Certificate was added as a category to the program in 1985 and Jack may have been one of the first modelers to be awarded that certificate.) When Jim Vail MMR wanted to retire as PCR Achievement Chair Jack agreed to take over that position (which he still holds), Jack saw this as another way to keep members active in the hobby, challenged to develop new skill sets and in the end find greater satisfaction in life because of the fulfilling hobby.



Jack Burgess, MMR #136

In addition to taking on leadership positions in the organization, Jack has been a leader in a number of our Conventions. In 1994 Jack served as the Clinic Chairman for the PCR's 50th Anniversary Convention. Jack developed a line-up of clinicians from outside as well as within PCR and the program included many clinics that had never been presented before. He was both the Publicity Chairman and the Editor of the Program for the 2000 NMRA Convention held in Santa Clara. Jack again served as Publicity Chair for the 2011 NMRA Convention in Sacramento, this time concentrating on articles publicizing the convention and developing a Social Media program that previous Conventions lacked. He plans on helping at the NMRA 2021 Convention that will be again back in Santa Clara. Jack organized a YV chat list about 25 years ago with about 200 members that recently migrated from Yahoo to IO. He has also led field trips every year for the past 20 years to places along the Yosemite Valley ROW. He has had a very dynamic influence on a number of modelers, this author included. After Wes Swift got to know Jack he tore out his old layout and developed a YV prototype based layout and while that layout has been dismantled due to a home move, Wes is still very involved in things YV. In 1995, Wes purchased the remains of YV observation car 330 and has been working on its restoration since. It is now at the Niles Canyon Railway.

Jack declared his YV layout finished in 2011. By that time, he had completed every structure he had intended to include and as each was installed on the layout, Jack detailed the surrounding area so when he finished the last water tank the layout was done. Jack continues to build rolling stock but is now nearing the completion of all of these. Jack enjoys having people come and visit the layout, and again this is part of Jack's efforts to enthuse people into expanding their participation in and enjoyment of the hobby. He intends to continue to maintain the YV layout for as long as he is able.

Over the years, Jack has written a great many articles for the various hobby magazines: Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman, Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette, Great Model Railroads, and Model Railroad Hobbyist. Recently Jack has been doing a series of videos for TSG Multimedia. These started with a tour of his layout and subsequently he has done videos on Getting Organized, Railroad Research, An Operating Session on the YV, An Interview with a YV Brakeman, Multi-deck Layouts and will soon be doing a series on Styrene Modeling.

It is difficult to imagine the model railroad hobby today without the tremendous impact Jack has had his emphasis on modeling all aspects of a railroad prototypically correctly, and the marvelous example he has set for building exquisite models. PCR is indeed fortunate to have Jack as a member and leader.



Innovators In Model Railroading

By Chris Palermo

Kathy Millatt

Master of Video Communication For Modeling

Fundamentally, model railroading is visual art. While magazine articles, website and photos have their place in communicating new modeling techniques and the results of hours of effort in research and construction by modelers, today video is emerging as the favored media for fast, engaging and rich modeling communication. YouTube, private publisher video sites like Model Railroader Video Plus and Joe Fugate's Trainmasters TV, and others host thousands of hours of videos of layouts, not all are easy to watch. But a few modelers around the world have mastered the separate art of good production values in modeling video.

Kathy Millatt, an NMRA Master Model Railroader® from Warwick, United Kingdom, is among the best of a new generation of video-focused modelers. With over 24,000 subscribers to her YouTube channel, a popular featured maker of videos on MR Video Plus, and host of the UK's Great Railway Challenge "reality" TV show pitting teams of modelers against one another, Kathy has a remarkable track record of success in video.

Kathy's introduction to model railroading came from her father who built a 4x8 Hornby OO layout starting in the 1950s. Once Kathy started modeling seriously in the 1990s, she found that she absorbed technique better from watching things performed rather than reading about them. This led her to start her YouTube channel in 2010. Over time, she advanced from creating a few videos every few months to nearly one per week, although she has throttled back to about two per month. Each video is long enough—about 15 minutes—to present a technique in detail, without excessive filler or irrelevant material. Extensive use of close-ups helps clearly illustrate what the modeler should do. Many videos include a list of time points serving as a "table of contents" to allow the viewer to skip parts that are not of interest. There are also clear views of the finished result for the viewer to study. (Screen grabs from YouTube, showing Kathy and the end result of a structure detailing video, are shown at right)



Kathy Explains The Process on YouTube



Kathy's Completed Project

continued on page 24

from page 23

A key secret to Kathy's success has been a significant investment in equipment, including a 4K Panasonic digital video camera, higher-end Apple computers and monitors, and large disk storage. Rather than relying on room lighting, Kathy takes time to set up pro-style key, fill and umbrella lights at high lumen levels so it's easy to see even small details. She also uses professional editing software, Final Cut Pro, and notes that while setup and shooting take relatively little time, good editing can be time-intensive.

The subject matter of her videos varies but tends to emphasize scenery techniques. A current series focuses on winter scenes including modeling ice, snow and winter foliage. She's produced at least 10 videos on modeling water and water foliage of different types, and a dozen on structure techniques and structure details. Many others can be viewed online at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/NYNHHkathy/featured>

With over 1.5 million video views on YouTube, the success of her productions provides "mad money" to supplement her regular income as a contract accountant. And beyond shooting great video, Kathy is a highly skilled modeler. She has completed a layout based on the New Haven in a 12'x12' loft space, which is occasionally featured in her videos. Its appearances are sporadic only due to difficulty in lighting the space. She's also working on a new micro-layout that will feature Welsh narrow gauge and OO standard gauge, for a series of articles committed to the UK magazine *Railway Modeller* for publication in late 2019. Kathy also earned the MMR® designation in 2014 after less than 18 months' intensive work.

As a Contributing Editor to *Model Railroader Video Plus*, since 2017 Kathy has appeared in segments titled "Let's Make a Scene," generally focused on scenery. Eight episodes have been shot so far. For UK TV broadcaster Channel 5, Kathy appeared in a six-part reality series, "The Great Model Railway Challenge," which features teams of modelers building similarly-themed layouts in a compressed time period. Although the show was not broadcast on US cable or satellite TV, episodes are available through some internet TV services. She also maintains an extensive, image-rich blog, with web-based descriptions corresponding to many videos, at <https://www.kathymillatt.co.uk/blog/>.

To accomplish all this, incredible energy is a must, and Kathy definitely has it. What lies ahead? Kathy sees live stream, interactive content as the next wave in video production. She'll also be seeking ways to reduce editing time to enable increasing the number of projects she can release. In addition, Kathy is a key member of the planning committee for NMRA's August 2022 national convention, which will be held next door to her in Birmingham. PCR members should strongly consider treating that convention as a gateway to Europe for a special vacation or railfanning trip. The sights of Warwick Castle, Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon and London will be close, and the D-Day beaches of Normandy are a short flight or train journey away. Rail-oriented sights include the York Railway Museum and heritage railways in Wales and elsewhere in the country.

The use of video in model railroading will only expand as modelers acquire better computers, fast internet connections and the skills to search for relevant instruction and layout videos. PCR members thinking of producing their own videos can learn valuable lessons from studying the techniques of Kathy and others, starting with interesting project subject matter, focused presentation, good lighting and extensive camera close-ups. These basic tips, rigorously applied, will help the modeler produce videos that will realize thousands of views and contribute to better modeling worldwide.

(Have an idea for another innovator in model railroading who should be featured here? Contact the author at: cjpalermo1964@gmail.com.)



Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

The Achievement Program is modelers helping modelers become better modelers and get the most out of their hobby. And it's yet another benefit of NMRA membership.

Visit www.nmra.org. Then improve your skills. And your hobby.

We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org
 423-892-2846

SPOTLIGHT ON A LOCAL CLUB

Mendocino Coast Model Railroad & Historical Society

(article originally published in the Redwood Empire Division *Call Board* Fall 2018)

It is sad but true that there is no testament to the loggers and the railways that ran into the woods to feed the mills that existed at every river between Gualala and Westport in Mendocino County. The Mendocino Coast Model Railroad and Historical Society, has rectified the situation by creating a "living history" of the Redwood Empire in the form of a large (G) scale model railway layout. The club is located in Fort Bragg behind the Skunk Train Depot.

The layout is of a logging railroad that might have existed somewhere along the Mendocino Coast between 1925 and 1940 when steam was still king. It's a testament to the men who cut the giant trees; the railroads which brought the giant logs to the mill and the schooners that took the products to market from the dangerous doghole ports along the Mendocino Coast. After two and a half years of construction in the Carpenter's Barn in the yard of the CWR's Skunk Train our layout is open to the public. The scenery still has a ways to go but we have "more than enough to put on a show". The layout is a work in progress.

The main line tracks are 35 inches above floor level and the Mill and Town to Country Line are 42 inches and higher. Our model is set in the 1920 to 1940 period when steam was still king and diesel power was just entering the scene. The two main lines each of 1.7 scale miles and the logging line are all operational. Our locomotives use solar power electricity, battery power and radio control and for special days we have a collection of live steam locomotives. The curves of the main lines are large enough to handle even the largest locomotives. Become an Associate Member and you can bring your own loco and consist and run it on the layout.

Admission:

Free with a Skunk Train ticket.

If not riding the Skunk Train: Adults - \$5.00;

Children - \$3.00

Hours:

10:30 - 2:30 pm: Every Day except Tuesdays and Thursdays. Check the website and Facebook for the most current information.

For more information: <https://www.mendorailhistory.org/mendorail/index.htm>



Coast Division Report

By Doug Smith

Convention Update 2020

We are 99% ready to announce the site and dates for the 2020 PCR Convention. It will be hosted in Coast Division in the Spring of 2020. Between the time of this writing and your reading the contracts may have been signed. There may be more news elsewhere in this edition, it's that close. Either way the plan is to roll out the 2020 web site in a state that's ready to accept reservations during the 2019 Diamond Rails Forever festivities. So know that progress is being made. Until then make your plans for Sacramento.

Coast Meet – December at the Scouts

Our most recent meet was in San Leandro on December 2nd. Highlights were two clinics presented by Earl Girbovan and Richard Brennan. Richard filled in after an anticipated presenter had to withdraw for health reasons. Earl talked about fences – wire, vertical board and horizontal wooden varieties. Very informative and well received as you might imagine. Richard walked through photo research on the web. A great presentation generating lots of questions and good ideas. Thanks to both.

A spirited business meeting followed. Future events discussed were the 2019 PCR in Sacramento (Tom Crawford), the OPSIG meet in Petaluma (Seth Neumann), GTS shows in San Jose and Pleasanton, and holiday open house shows at many local clubs. The GTS shows have been fun lately. We've been having several modeling projects worked at the tables so show goers can see how different things are done. A great way to meet people and get the personal side of the NMRA out there. If you're interested in participating at an upcoming show contact Steve Wesolowski. Possible rent increases at meeting sites is a fact of life, and a discussion was joined about possible ways to cover those expenses. No decisions, but it's something that will take some forward planning. There were auction buying and selling questions, and some confusions were cleared up for a number of folks. Thanks to all for their inputs and opinions. An upcoming event is a special contest to be held at our March meet. The Square Foot Modeling Challenge is generating a lot of interest. Any scale, any subject, any technique may be used, as long as there is some railroad track and the footprint of the scene is 12" x 12". Rules and guidelines are posted on the Coast Division web site. Thanks to Jesse Walden for bringing this forward and taking the lead. The Division officer election was the other main topic of discussion. If you have a nomination or are interested in serving as Superintendent, Chief Clerk, or Paymaster you are encouraged to contact our nominations chair Dave Connery. Contact info is on the Coast Division call board. I also introduced Craig Matoza as the new Auction chair. Craig succeeds

John Ameling who did a fine job and steps down with our thanks. And with that the auction began. We had over 500 items of many scales and descriptions that found new homes.

During the morning clinics the model and photo contest is held. Subjects rotate from meet to meet so that each category is held twice each year. There is also a show-and-tell section for models in progress or for something else you'd like to share with or show off to the group. Not every category is represented even in its turn, but there are always many models to appreciate.

And Last:

I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and holiday season. Be safe and enjoy family and friends. Our next meet is March 3 at the Elks Lodge in Alameda. I hope to see everyone there.

Cheers, Doug

Model and Photo Contest Highlights from the December 2018 Meet. Photos and captions provided by Jim Eckman.

Caboose



1st Place – Graig Matoza's HO Yosemite #15 caboose, a fine finish on lovely model



Pat LaTorres' Tower Lumber Company Caboose TLC32, that's a giant (1:20.3)!

Continued on page 27

Display



1st Place – Bruce Feld’s awesome Grand Union – Trenton NJ, we seldom see much traction and this was a doozy, from the pavement and the over-head wires to the structures



Phil Edholm’s 6’x2’ On30 Module *Sierra City*, a sweet module from the local On30 group, some great structures and details and of course narrow gauge

Freight Cars

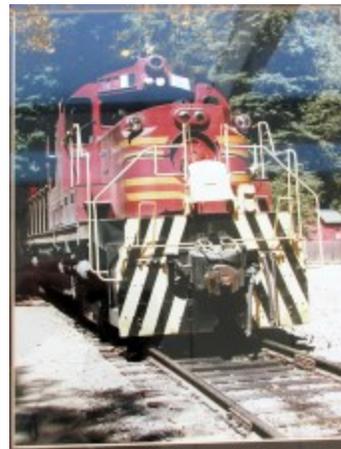


1st Place – Pat LaTorres’ Flat Car w/load TLC27, and that’s an impressive load.

Photos—Diesel Locos, Model Or Prototype



1st Place – Eugene Brichacek’s UP2687a Tier4 GEVO Blast Through Fire Smoke at McClellan, CA from



Jim Gray’s CalWestern Alco 1990’s

Show & Tell



Earl Girbovan brought in his great contest winning structure with lights and a fire!



Jim Eckman brought a Haunted House paper structure kit that he downloaded from Clever Models and built for Halloween titled *Affordable Bay Area Housing*, which is probably the true horror.

Redwood Empire Division Report

By Steve Skold



RED met at Monroe Hall on November 17th, a few days before Thanksgiving. We had our biggest crowd in over a year despite it being that close to Thanksgiving and the air quality was very bad due to the Camp Fire in Paradise.

The meeting started with the usual brief business meeting. Our treasury has grown to over \$6,000 so we bought some gift certificates to Poggie's Trains. Mary Moore-Campagna was the big winner getting a \$100 certificate. Right after the meeting, Gus and Mary ran off to Poggie's for needed supplies for Gus' California Western RR.

Dave Sheber did a clinic on painting backdrops that kept everybody's attention. It resulted in a lot of conversation and mix of ideas. After the clinic and more door prizes, we adjourned to Tom Swearingen's layout and operated trains for a couple of

hours. He models the SP from Oakland to Sacramento with stops in Berkeley, Richmond, Pinole, Martinez and Sacramento.

The Sonoma Short Line modules are participating in a three weekend Christmas in December. The dates were December 7,8 &9 and 14,15 & 16 and also 21, 22, & 23. Some photos are shown below. We teach youngsters to operate trains with MDC throttles (wireless). Since we have a single track mainline, there is fun in avoiding cornfield meets and making sure the hand throw turnouts are set correctly. Some of the kids run the trains better than some of the adults.

Our next meeting will be again at Monroe Hall on February 16th starting at 11:00 AM with doors open at 10. Mary Moore-Campagna will be providing food for lunch when we break at 12:30.



Sierra Division Report

By Chip Meriam

The Sierra Division's final 2018 meet took place October 27 in Modesto with a stop in Morada during the morning. Following a visit to Dave Stanley's Morada Belt Railroad, the meet reconvened at the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Modesto at 1:30 PM.

During the business meeting a new slate of officers was formalized with Chip Meriam taking over as Superintendent, Dave Fryman stepping into the Chief Clerk position, Al Rower remaining as Treasurer, and Tom Van Horn remaining as Director.

The meet featured an AnyRail clinic by Jim Collins, a photo and model contest, and a show and tell session.



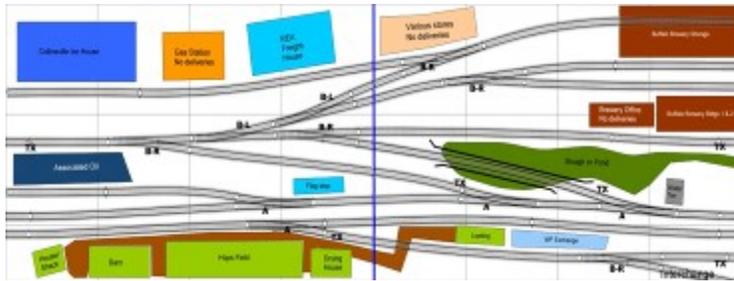
1st Place Photo by Gary Ray



Ridgewood Station on Dave Stanley's Morada Belt.
(photo by Michael Eldridge)



1st Place Model by Klaus Keil
(sadly, this was lost in the Camp Fire)



AnyRail Module Plan by Jim Collins



Show & Tell
Feed Mill (under construction)



Show & Tell
Trackside Structure From Printed Paper by Jim Collins

Calendar

For more details on these events go to the Calendar at the PCR web site.

For a list of monthly activities see page 33

January 25 – 27, 2019 – Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sponsored by [Pacific Coast Region-NMRA](#), [Layout Design](#) and [Operations](#) Special Interest Groups.

Location: TBD

The meet and all three days of layout tours are open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. NMRA, PCR, LDSIG, or OPSIG membership is NOT required! If you can't join us for the entire meet, at least come out and enjoy some truly wonderful layouts.

Friday - Kick-off dinner (no-host) at a location to be determined later in 2018

Saturday - 8:30 am to 10:00 pm - Clinics and panel discussions, layout design consultations, "Birds of a Feather", followed by layout tours.

Sunday - Operations Sessions (newcomers and out-of-towners encouraged!), layout tours.

More information will be posted in the latter months of 2018. Save the dates!

Registration now OPEN! — [See the website to pre-register and more details.](#)

March 3, 2019 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, [Coast Division](#) Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. [MAP](#)

From the North: Take Highway 880 south. Take exit #39B/23rd Avenue/Alameda onto Kennedy St. Turn right onto 23rd Avenue, then bear right onto 29th, which becomes Park. Turn right on Santa Clara.

From the South: Take Highway 880 North. Take Exit 38, High St. Turn left on High St. Bear right on Gibbons. Turn right on Santa Clara. The Elks Lodge is on the right.

See railroad models and photos. Meet their Makers! Bring YOUR models to share! Enjoy workshops and roundtable discussions: Get your questions answered and problems solved. Enjoy John Allen's TimeSaver Switching Puzzle! Win a door prize? Large auction of modeling stuff.

One Foot Challenge - Be part of the PCR-Coast Division One Foot Challenge! See the [Official Challenge Flyer](#) for the rules, judging, and prizes. Questions, comments, signing up/expressing interest, contact [Jesse Walden](#), Coordinator. [Click here to download Flyer](#) with descriptions, schedule and driving directions.

March 9 & 10, 2019 - Sat: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sun: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, [Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society's](#) Annual Model Train Show, Horace Massey Building, Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street, Bakersfield, CA. [MAP](#)

Admission is \$7.00 for adults, kids 12 and under admitted free, when accompanied by a paying adult. Admission is good for both days. Approximately 100 vendor tables with model train supplies for sale and thousands of square feet of operating model trains on display. Train rides for railfans of all ages, \$2.00 additional charge. Contact info: (661) 331-6695; email: carldw@aol.com

May 2 – 5, 2019 (NEW STARTING DATE) - [Diamond Rails Forever 2019](#), PCR/FRRS Joint Convention, Lions Gate Hotel, McClellan Convention Center—McClellan Park, 3410 Westover Street, Sacramento, CA. ([MAP](#))

July 7 – 14, 2019 - [2019 NMRA National Convention & National Train Show®](#), The Little America Hotel - Salt Lake City, 500 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Attending a National Convention is like drinking water from a fire hose! You will come home exhausted, but exhilarated, ready to hit the train room with tons of new ideas!

September 4 – 7, 2019 - 39th [National Narrow Gauge Convention](#), Sacramento, CA. See the website for organizer email addresses.

Save the dates!

Coast Division N-Scale modelers are invited to join the Nor-Cal Nn3 Group which will be used to coordinate preparations for this convention and the layout(s): <https://groups.io/g/Nn3-NorCal>

September 22, 2019 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, [Coast Division](#) Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. [MAP](#)

From the North: Take Highway 880 south. Take exit #39B/23rd Avenue/Alameda onto Kennedy St. Turn right onto 23rd Avenue, then bear right onto 29th, which becomes Park. Turn right on Santa Clara.

From the South: Take Highway 880 North. Take Exit 38, High St. Turn left on High St. Bear right on Gibbons. Turn right on Santa Clara. The Elks Lodge is on the right.

See railroad models and photos. Meet their Makers! Bring YOUR models to share! Enjoy workshops and roundtable discussions: Get your questions answered and problems solved. Enjoy John Allen's TimeSaver Switching Puzzle! Win a door prize? Large auction of modeling stuff.

[Click here to download Flyer](#) with descriptions, schedule and driving directions.

Continued on page 31

Calendar

December 8, 2019 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, The Quarterly NMRA [Coast Division](#) Meet - a FREE Model Railroading Event,, 1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA. (at SF Bay Area Council Office of Boy Scouts of America) [MAP](#)

See railroad models and photos. Meet their Makers! Bring YOUR models to share! Enjoy workshops and roundtable discussions: Get your questions answered and problems solved. Enjoy John Allen's TimeSaver Switching Puzzle! Win a door prize? Large auction of modeling stuff.

Driving: Exit Davis Street from Highway 880, 0.6 mi east to 1001 Davis on right.

BART: Exit San Leandro Station, walk 0.3 mi west on Davis St to SW corner of Davis at Orchard Ave, across from Thrasher Park.

For more details on these events go to the Calendar at the PCR web site.

For a list of monthly activities see page 32



Web Announcement

By Gus Campagna,
Manager, PCR
Publications Department
New pages added to the Website. We are in the process of adding a page to display Layout Stories. We are seeking submissions from layout owners to tell the story of their layout. Details are on the page about what we are looking for. Check out the Layout-stories page on www.pcrnmra.org

Branch Line Deadlines for 2019

APR-MAY-JUN 2019 issue
Articles due by
March 10, 2019

JUL-AUG-SEP 2019 issue
Articles due by
June 10, 2019

OCT-NOV-DEC 2019 issue
Articles due by
September 10, 2019

JAN-FEB-MAR 2020 issue
Articles due by
December 10, 2019

Please direct questions to the PCR Publications Manager, Gus Campagna at campgus@earthlink.net
Or phone (707) 664-8466

Monthly Activities

First and Third Thursday - 7:00 PM / [Siskiyou Model RR Club](#) / Yreka Western Depot, 300 East Miner St., Yreka, CA (Exit 775 from I-5). Info: Tom Brass, (530) 842-4921, Glenn Joesten (530) 340-2537

First Friday 7:30 PM / [San Leandro Historical Railway Society](#) (HO, O, G), Monthly meeting / 1302 Orchard Ave, San Leandro, CA / Club phone 510-569-2490 / Info: info@slhrs.org.

First Friday 7:30 to 10:00 PM / [Golden State Model Railroad Museum](#) / East Bay Model Engineers Society (O, HO, N, Narrow Gauge, Trac-tion) / Point Richmond, CA / Club Phone 510-234-4884 or info@gsmrm.org

Second Tuesday 7:30 PM / [Empire Builders Model Railroad Club](#) (HO) 3318 School St, Oak-land, CA / e-mail: president@ebmrc.org

Second Wednesday 8:00 PM / [West Bay Model Railroad Association](#), Monthly Business Meet-ing, 1090 Merrill Street, Menlo Park, CA / Lau-ren Mercer 650-322-9335 or Tom Vanden Bosch 650-369-8305

Second Wednesday 7:30 PM / [Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society](#) (HO&N) Bakersfield, CA / Doug Wagner, e-mail: carldw@aol.com or 661-589-0391 / Club phone: 661-325-5820

Second Saturday 10:00 AM / [Tehachapi Loop RR Club](#) / Tehachapi, CA / Tom O'Brien, e-mail: threerail@earthlink.net 661-822-1546

Second Saturday 1:00 PM / [European Train En-thusiasts \(ETE\) Sacramento Chapter](#) (Z, HO, 1) Sacramento, CA / Roland DiFranco 209-948-6776 or Steven Stern, e-mail: sterns@rahul.net

Second Saturday 1:30 PM / [Carquinez Toy Train Operating Museum](#) Business Meeting , 645 Lor-ing Ave (Across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. [MAP](#)

Second Saturday 3:00 - 6:00 PM / [California Central Club](#) (HO & HOn3) / Old Agnew Sta-tion, 4185 Bassett St, Santa Clara, CA / Subject to change, contacting us in advance of your visit is highly recommended at: ccmrc1961@gmail.com

Second & Fourth Weekends / [Swanton Pacific Railroad Society](#) (19") Santa Cruz County, CA / Ed Carnegie, e-mail: ecarnegi@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2378

Mid-Month Weekends / [Bitter Creek Western RR](#) (Live Steam) Arroyo Grande, CA / Dan Andrews, e-mail: danandrews@charter.net or 805-481-0419

Third Monday 7:00 PM / [San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association](#) (all) Oceano Depot, CA / Dennis Pearson, e-mail: info@sломra.org or 805-929-3062

Third Tuesday 7:00 PM / Visalia Electric Model Railroad & Historical Society / Meets at Apple Annie's Restaurant, 1165 N Blackstone, Tulare, CA / or member homes. Don Smith, e-mail: dcksmith@sbcglobal.net

Third Friday 7:00 - 11:00 PM / Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club Operating session (HO) / Antioch, CA / Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com / Club phone 925-779-1964

Third Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Noon / [San Joaquin Central](#) Operating Session (HO) / Fresno, CA / Chuck Harmon, e-mail: harmon-sta@aol.com or 559-299-4385. It's April 1949 on SP's Donner Pass and fictitious SJC. An advance courtesy contact is appreciated. Send e-mail to be added to mailing list.

Third Saturday / [Sacramento Modular Railroad-ers](#) Operating Session (HO) / Sacramento, CA / Scott McAllister, e-mail: scooter923@att.net

Fourth Wednesday 7:00 PM / Coast Toy Train Club / Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Rd (at Ala-mar), Santa Barbara, CA / Lots of collecting in S, O, and Standard gauges. / Contact: Ken Kelley, e-mail: kenatttr@thirdrail.com



These ac-tivities oc-cur each month on the days indicated. See the Club Info section starting on page 33 for location and contact information

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Alameda County Central Railroad Society

ACCRS is located at the Alameda Co. Fair Grounds, Pleasanton. A 30 by 100 foot room has O and HO layouts. Open to the public every Friday, 6 to 10 PM, they operate continuously during county fairs and special events. Annual dues: \$24, \$15 initiation fee; Jr membership for ages 12 to 18 (with sponsor), free. Contact: Gary Lewis 925-455-8135
Email: glgslewis@comcast.net
Web: www.pleasantonmodelrr.org/index.html

Amador County Model Railroad Museum

The ACMRRM is located at #1 Main Street, Jackson, California adjacent to the historic National Hotel. Our non-profit association is open to the public from 10 AM to 5 PM, Friday through Sunday during Winter months and Wednesday through Sunday during the Summer. Work sessions are held every Tuesday starting at 10 AM. Our scenic DCC HO-scale layout depicts the lumber and gold mining history of Amador County. Operations include the Amador Central short line as well as the railroads of California's Central Valley including terminals at Stockton and Sacramento.
Contact: Robert Piety, 209-296-3587 email rdpiety@sbcglobal.net

Antioch Model Railroad Club

The Black Diamond Lines is an HO Club located at 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch. BDL has been in continuous operation since 1981. We meet Tues. & Fri., 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Formal Operating Session on the 3rd Friday of the Month, but visitors can always find trains running every club night. For more information, e-mail info@blackdiamondlines.com or visit us on the web at www.blackdiamondlines.com and we can be found on Facebook and YouTube.

Bay Area Ntrak Model Railroad Club

BANtrak MRC invites N scale modelers to visit us at the Wells Fargo Express Room, Southern Pacific Railroad depot, 902 Loring Ave., Crockett, on Wed. and Sat., 10 AM to 3 PM. Contact: Bob Lewis, 925-283-6838
E-mail: BobLewis1@sbcglobal.net.

Bay Area S Scalars

BASS is a group of modeler railroaders in the San Francisco Bay Area focused on scale modeling in 1:64 scale. BASS is a round robin club, typically meeting in a member's home on the third Saturday of odd numbered months. Meetings may include a mini-clinic, or showing progress on models or a layout. We also have a modular layout that has been displayed at public events. Contact: Michael Eldridge (meldridge2000@gmail.com).
Web: www.bayareasscalars.org.

California Central Model RR Club

The CCMRC is located in the old Agnew depot (Santa Clara) of the Southern Pacific (4185 Bassett St.) directly across from the Lafayette St. gate of Agnew State Hospital. The theme of the 15' x 50' HO club is western railroading running from the Bay Area to Southern Oregon. We meet Fri., 7:30 to 11 PM. Operating sessions the 1st and last Fri. of the month. Contact: 408-988-4449 (operating nights), or Wayne Cohen, 408- 779-0707.

Carquinez Model Railroad Society

HO Model Railroading on a Grand Scale! Can you imagine taking one real time hour to run an SP (or your favorite name) DCC train round trip from Oakland, through the Sierras to Sparks and back? Don't imagine, join us! Friday nights 7-10 (by appointment) at 645 Loring Dr, 2nd Floor, Crockett CA Call Weds 7-10 510-787-6703 or e mail anytime loggingrr@aol.com, bob@bob2sell.com or lambert5522@att.net

Coastal Valley Lines

The CVL is an informal association of novice to advanced model railroaders who live in Sonoma County. We meet at 7:00 PM the 1st Thu. of the month. We operate our HO modular railroad at local public shows. Contact: Blain Hendrix (707) 528-8655 or Steve Lewis (707) 527-0396.
Web: <http://cvlrr.com>.

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

The Eel River Valley is an HO club with a NWP-layout series of modules under construction. We meet Fri., 7:30 PM at the Humboldt County Fair Grounds Commercial Building, NW corner, Ferndale. Contact: Jack Jensen, 707-845-2823, 3313 Union St., Eureka, CA 95503 or Ron Plies, 208-229-7107, 12818 N. 11th Ave., Boise, ID 83714.

Continued on page 34

Elsie

The Left Coast (Elsie) HOn30 group invites anyone interested to join us. We use existing standards for module construction but are not merely a modular group. Contact: Al Sandrini in Bakersfield, 661-664-8614 or Ken Lunders in Cupertino, 408-777-9572.

Empire Builders Model Railroad Club

Starting over after a warehouse fire destroyed our layout, we are a small friendly group now constructing an HO layout of no specific origin based in the early 50's era. The mountain division is laid and operating, we also have a reasonable size yard operationally working well. Work days are Saturday and during summer on Wednesdays. Our retired members also show up on occasional weekdays. The club site is located at 3318 School St Oakland, Ca Call Charles at 510-917-5790 or Ted at 510-749-7099 for an invite to see/chat/join. Please visit our website <http://www.ebmrc.org>.

European Train Enthusiasts

ETE (www.ete.org) serves modelers, railway fans, related organizations, and the community through public venues, operating layouts, the annual convention EuroWest, the chapter newsletter, and the quarterly national journal, the *ETE Express*. ETE is open to all who have an interest in European railways, whether full size or scale model. The SF Bay Area Chapter meets the second Saturday of the month from 1-5pm in various locations around the bay. Contact BillKeaney (650) 355-7231 or billkeaney@comcast.net.

Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society

Bakersfield GEHAMS, founded in 1987 and in their current location since March '94, is dual-scale with a 30' x 100' HO, and a 18' x 80' N based on SP's route from Bakersfield to Mojave with Tehachapi Loop. Though under construction, mainlines are in with monthly operations. Contact: Doug Wagner, 661-589-0391 email: carldw@aol.com GEHAMS web: www.gehams.org

Golden State Model Railroad Museum – East Bay Model Engineers Society

900-A Dornan Drive in Miller-Knox Regional Park at Point Richmond. Weekly public hours are on our website. To meet members, inquire about membership and behind the scenes tours come 1st & 2nd Friday evenings of the month between 7:30 and 10 PM.; behind the scenes tours also available most Wednesdays 11 AM to 3 PM. New members are welcomed in all Scales – O, HO and N, including narrow gauge and traction. For general information check the website or call (510) 234-4884 (recording); for membership inquiries call 1st or 2nd Fridays 8-10p.m. (510) 236-1913. For other information or to schedule special events, Email info@gsmrm.org. Website: www.gsmrm.org

Humboldt Bay & Eureka Model Railroad Club

The HB&EMRC meets at their clubhouse and layout at 10 West 7th St., Suite #C in Eureka, on Sat., 7:00 PM. Visitors are always welcome. Business meetings 1st Sat of month, 7:30 PM. Contact: David Berriman P.O. Box 915, Arcata, CA 95518 707-825-7689

Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad Museum

26 Station Place - Salinas, CA 93901
The Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad Museum is dedicated to creating & maintaining a Railroad Museum in Salinas with an emphasis on the historic, contemporary and future value of the Railroad to the Salinas Valley and Monterey Bay Regions, providing experiential educational opportunities for children of all ages enhancing the core curriculum and inspiring civic involvement in our communities.
Open first weekends of each month 10AM - 4PM
831 789 8097

www.msvrr.org
info@msvrr.org

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you



HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. Each is available for NMRA members to borrow for the cost of processing and postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit www.nmra.org and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.



We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org

Then, get that popcorn ready.

Continued on page 35

Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society

Located at The Napa Valley Expo, (fairgrounds), 575 Third St., Napa, our railroad runs from Napa to Ukiah with off line connections to Stockton and Portland, has 700 feet of main line, and large classification yards at each end. The layout is never finished, as we are always rebuilding and improving! Era is 1940 to present. Member-owned rolling stock stresses reliability and realism. We meet Fri. 7:30 PM to 12, with formal runs the 2nd Fri. of the month. Info: John Rodgers 707-226-2985 E-mail: Napa-John@napanet.net Web: www.nvmrc.org

Nn3 Alliance

Our 700 members in nine countries model narrow gauge in "smaller scales". Nn3 describes 3', 3'6", and meter gauges, modeled in N or 2MM Scales. Our local portable exhibition layouts and modules regularly appear at conventions and shows. The Nn3 Handbook, 140 pages with 400 illustrations, covering all aspects of small scale narrow gauge, is available through the address on the website. Official mailing address: The Nn3 Alliance, PO Box 6652, Chesterfield, MO 63006 Web: www.Nn3.org
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nn3/>

Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society

Established in 1948, the SMRHS is located at 1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento. Modeled as the Sierra Central RR, both HO and HOn3 layouts. HO layout is being rebuilt to depict SP/WP prototype. Open Tues. and Fri. nights, 7:30 PM. Contact: 916-927-3618
Email: d.megeath@comcast.net
Web: www.smrhs.com

Sacramento Modular Railroaders

Most of our events are operating sessions, where we make up trains in our large switch yard, and send road crews out to switch cars into and out of industries at the towns along the main line. The club owns a large main yard, the corner modules, some special modules, and some rolling stock. Members own their own modules and rolling stock. Contact: Dick Witzens, 916-684-1987 Web: <http://saccentral.railfan.net/>

Sacramento Valley Live Steam Railroad Museum (SVLSRM)

The SVLS was founded in 1968 and is located in Hagen Community Park, Rancho Cordova, CA. Our initial 1500 feet of track has expanded to over 6300 feet of mainline and sidings. Approximately 1500 feet is dual gauge 4 3/4" and 7 1/2". We can accommodate equipment ranging in size from 1 inch scale (standard gauge) to 5 inch scale (2 foot narrow gauge), the most common scale being 1 1/2". Public run days are on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month during our operating season

San Joaquin Valley Garden Railway Society

The SJVGRS was founded in July of 1995 to promote the joy of building and operating Garden Railways. We have grown to over 70 families in the Central Valley, meeting monthly at members' homes to spend the afternoon sharing our hobby, weather permitting. Dues: \$25 a year for a family. Contact info: Richard Emerson 559-439-7173 E-mail: emerson.r@worldnet.att.net
Web: <http://home.att.net/~sjvgrs/train/>

San Joaquin Valley Toy Train Operators

We are an all scale train club. We have members in scales from Z to G. Whether you are someone who likes to run toy trains in circles or model an exact date, railroad or scene or anything in between you are welcome. Everyone who likes trains is welcome. You don't need to own any trains. We have two portable layouts that we set-up at public locations. We have set them up at care facilities, Amtrak stations, train shows and other places. We also have outside club activities. We have gone on the train to Sacramento and the Sacramento Rail Museum. We've ridden the train at Railtown 1897 SHP and had a private tour there. Also we have visited home train layouts and will have many other activities in the future. Our meetings are in Turlock, usually at 1:30 on the first Sunday of each month. Holidays or other events can change that. We always get there by 1 PM to visit and see what others have brought to show. For more information please call Ed Cathcart at 209-479-4432

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Continued on page 36

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

San Leandro Historical Railway Society

The SLHRS models the SP from Oakland/San Leandro to just east of Norden using the tri-level Donner Pass plan featured in the March '98 Model Railroader. It's housed in the former S.P., San Leandro depot, located at 1302 Orchard Ave., San Leandro (just off Davis St.). Work sessions Sat. 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM and Tues. 7:30 - 9:30 PM, business meetings the 1st Fri. at 7:30 PM. Contact: Eugene Brichacek, 510-963-2965 email: embrichacek@gmail.com

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA)

The SLOMRA is a multi-scale modular group with active N and HO scale layouts. The goal of our nonprofit association is railroad education and local history through public display of our modules. Our shows usually include G-gauge, tinplate, and even LEGO trains. The monthly meetings include model and prototype activities, videos and discussions. The SLOMRA is open to new members who have a love of trains. The general meeting is the third Monday of every month at 7:00pm at the Oceano Depot. For more information visit www.slomra.org or email info@slomra.org.

Silicon Valley Lines

The SVL is located at 148 E. Virginia St., San Jose. We meet Fri. 7:30 to 11:30 PM, with business meetings the 1st Fri. and operating sessions the last Fri. of the month. Our HO layout utilizing DCC for realistic operations, computer-generated train orders and radio-based dispatching. E-mail: svl@siliconvalleylines.com Web: www.siliconvalleylines.com

Siskiyou Model Railroad Club

Currently we are meeting at a member's home on the first Thursday evening of the month. Contact Tom Brass at 530-842-4921 or Glenn Joesten at 530-842-2359 for current info. The layout is still in the Yreka Western freight room, but is inoperable due to no power in the building. #19 was still in the engine house last we saw, but in "kit form." No further info. Currently a few members have been getting together on Tuesday mornings for various activities.

South Bay Historical Railroad Society

SBHRS invites interested modelers to visit us in the historic Santa Clara CalTrain Depot, 1005 Railroad Ave., Santa Clara, Tues. 5:00 to 8:00 PM or Sat. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Contact: 408-243-3969. Web: www.sbhhs.org.

Sonoma Short Line (SSL)

A group of model railroaders has formed a DCC, HO 100% NMRA club, Sonoma Short Line (SSL). The club is building a modular layout with a Sonoma County theme inspired by the period 1900-1950s. Private ops sessions and public shows are scheduled. SSL is looking for new members with skills in all aspects of model railroading and a desire to actively participate in the club. Contact Steve Lewis (707) 527-0396 or Steve Skold (707) 539-1782 for further information.

South Coast Society of Model Engineers

The club consists of enthusiasts of all scales and prototypes living in the Santa Barbara area, and has a collection of railroad books and videos for loan to members. The club has no layout but activities include weekly operations and work sessions at member layouts, as well as occasional club field trips. We meet every 3rd Tues. at 7:30 PM, at Woodglen Hall, 3010 Foothill Road, Santa Barbara. Junior members welcome. Contact: Secretary David Kuehn, email: davidkuehn@cox.net. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=163470062239>

Tidewater Southern Railway Historical Society Inc.

Manteca, formerly the Manteca Model RR Club (org '73), TSRHS reorganized and incorporated in 1990. Located at the San Joaquin Fairgrounds, Building 1, (corner of Airport and Charter Ways (Hw 4), Stockton), a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove houses a large HO layout depicting the Tidewater Southern, several Valley towns, and museum display cases. We meet 6 - 8:30 PM Thursdays. Contact: Ben Cantu, 209-679-5204 Mail: 829 Mellon Ave. Manteca, CA 95337 E-mail: bcantu@SQ50.com

Tri-city Society of Model Engineers

The TCSME located in the Niles Plaza is currently looking for new members to help build and operate both an N Scale and an HO layout focused on Fremont and surrounding areas. We meet Fridays 7:30-9:30 PM. The depot is located at 37592 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536. Please visit our web site at <http://www.nilesdepot.org/> <http://www.nilesdepot.org>

Continued on page 37

Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society

The WCMRS located at 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, is open to last Friday of the month from 8:00 to 10:00PM for operations. Fares are \$2.00 for 6-12 and seniors over 60 and \$3.00 for adults. Membership is always open to interested HO modelers. Contact: 925-937-1888 (recorder). Web: www.WCMRS.org. "Like Us" on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wcmrs). 2017 weekend schedule: Jan 14-15, Mar 18-19, May 20-21 and Sept 16-17 (11:00AM-6:00PM). Holiday Open House schedule: Nov 17-19 & Nov 24-26.



West Bay Model Railroad Association

Meets in the former S.P. baggage building at 1090 Merrill St., between the Menlo Park train station and Ravenswood Ave. Construction is nearly complete on a DCC 2-level HO layout designed for operations. Scheduled work sessions are Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, while monthly business meetings occur at 8 pm the third Wednesday and operating sessions the second Saturday of each month. Prospective members and visitors are always welcome! Contact Lou Cartalano at 650-964-5603, leave a voice message at 650-322-0685 or visit wbmrra.ning.com and facebook.com/wbmrra for more info..

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you



We not only welcome your input here at the *Branch Line*, we actively encourage it!

In fact, may we say that we go so far as to solicit your input?

If you have a small article you would like to submit for publication, or even just an idea for an article, please let us know. We will be happy to work with you.

Just contact our editor, Chip Meriam, at:

chipmeriam@comcast.net

We're looking forward to hearing from you!





NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.

Wow! Did you know there's a new NMRA Member Benefit?

It's the NMRA Partner Program!

Model railroad manufacturers are partnering with the NMRA to offer discounts to NMRA members.

Current members log in to www.nmra.org. At the Members Menu, go to the NMRA Partnership Page to see who's on the list, discounts offered, and how to order. New Partners are coming on board every month, so check back often.

If you're not yet a member, here's another great reason to join and get more fun from your hobby with a membership in the world's largest model railroad organization.

www.nmra.org

A proud Partner with



PCR Membership Gauge

- November 30, 2017--952
- December 31, 2017--957
- January 31, 2018--948
- February 28, 2018--943
- March 31, 2018—944
- April 30, 2018—936
- May 31, 2018—933
- June 30, 2018—937
- July 31, 2018—938
- August 31, 2018—944
- September 30, 2018—941
- October 31, 2018—936
- November 30, 2018—936



MemberID number: 123456 00
 Expiration date: 01/08/12
 Member since: 01/08/11

The best gift card you'll ever give.

(Or receive!)

When you give the gift of an NMRA membership, you're giving someone a gift they can use all year long. From accessing our online photo archives to getting special deals on books, to attending Division and Region meets, an NMRA member has a wealth of benefits to take advantage of.

We'll send your new member a membership card, then bill you separately. Call HQ for details and ordering. Allow 4 weeks for processing.

Perfect as a gift for holidays, birthdays, graduations, Fathers Day, Mothers Day...even Valentine's Day!

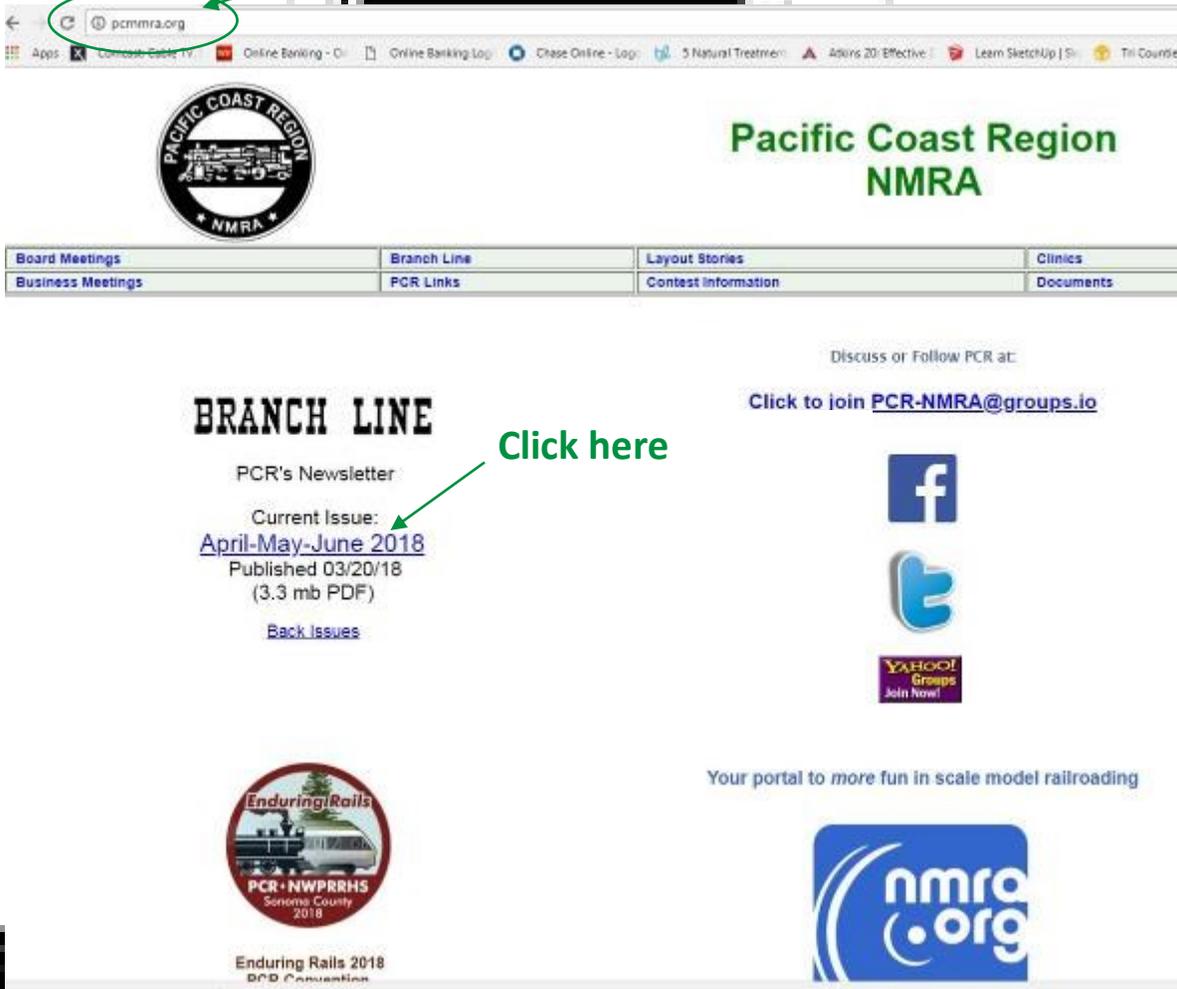


We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org
 423-892-2846

This year, give a card they'll treasure all year!

Read the *Branch Line*
On Line

Go to pcnmra.org



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing pcnmra.org. The website header features the Pacific Coast Region NMRA logo and the text "Pacific Coast Region NMRA". A navigation menu includes links for Board Meetings, Branch Line, Layout Stories, Clinics, Business Meetings, PCR Links, Contest Information, and Documents. The main content area is titled "BRANCH LINE" and describes PCR's Newsletter. The current issue is "April-May-June 2018", published 03/20/18, with a 3.3 mb PDF. A link for "Back Issues" is provided. Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Yahoo! Groups are shown. A section titled "Your portal to more fun in scale model railroading" includes logos for "Enduring Rails" (PCR • NWPRRHs Sonoma County 2018) and "nmra.org".

Click here

SAVE A TREE !!

BRANCH LINE
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553