

BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



April 19-24, 2017

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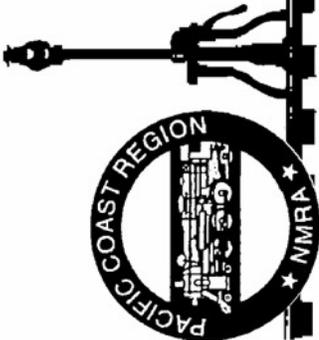
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Hawaiian Division: All members transferred to Coast Division

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The Branch Line
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Daylight Express Just a Few Days Away!

Clickity-clack, clickity-clack, here comes the Daylight Express 2017 down the track! It's due to arrive on Wednesday April 19 and the track is clear with all signals green! I hope you've got your ticket and a reservation in the sleeper. The crew is ready to serve you under Conductors Wagner and Palermo, with Larson at the throttle, O'Dorney firin', Brakeman Houlihan, Steward Scott, porters Morden, O'Brien and Harmon, baggage handler Grenier, chef Aymar, waiters Parks, Providenza and Neumann, and dispatcher deBlick at your service. [Apologies to any who are not happy with their crew assignment. - Ed]

The following information is "stolen" from the PCR Web site (permission presumed);

The 2017 convention of the Pacific Coast Region, National Model Railroad Association will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, California on April 19th through 23rd.

LAYOUT

COMMAND

CONTROL IS COMING TO THE PCR!!! Read all about it on the new Layout Command Control webpage. (See Page 6 of this issue of the Branch Line)

The Daylight Express 2017 runs from Wednesday,

April 19 through Sunday, April 23, 2017, starting at 12:00 PM for registration check-in and ending with the Sunday morning PCR Annual Business Meeting.

Sandwiched between the two will be a veritable smorgasbord of model railroading activities you've come to expect at PCR conventions, including clinics, contests, prototype tours, layout tours, operating sessions, breakfasts, banquet, and more!

Mark your calendars now, figure out how to get to Bakersfield, then get ready for some real model railroading fun and enjoyment.

Not an NMRA Member?

NMRA membership is not required for registration. Love scale model railroading or running trains? Then join us for five days of learning, fellowship, layout visits and tours, and see what the NMRA has to offer. Non-NMRA members must pay a \$15.00 surcharge.

Registrations

Go to the Registration page (on the web site, www.pcrnmra.org) to submit your online registration and pay with secure PayPal. No PayPal account needed! A mail-in registration form is also available if you'd rather pay by check. (See page 33 of this issue of the Branch Line.)

Full Fare: \$115.00, includes Registration, Awards

Banquet, and PCR Breakfast. First Timer: \$95.00 – for PCR members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions.

Non-Rail/Spouse: \$95.00, includes Registration, Awards Banquet, and PCR Breakfast.

Youth (12-18 years or student): \$65.00, includes Registration, Awards Banquet, and PCR Breakfast.

All fares include convention registration, clinics, contests, and layout tours. There may be extra fares for outside events or special clinics, if admission tickets, transportation, or materials are required.

Modeling With The Masters" clinics will be extra-fare events and have a separate charge for each clinic attended.

Convention Hotel

The Convention Hotel for Daylight Express 2017 is the DoubleTree by Hilton, 3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, California. For more information about the hotel and to make reservations, go to the Hotel page on the PCR Web Site.

Welcome Reception at Temblor Brewing Company

Join fellow modelers at the start of PCR's 2017 Convention this year for a registrant-only Welcome Reception at Temblor Brewing Company on Wednesday, April 19 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. For a \$9.00 extra fare, you get a Temblor beer or soda, plus taco bar, appetizers, sweet

Continued on Page 5



potato fries and other goodies. Enjoy opening-night fellowship with other modelers. Brewmaster's Chat about the on-site equipment and production process at 8:00 pm. Cash bar available for your second beer.

Temblor Brewing Company is a Bakersfield micro-brewery located at 3200 Buck Owens Blvd., 1/2 mile from the convention hotel. **LIMITED TO 75 SEATS so DON'T WAIT, sign up today.** Full Convention registration is required in advance, so if you haven't registered already do so now. A \$9.00 payment by PayPal (preferred) or check through March 31, 2017 or until sold out; \$12.00 at the door or

after April 1 on a space-available basis with proof of convention registration.

Convention Car

In the 1940s and 1950s, some of the hottest freight trains on the Santa Fe Railroad were the Green

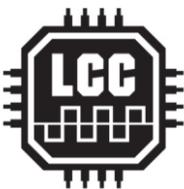
Fruit Express (GFX) trains, from the farmlands of California to points all over the map. The GFX ran from California to Kansas City or Chicago. And to honor those reefer trains that carried the potatoes from Bakersfield to Eastern markets, the Daylight Express 2017 convention car is an Accurail HO 40-foot steel reefer kit in the Santa Fe Grand Canyon paint scheme from the mid-1950s, as a representation of the reefers that ran endlessly to Chicago—and points east—to provide California produce to the Eastern United States.

A single car is \$22.00, a pair of cars is \$40.00, and a set of 4 cars is \$75.00, all with different car numbers, 21217, 21220, 21241 and 21255, exclusive to Daylight Express 2017. On purchases less than 4 cars, we will choose the numbers. Sets of 4 will include one of each car number. Go to the Company Store to order your cars if you have already registered. You may also order the cars

when registering for the convention. Your cars will be ready for pickup at the convention. Yes, trucks and couplers are included! All prices include California sales tax where applicable.

Door Prizes

We are soliciting door prizes from many of the fine manufacturers of model railroad equipment and publications. They have been generous in the past, and we anticipate some wonderful offerings for Daylight Express 2017. Each registrant will have a chance to win a door prize — you could be a WINNER! We would also welcome donations of good, new kits, ready-to-run equipment, new (or in excellent condition) books, DVDs, or modeling tools from convention attendees. If you have some of these you find surplus to your interests, bring them along and donate them for door prizes. We'll find them a new home. Donations in all scales are welcome. 🚪



4 LCC Clinics scheduled for Daylight Express 2017

Learn All About LCC at Daylight Express 2017

by Doug Wagner and Chris Palermo, Convention Co-Chairs

Layout Command Control (LCC) is one of the most exciting developments in electronic layout control of the past decade. LCC enables installation of smart devices on your layout that learn how to respond to events, such as block occupancy by changing signals or taking other actions. The Pacific Coast Region is pleased to

announce that NMRA's LCC demonstration layout, built by RR-CirKits, Inc. will be on display and operating in Bakersfield at PCR's annual convention April 19-23, 2017.

We're also delighted to announce that two of the world's experts on this technology, Balazs Racs of Switzerland and Stuart Baker

of Wisconsin, will present three (3) clinics and discussions on LCC - first the basics, then intermediate topics, plus an OpenLCB Users Group Meeting. But wait, there's more - David Parks of California will discuss his experience building one of the country's largest LCC layout installations to date. And you can see and watch the demonstration layout built by RR-CirKits, Inc., a leading

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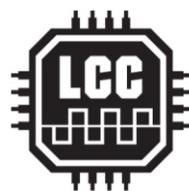
manufacturer of LCC products.

This is more LCC information, discussion and demonstration than an NMRA national convention might have! Join us for all this and more.

What is LCC?

LCC is a system for controlling all the functions on your layout that don't have to do with how fast the locomotive is moving -- things like signals, turnout control, or layout lighting. LCC originated as the OpenLCB project, which was developed by volunteers around the world. The purpose of LCC standard is to take the load off the throttle network with respect to signaling, turnout routing, and other aspects of operations not related to control of locomotives.

When the DCC Protocols were designed in the early 1990s, no one foresaw applications like sound, multiple engine consists, stationary decoders controlling signals, signal systems and detection using the track or throttle buses. In large layouts, this has led to congestion on the network, delaying commands getting to their recipient. LCC solves these issues. And for smaller layouts, LCC offers a level of flexibility and functional sophistication that may not be available with conventional DCC components.



LCC Demo Layout will be on display and operating.

LCC Sessions at Daylight Express 2017

LCC: A Non-Technical Introduction and Overview
Balazs Racz & Stuart Baker -
Wednesday 4:00 PM - Sierra Room

Layout Command Control (LCC) is an emerging NMRA standard for the control of model railroads. A non-technical explanation of what LCC is and what benefits it can bring to the hobby will be provided. Topics covered include:

- Defining what LCC is (...and is not)

- The benefits of LCC, also in comparison with other / proprietary systems

- Basic concepts and capabilities of LCC

- Overview of available and upcoming products

- Summary of the current state of LCC as well as a vision for the future

LCC - Building Your Own Layout
Balazs Racz & Stuart Baker -
Wednesday 8:30 PM - Sierra Room

This clinic shows the practical side of LCC, and familiarizes the audience with the products, wiring and tools needed to set up a layout. We do this in the most pragmatic manner possible: we will walk in through the door with a box of off-the-shelf components and wires, and walk out with a functional layout section. We'll set up basic layout control like throwing turnouts, fascia panels, and JMRI control, as well as

more advanced features like blocks detection, railroad crossings and ABS signaling.

LCC - OpenLCB Users' Group Meeting
Balazs Racz & Stuart Baker -
Friday 8:30 PM - Sierra Room

The OpenLCB group is a research and development organization of volunteers that develops communication standards and protocols for model railroad control. Once an OpenLCB standard has been developed and vetted through multiple prototype implementations, it becomes a candidate for adoption into the accepted NMRA LCC standards. The acceptance process includes a comment period that is open to the public.

The purpose of this meeting is to present to members of the public the work that is ongoing within the OpenLCB organization. One of OpenLCB's goals is to be thinking many years into the future in terms of model railroad control technology. During this meeting, the public has an opportunity to provide feedback as well as propose new ideas to be investigated. This meeting also provides an opportunity to meet some of the individuals behind OpenLCB and LCC, as well as a networking opportunity for those individuals who would like to become more involved as volunteers themselves. The discussion will be both technical and nontechnical.

This session is a discussion and audience participation is encouraged.

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Exploring Layout Command Control (LCC) David Parks - Saturday 2:30 PM - Nevada Room

David Parks has installed one of America's largest and most complex

LCC deployments in his extensive operations-oriented home layout. His clinic will describe how and what he learned about LCC in sourcing components, installing and programming

them, including thoughts about the new NMRA standard and the future of LCC. Join this clinic for a thorough treatment of how LCC has been applied to a large home layout 

Clinics - Clinics - Clinics

Daylight Express 2017 will present 44 clinics by 29 presenters over a 4-day schedule (See schedule on page 19-21). The following list was compiled from the convention WEB site on March 16th. By the time you read this there may be more. Be sure to check the WEB site (www.pcrnmra.org/clinics) for the latest.

Jeff Allen - Building and Operating a Model Railroad in a Middle School Classroom

Robert Bowdidge - 3D Printing Freight Cars at Home

Jack Burgess, MMR #136 - 3D Printing

Jeff Cauthen - Modeling Ideas for Southern Pacific C-77-1, -2 & -3 Chair Cars

Bob Chaparro - Freight Car Tune-Up Tips
Citrus Industry Operations
Modeling the Southern California Citrus Industry

Dave Connery, MMR #551 - Structure Roofing Materials
Structure Siding Materials

Dennis Drury - A Cheap and Easy Automatic Block Signal System

Neil Fernbaugh - Modeling and Detailing Citrus Groves

Michael Gross - Easy Freight Car Weathering 1-2-3

Ed Hall, MMR #242 - Detail and Paint Espee AC4400CW #378
Basic Airbrushing
Detail and Paint a 1941 Lark Passenger Train
Painting an Espee Cab Ahead

Jere Ingram - An Introduction to the Modular Signaling System

Tommy Johnson - West is West, Well, Maybe Not!

Recollections of a Fireman on SP San Joaquin Division in 1952-1953

Jim Jury - How Signals Work: A Live Signal Demonstration

Bill Kaufman - Planning and Developing the State Belt

Jim Lancaster - Packing Houses of the Southern San Joaquin Valley

Lloyd Lehrer - Sage Brush Armature Trees, HO to G scale - Hands-on Clinic - \$5.00 fee
Furnace Filter Fir Trees, N to O scale - Hands-on Clinic - \$5.00 fee

Frank Markovich, MMR #514 - Detailing Wood for Structures and Rolling Stock

Wayne Maynard - Static Grass

Ed Merrin - Modeling Petaluma's Water Street
Layout Photography

Bruce Morden - Quintessential California: Modeling Eucalyptus Trees

Seth Neumann, Moderator - Layout Design and Operations SIG Round Table Discussions

Chris Palermo - Lighting Your Layout with LED Tape

David Parks - Exploring Layout Command Control (LCC)

Continued on Page 8

44 clinics by 29 presenters are scheduled as of March 15th.

Bob Pethoud - Designing and Building a Portable Switching Layout
 Operating the Fall Creek Branch HO Scale Portable Switching Layout

Balazs Racz & Stuart Baker - LCC: A Non-Technical Introduction and Overview
 LCC - Building Your Own Layout
 LCC - Open LCB Users' Group Meeting

Jimmy Simmons - Building Brick & Stone Structures with Laser Engraved Basswood

Pete Steinmetz - Weathering With Pan Pastels and Ammo of Mig
 Battery Power, Radio Control In Small Scales

Tony Thompson - Wine Tank Cars
 Operating Two SP Layouts with Prototypical Waybills

Doug Wagner - Structure Modeling Tools for the Average Guy 🚂

LOBBY LEVEL



Use this map and the schedule on pages 19-22 to make your clinic attendance plans now



President's Report

by Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

Hello Everyone!

I've just gotten confirmation that you should be reading this column before we all go on our way to Bakersfield for the 2017 PCR Convention, Daylight Express. That means it's my last chance to remind you all that we will be voting yes or no on important changes to the PCR By-Laws at the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday morning April 23rd.

In case you forgot or found it insufficiently exciting to read about in the last issue of the Branchline, the changes involve redefining Division Superintendents as voting members of the PCR Board of Directors. This

would give them direct participation in the governance of the entire Region and means that each Division would have two representatives on the Board. This kind of change requires modification of our By-Laws, and that requires the consent of a two-thirds majority of the members present at the Annual Business Meeting.

This would be a major change for PCR, as the current structure has been in place since incorporation in 1963. In fact, there hasn't been any kind of change to the By-Laws since 2006. But the proposal itself is not unusual for NMRA. There are more Regions that have

Superintendents on their Boards than there are Regions that do not.

In the last issue I gave some background on how this came up as a proposal and a summary of arguments for and against it. Since then I've been given a lot of feedback, from some who think it's a good idea and from others who don't. I even heard the same reason given for being in favor as for being opposed. That was in reference to the fact that the Board would be significantly bigger.

My slant on it is that it would be some trouble to implement but it might make participation in Division government more meaningful to those considering becoming active in leadership roles. It might also reduce what I've observed as a kind of "us versus them" attitude in members who perceive PCR as some kind of oppressive power center making decisions on its own.

But we'll see how the vote goes. I encourage you all to attend the convention if you hadn't planned to (the developing line-up of clinics is already beginning to rank with the best I've ever seen) and to hang around after the breakfast on Sunday for the meeting. The discussion should be lively and informative.

Meanwhile, if you read the recent NMRA eBulletin you would be encouraged at the amount of focus and creativity going in to making NMRA as

attractive as possible for potential and present members. It's good to have a partner at the National, but it doesn't give us a reprieve on our own Regional efforts.

On that front, as we speak we don't know the results of our recent poll, nor do we know the percentage of PCR members who chose to vote. Depending on the outcome the Board of Directors meeting in Bakersfield will be either the last I will be presiding over or the last of my first term. In either case, I will be proposing to the Board that this Spring's election should be the last conducted with paper ballots. We have been exploring the use of a web-based service called ElectionBuddy for the last year or so, and now we've been beaten to the punch. Several other Regions are conducting their elections through it and the NMRA Regional Advisory Council has done the same as well. It is quick and efficient, they handle things such as preventing duplicate votes, and the participation rate goes up significantly.

To me this seems like a must for us to continue to move to a 21st Century feel to our organization. We already have a Facebook page and other social media presence, now we can move on to balloting as well. From my own prospective, I belong to a number of organizations of various types, and the days of filling out paper forms and mailing ballots have

Continued on Page 10



Vote on by-laws changes at the annual meeting on April 23rd

disappeared from almost all of them. The remaining ones are looking very outdated and provincial. I suppose that's okay if we don't mind being a big retirement club, but eventually we need younger blood funneling in if we care about what happens when we're gone.

But there's a catch. For this to work we have to have correct and current emails for voting members. Now, there are going to be small numbers (and getting smaller) of members without email, and paper ballots will still have to be provided for them. But that is only practical when we're talking small numbers. Hard

experience has demonstrated that when emails change the PCR isn't always notified, so we have some old inoperative ones on file. I know this isn't sexy, but I'm urging you all to make sure that we have your current email addresses on file. That's something your Division officers can help you with.

Well, this appears to be the end of my sermonizing for this time around. I have a bunch of stuff to do before Bakersfield. Revising and updating clinics, squeezing in time to work on my layout, preparing for the Board of Directors meeting, and so on. But it's all fun, I can assure you of that. Till next time. 🚂

PCR Membership Tracker as of 2-28-2017

Division	# Members
Coast	438
Sierra	256
Redwood Empire	145
Daylight	116
Hawaiian	11
Total PCR Members	966

Achievement Program - Getting Started

by Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department

This month I want to talk about getting started in the Achievement Program.

Getting started can sometimes be confusing.



However, a good first step is to begin by downloading the general

requirements from the NMRA.org website for each of the Achievement Program categories. This will give you an overview of the program

and the basic requirements for each certificate. Note that there are eleven different AP categories and that a modeler must only met the qualifications for seven certificates in order to achieve the goal of Master Model Railroader. Of the seven certificates, you must receive at least one from each of four main categories:

- Railroad Equipment
Master Builder - Motive Power
- Railroad Scenery
Master Builder - Structures
- Railroad Equipment
Master Builder - Cars
- Railroad Scenery
Master Builder - Scenery
- Railroad Equipment
Master Builder - Prototype Models

- Railroad Construction and Operation
Model Railroad Engineer - Civil
 - Railroad Construction and Operation
Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
Chief Dispatcher
 - Service to the Hobby and NMRA Member
Association Official
Association Volunteer
Model Railroad
- Author

If you have held an office at the National, Regional, or Divisional level, I'd first look at the requirements for *Association Official*; you may already qualify! If you haven't been an official but you have been a contest judge or had your layout open for organized tours during a NMRA event, check the requirements for *Association Volunteer*. You

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Make a list of those certificates for which you think that you might already, at least partially, satisfy.

might find that you need only to document your past efforts to get credit for these efforts.

Assuming that you have a layout, next take a close look at the requirements for *Model Railroad Engineer - Civil* and for *Master Builder - Scenery*. For example, if you are in HO scale, you need to only complete 32 square feet of scenery to meet the basic requirements for this certificate...that is the equivalent of a 4'x8' layout! The requirements for Civil are more varied but will be covered by many typical layouts; one of the requirements is to construct a certain amount of track (50 linear feet in HO for example). The track must be complete with ballast, drainage facilities, roadbed profile, etc. The track must include at least six different features such as a passing track, spur, crossover, turntable, grade change, etc. Again, many layouts will easily meet this particular requirement.

Next, I'd suggest making a list of those certificates for which you think that you might already, at least partially, satisfy. For each AP certificate, jot down what you have already done and what still needs to be done to satisfy the requirements. Maybe you already have much more than 50 of prefab track completed on your layout and it has several spurs, a couple of sidings, and a turntable. In fact, you can count five different track features on the layout and you only need one more. You realize that you

have been meaning to finish that crossover you need and now know that, if you moved it up on your "To Do" list, you would complete the requirements for *Model Engineer - Civil*!

If you have entered any NMRA judged modeling contests in the past, dig out your old score sheets. If you received at least 87½ points for a model that you built, that model will count toward the Master Builder certificates.

After completing this survey of your volunteer efforts, layout, and contest models, you may find that, while you haven't made progress toward the requirements for some of the AP certificates, you may be actually very close for some others. I would then suggest making a list of what you need to do to finish one of the certificates that interests you. Use this list to prioritize your upcoming projects and before you know it, you will be completing the Statement of Qualifications or SOQ for your first AP certificate.

I am pleased to announce the following Certificate of Achievement award since my last column in the *Branch Line*:

• Earl Girbovan -
Chief Dispatcher

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.



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.



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.

Contest Report

by Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Manager, PCR Contest Department

I think I can..... I think I can..... I think I can..... Commentary on the upcoming Convention Contest:

Within all of us rests the passion for all things relating to trains; we all cradle and nourish it by building little railroading empires, by becoming train engineers during operating sessions. We read the history of railroads, we can recite engines and cars rosters so as to make our grandmas proud. Many of us like to build models, like to take pictures of trains and related items. This is who we are. This is the fabric of our being. We even open up our railroads for tours and operating sessions so the rest of us can enjoy and partake in the hobby. The contest room at every convention offers us another venue to share and enjoy the hobby we love so much with our friends and with people we do not yet know. It is from this point of view that I write this column and exhort all of you to partake and to visit the contest room.

Remember that you do not necessarily have to start from scratch on your project. It could be something already completed that you feel comfortable bringing to the contest room, or a project that needs a few extra

touches to make it a truly standout entry. Sometime we get lost in the idea of having to bring a totally brand spanking new project. As a matter of fact it can even be an entry that has won 2nd or 3rd place in previous contests; as long as it was not 1st place it can be entered again in the same category. I would suggest making a few additions so as to improve your score and you could be staring at first place! How about that!!!

Well, what about if it has won 1st place, let's say in structures? Now what? Well, bring it back as a diorama where you now have this structure in a place setting. How about a car or engine? Bring it back with other cars and engines and enter it as "favorite train"! How about bringing it back as non judged and/or go for "popular vote"? Just look at the website under contest and carefully examine the list of categories. You'll figure out there will be a place somewhere for your entry.

An often overlooked area of contest is Arts & Crafts. Most of us, middle aged males, disdain the idea of crafts. "I took shop in school, not crafts." "Crafts is not manly, you know." Hogwash, say I. In our hobby we are all craftsmen (craftspeople) in as much as we build beautiful scenery (that's crafty, we hear our friends say) we paint backdrops, we make trees,

rivers, mountains, meadows, we populate them with people, animals, flora etcetera. I call that crafty, do you not agree? Now put that crafty mind of yours to work and create something that would fit into one of the Arts & Crafts categories. Ok, ok, it might not fit into the needlepoint category but it could fit into Railroadiana Original- See my point? (pun intended here) Let's be creative and show that we think outside the box for a change. Or we'll all be aging ungracefully doing the same thing over and over and over and over..... No wonder the younger generations don't find us exciting enough to join us. We are BORING !!!! And PREDICTABLE !!!! No FUN !!!! So, tell a story with pictures or railroad pins or whatever strikes your fancy. A few years ago my friend Steve Wesolowski entered a jacket given to him by a Union Pacific work crew emblazoned "Heavy steel gang - RAILDOG". It honored him for having spent time with them; it was part of Steve's railroad experience. So he entered it rightfully in Railroadiana original. Way to go Steve. Your Past PCR President, Pat LaTorres, entered a shadowbox honoring his late father who worked for the railroads using memorabilia that belonged to his dad. What a way to feel a connection with a loved one and at the same time inviting us io his world. Our convention experience is enriched when folks like Steve and Pat share with us



An often overlooked area of contest is Arts & Crafts.

That building or that loco or car that you adore but worry that it will not score very high in the contest? You can still enter it under the “popular vote” category.

memories and events. We hear it often that the best part of a convention is to spend time with old friends. Arts & Crafts open the doors to do just that.

Back to models. Remember that entering a model in the contest is a fun experience and it really is the crowning point of attending a convention. It moves you from being a spectator to being a participant: this becomes YOUR convention, the stage where you can show your stuff. How about that train you like so much but only you get to look at? Enter it in the “favorite train” category. That building or that loco or car that you adore but worry that it will not score very high in the contest? You can still enter it under the “popular vote” category. Let your peers attending the convention decide if it merits an award, instead of the judges. It reminds me of the art collector who keeps that beautiful Matisse painting hidden in his home. Much better to have that painting displayed in a Museum, don't you think?

Additionally, you can enter models as “non-judged”, like we do at the Divisional “Show and Tell”, just so that others can have the privilege to see what you have been up to. What if the model is in progress? Bring it anyway, and place it as “non-judged”; people really get a kick out of looking behind the scenes and get a glimpse at how models come together. Personally I am hooked to the television show “How things

are made”. Fascinating stuff.

The idea here is to let you share your beautiful models with the rest of us. As you yourself know, we are always eager to see what other modelers are doing. That is why we attend open houses on layout tours. And from that we learn new techniques, unorthodox ideas, diversified ways of tackling a problem. Models displayed in the contest room serve the same purpose. They allow others to see new techniques, experience a facet of the hobby they might not have thought to be in their grasp, etc, etc. And this brings us to a serious point: when you step into the contest room, please do not be intimidated by thinking these models are out of your league. Enjoy looking at the work of your fellow modelers, seek out the modeler and ask questions. I can assure you that the modeller will be very pleased and eager to share information with you. Personally I remember the late Dennis Hill, past Superintendent of the 4th division in PNR, always coming to seek me out and asking me a ton of questions about my models. What a gratifying moment that was. Dennis has since passed away and I will miss his friendship and enthusiasm. Without my models entered in the contest year after year I would not have had the chance of meeting Dennis. You see, contest can be an avenue for making new friends, and creating enthusiasm for both the participant as well as the observer. Let go of any

established notions about fear of being judged, of thinking that maybe your model is not as good as others. Excuse me: who cares! We are all here to have a good time and we want to share that good time with others. If that good time comes about via our models in the contest, all the better. Bring your models, photos, Arts & Crafts and share them with all of us; let's come together as a group of friends who enjoy each other's company and respect each other's work.

Do not become hung up on points and winning. Let us make this a “celebration of modeling,” regardless of the final score. Bring those models to Bakersfield 2017. Burn up my lap top from all those entries that need to be tabulated. Would that not be a gas? 🚗

PCR Membership Gauge

As of February 28, 2017

February 29, 2016—989
March 31, 2016—978
April 31, 2016—980
May 31, 2016—981
June 30, 2016—982
July 31, 2016—976
August 31, 2016—975
September 30, 2016—971
October 31, 2016—968
November 30, 2016—973
December 31, 2016—967
January 31, 2017—968
February 28, 2017—966

Pacific Coast Region SIG Report for First Quarter 2017

by Seth Neumann

The big SIG news for the first quarter was the annual PCR/Layout Design/Operations SIG meet January 27-29 in Mountain View. About 85 members attended the Saturday clinics and panels. The Saturday session featured 4 clinics:

Dave Adams on his experiences operating his D&RGW Durlin Sub.

Ed Loizeaux on the training material he prepared for his NYC Valley Division.

Tony Thompson on waybills.

David Parks and Balazs Racz on David's experiences using LCC as he upgrades his Cumberland West layout (and this will be offered at the Bakersfield convention, so catch it if you missed it at the SIG meet).

Bruce Morden led a challenge and then a panel on designs for Paul Weiss' new Central Vermont oriented layout with two challengers and 4 panelists. Thanks to all the presenters and panelists, as well as Hilding Larsen and Paul Deis for AV!

8 Layouts were available for Saturday night tours:

Bernhard Beck – San Jose.

California Central MR Club – Santa Clara.

Bill Goodenough – San Jose (Tentative).

David Griffy - Sunnyvale.

Edward Loizeaux – Los Altos.

Seth Neumann – Mt. View.

David Parks – Los Altos.

Ted Stevens – Mt View

We all had excellent turnout. Thanks to all of the owners who showed their layouts!

We had 9 layouts open for Sunday operations with 52 operators and 9 mentors as well as the owners participated. I know we had a great session on the UP in Niles Canyon!

Thanks to all who helped and all who participated!

The weekend of March 17-19 60 visitors from all over North America converged on the Bay Area to participate in BayRails, our semi-annual operating event aimed at visiting operators. Twenty-five layouts were available and we thank the hosts, their helpers and many PCR members who pitched in to help out in various capacities. Based on the successes of BayRails since 2005 and other groups up and down the Pacific Coast from Vancouver, BC to San Diego we now have operating meets in almost all of the major western metropolitan areas and many more opportunities to operate, when you add in semi-annual meets in Salt

Lake and Phoenix there are great operating opportunities within driving distance several times a year. I remember discussing this with Ray deBlicke, Jim Providenza and Bill Kaufman back in 2000 and marveling at the many operating meets available in the Midwest and wondering if we'd ever get to that point. Well, we have! So if you think you'd like to try an ops weekend, please contact me at the email below and we'll put you on our list!

The PCR Bakersfield convention is coming up soon (I'm sure there's lots of coverage elsewhere in this issue) and we are working on some operating slots. Also we'll have the SIG Meet and Greet/Roundtables Thursday evening, which I will be hosting. Please bring your layout plans and mockups and we'll discuss them! The NMRA Convention will be in Orlando in 2017 and Kansas City in 2018. Kansas City is known for both its quantity and quality of operating layouts and the KC2018 group is composed of many operators, so expect a strong SIG program all around in KC.

Seth Neumann
sneumann@pacbell.net 🚂



We'll have the SIG Meet and Greet / Roundtables Thursday evening at the Bakersfield Convention.

The Answers Are Out There

Realistic Switching Puzzles

by Robert Pethoud, Member Aid Chairman, Daylight Division

Q: How much fun can you have with a model railroad layout consisting of a few yards of straight and level track and a single (one, uno, eins, the loneliest number) turnout?

A: Way more than you might think.

Let me suggest a possible track plan for this layout, which is shown somewhere on this page. It looks like we have a section of main line track with a single spur track leading off to serve an industry. The spur could run alongside a brewery, paper mill, or furniture factory with six or eight loading/unloading spots for freight cars.

I propose that this trivially simple track arrangement forms the game board for a surprisingly entertaining pastime, one which is at least as enjoyable as Inglenook, the British switching puzzle I discussed last time. It achieves this with fewer turnouts and has the added benefit of realism,

since it poses exactly the type of task faced by actual train crews every day.

In the illustration, the peddler freight has just arrived with four cars to set out at the furniture factory. The numbers on the cars in the train's consist are the spots where the cars need to be set out. Each number represents the location of a door, a dock, a crane, or just an open area where loading or unloading will take place. Cars to be picked up from the factory are labeled with the letter "P"; unlabeled cars can be moved, but must be put back into place before the peddler departs.

Try the freight crew's assignment for yourself. Hint: begin by pulling all of the cars from the spur. Then station your conductor or brakeman near the switch stand and alternately shove and pull the string of cars, setting out the necessary cars at the designated spots. You will have to work backwards from spot 7 to spot 1. The

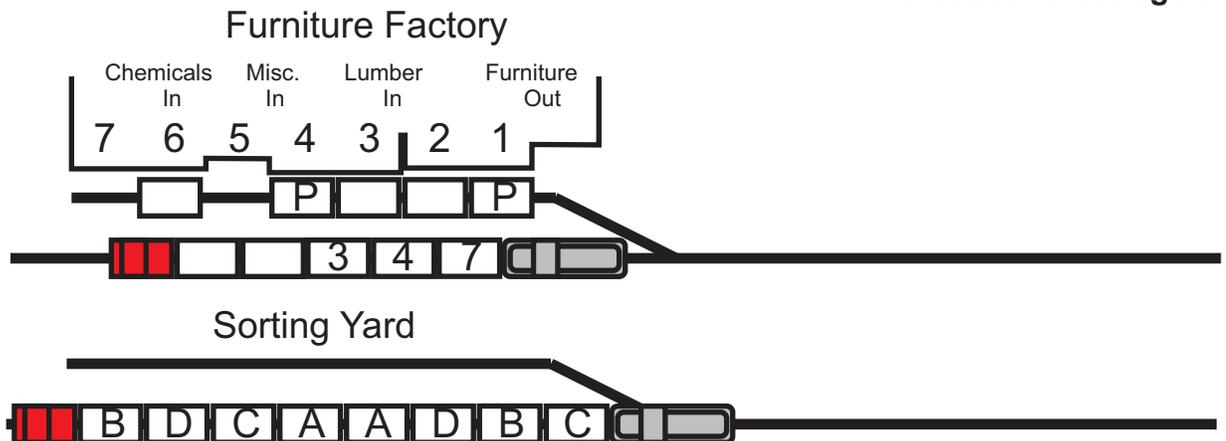
crewman on the ground will throw the switch and pull the pin to uncouple cars as needed; he will appreciate that he never has to move far from the switch points.

If there are too many cars for a particular spot, place the extra car or cars clear of the main but east of spot 1. Cars sitting here are said to be "off spot" and the next crew to work the spur will place them where they're needed after their spots open up.

There is a completely different way to employ this track arrangement: we can use it to sort the cars in a freight train. See the illustration without the factory. Here we begin with the cars in the consist in the given order and a completely empty spur (maybe the furniture factory has gone belly up in the recession). The desired order of cars in the train is alphabetical; that is, we want all of the A cars together right behind the locomotive, the B's together behind the A's, and so on. Each letter group of cars will be a "block" and we are said to be blocking the cars when

Continued on Page 16

This trivially simple track arrangement forms the game board for a surprisingly entertaining pastime



we put cars with the same destination together and in the order in which they will be switched out along the train's route.

Again, try the assignment for yourself. Notice, first, that it's not necessary (or, as it turns out, even desirable) to have four spurs in order to sort cars for four destinations. Hint: pull the entire string forward and station your crewman again near the switch points. Now shove one or a few of the cars at a time onto the spur, this time working from the back

to the front of the train. Clearly, you must start by putting one of the D cars on the spur, but which one? It makes a difference.

Once you have solved these two puzzles, you will have no trouble making up your own and solving them as well. You are well on your way to becoming an expert at freight switching. Is it as much of a kick for you as it is for me? Who would have thought that you could get so much prototypical operation and just plain enjoyment from a single spur attached to

a short section of main line? Now imagine a model railroad complete with scenery and a dozen or more such industrial spurs—how much pleasure can you derive from all of that? Perhaps you already have such a pike in your garage or spare bedroom. So, my challenge to you is to fire up the consolidation or the RS-1, couple onto that string of set outs, and send the way freight on its, well, way.

Until next time, you can reach me at pethoud@comcast.net 

The Answers are Out There Weathering with Water Color

by Robert Pethoud, Member Services, Daylight Division



Steel Seaboard Box Car weathered with water colors



Wooden Northern Pacific Boxcar weathered with water colors

Few changes enhance the appearance of model freight cars more than the application of some weathering. Convincing weathering can make up for some missing or crude details and small flaws in the paint job or lettering. I discovered this years ago when I assembled and weathered a craftsman kit for a PFE wood-sheathed refrigerator car. I was so pleased with the result that I wanted to take a close-up photo which would contrast the car's highly detailed exterior with the toy-like sides and ends of the beginner kits which made up most of my freight car fleet at the time. To make the comparison fair, I weathered the cheapo car to match the state-of-the-art car. When I finished, though, I was disconcerted to discover that, unless I looked really closely, the two reefers were

indistinguishable. With a realistic coat of dirt, grime, and rust, even a shake-the-box kit with cast-on details can help produce a realistic model scene.

I recently rediscovered an old method of weathering with water color washes. It's easy, inexpensive, and quick, making it a great supplement to airbrushing, chalks applied dry or wet, acrylic washes and dry brushing, and oil paints. The photos show my first two experiments with this technique. I used just two colors, Payne's Gray for grime and burnt sienna for rust, from Winsor & Newton's Cotman Water Colour line. In addition to these, I used a couple of small brushes, a plastic palette, and water with several drops of isopropyl rubbing alcohol added.

I placed the boxcar shells on my workbench on their sides, then tilted them slightly by resting them on

Continued on Page 17

drinking straws so that liquids would run from top to bottom on the face-up sides. After squeezing small dollops of water color onto the palette, I wet the brush and dabbed it against the Payne's Gray blob. After dragging the resulting dark gray wash along the top of the boxcar side, I brushed this down the sides to spread the wash. Using the brush, I added more paint and more water until the sides were covered relatively evenly.

The side dries in a few minutes and then you will appreciate the unique benefits of this technique. You can add or remove some color in small sections or large, since the water color will flow again as soon as water is applied. Even without adding any color, you

can reposition what is already there by shepherding it with a wet brush. On the steel boxcar I moved some of the dark gray color to the vertical rivet lines to duplicate a common effect I've seen in photos of well-weathered prototype cars.

To replicate streaks of rust on the steel car I applied some of the burnt sienna using vertical strokes with a very small brush. I also dabbed this color on the truck sideframes of both boxcars to represent the rust often found on these items during the transition era I model.

When I was happy with the results, I fixed the water colors in place with a coat of Testors Dullcote, sprayed from a can. This coat does not affect the appearance of the water color

wash, as it unfortunately always does when applied over pastel chalks. After the fixative was dry, the cars were safe to handle. The final step for me was to use a stiff brush to add some Bragdon Enterprises weathering chalks to the bottoms of the car sides. These chalks need no fixative.

Water color washes are simple and versatile additions to our weathering tool chest. The dark gray wash gives results similar to the familiar India ink and alcohol stain that I've used for years, but the water color has the advantages of being both removable and repositionable. I recommend you give it a try. Until next time you may reach me with comments and questions at pethoud@comcast.net 

Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern Just Another Op Session

by Jim Providenza

Since we've been talking (well, I've been writing and you're been reading, we hope) about restaging, bad order lists and such like, and the sort of messes one gets into during these activities, I had figured I would talk about an op session – looking at the process and activities that surround getting ready for and hosting a session. Well, maybe next time. Just don't get your hopes up...

Today's Tale is part a reflection on personalities, part a cautionary tale and part a bit of wondering at the workings of Murphy's Law.

So Steve 'Breezy'

Gust asked if I could host an op session for some of his group of railroad (and other) friends. "I know Jim," he said, "You are going to have to get ready for BayRails and I bet you would like to have an op session to make sure everything is okay. This could work for both of us." Now Breezy is, in my estimation, one of the true gentlemen in the hobby. I was certainly more than happy to host a group from the Sacramento area and Breezy was right. I did need to schedule a session.

The day arrived and Steve and his friends arrived. Half a dozen regular crew

members had also signed up for the session. After a briefing we matched crews to trains and got to work. Steve's son Jeff was running a passenger extra – actually a test train to see how an Espee Gallery Car Breezy owned would do going over the road on the SCN. These cars commonly ran on the Del Monte in its last years and Breezy and I wondered how it would look and run.

Not surprisingly it found a few clearance issues that will have to be worked on before it can return to the SCN. The railroad just isn't really designed to handle cars that long / tall / wide. So the passenger extra was delayed enroute on account of

Continued on Page 18

scenery, which set the whole session back about an hour. Not disastrous and I figured I was home free on that one until after the session.

Until Bill Kaufman came walking out of the garage about half an hour later carrying a roughly triangular piece of scenery about 18" long. "This scenery is Bad Ordered," Bill proclaimed as he set it down on the kitchen counter. Those of you who know Bill understand just how much fun he had doing this. If you don't know Bill, let me just say that he takes great delight in stirring the pot... "What are you doing" I asked? [Take a bit of advice from the lawyers in the room – never, Never ask someone a



question you don't already know the answer to.] Bill just grinned – "Ever since that passenger extra tried to get from Sergeants to Fallon this piece of

scenery (removeable access for switches at the Fall Creek Jct. wye) has been grabbing anything that moves. It is BAD ORDERED."

"You could have just called me over to look at it." "Why? What's the fun in that?" Ah yes, personalities.

And as Breezy and I agreed later, that was probably not the time to test the Gallery Car anyhow.

Now on to Murphy.

Ray deBlieck and Jim Firehock were the crew on the Cementpede. They had completed their work at the Santa Cruz Portland Cement plant down on the Damsite Branch, and gotten the orders for their eastbound return trip. Now the return trip is supposed to be

the easiest part of this job. On the westbound leg you have a helper cut in 2/3 of the way back in the train and the engineers have to work closely with each other to get up the 2.2% grade. At the cement plant there are about

40 – 50 cars to switch, and not enough room. But on the way back to Mac St. all the crew has to do is stop at Holy City to set up retainers, take it easy going downgrade, stop at E. Rica to knock down the retainers and let the wheels cool, and drop off the cement hoppers at SP Xing.

Piece of cake, right?

So our boys make it through Holy City, across Bridge 5A, and down to Ilium, where they promptly end up with the train string lined and half the cement hoppers on the ground. Ray and Jim are both yelling for me, and loudly proclaiming both innocence of any unsafe train handling and ignorance as to what could possibly

have caused the derailment.

Management arrives. Conducts an investigation. And finds that a coupler cut lever had broken loose from the coupler pocket it was glued to. This was on the twelfth car in the train; the cut lever was on the east or downhill, forward facing end of the car. The loose end of the cut lever dropped down, pivoting on the eye bolt which held it to the end sill,



and jammed against a switch tie at the west switch at Ilium. If the cut lever had been on the rear of the car in the direction of travel it would have been no problem as it would just had been dragged along for the ride. But of course, it was on the front of the car in relation to the direction the train was going. When the cut lever jammed against the tie it jerked the whole train to a stop. Except of course the locomotives kept trying to move forward, string lining all the cars between them and the now bad order cement hopper.

There is a reason I don't see a need for situation cards on the SCN! 🚂

Convention Schedule (Cont.)

All schedule items subject to change without notice.

Thursday, April 20

Activity / Time	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30		
Registration																																
Clinic Rooms																																
Rosedale																																
Nevada																																
Sierra																																
Kern River Room																																
Contest Room																																
Non-Rail Room																																
Layout Tours / Operating Sessions (TBA)																																

Use this schedule map and the map on page 8 to make your clinic attendance plans now

Convention Schedule (Cont.)

Use this schedule map and the map on page 8 to make your clinic attendance plans now

All schedule items subject to change without notice.

Friday, April 21

Activity / Time	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	
Registration																															
Clinic Rooms																															
Rosedale																															
Nevada																															
Sierra																															
Kern River Room																															
San Joaquin																															
Contest Room																															
Non-Rail Room																															
Outside Activities																															
Layout Tours / Operating Sessions																															

Sunday April 23

Activity / Time	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30
Kern River	Breakfast					
Kern River			Membership Meeting			
Layout Tours / Operating Sessions (TBA)						

All schedule items subject to change without notice.

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

Coast Division Report

by Frank Markovich, MMR, Coast Superintendent and Director

We met at the Elks Club in Alameda on March 5. It was a rainy day with hail of and on. Due to another event at the same time we had some parking issues. Note to members and visitors that parking is free in Alameda on Sunday's and for the most part people found parking within a couple of blocks.

Another great event (meet). Some of the highlights: Over 400 items in the Auction – of

special note was the number of full boxes of 20 or more kits per box.

Close to 80 in attendance
Good model contest

Well attended Round table –

Howard did a great

job.

Good business meeting
Election was held and the Coast has a new Director in Doug Smith. He will do a great job. He has been chief Clerk for the past few years and has really done a great job at that role. Also elected was Dan Rom as Chief Clerk and Bob Ferguson for Paymaster.

Next Coast Division Event June 4, 2017 at the Boy Scout Center in San Leandro.

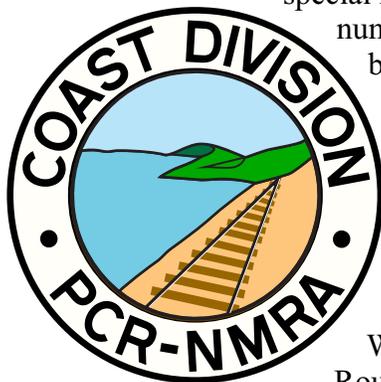
Had two great clinics: Mike Blumensaadt and I did our final clinic on Build a memory had about 25 present. Lots of good questions and discussions. Pete Birdsong did an educational clinic on scratch-building a On30 Davenport Engine. I was able to watch part of it but was pulled away for judging.

Highlights of the business meeting:

Upcoming events: PCR in Bakersfield, West Side Reunion April 29, 2017, Sierra Seminar April 30, 2017 both in Sonora (write me at frank@frankmarkovich.com for more information on these events).

Ray talked about the 2021 NMRA National convention in Santa Clara. Start getting your layouts ready. Earl talked about our last hands-on clinic and that plans are being made for future hands on clinics. We had 14 at the last clinic. If anyone would like to lead a hands on clinic please contact Doug Smith or myself.

Some Auction changes: **Buying “no-bid” items** - Items that are “no-bid” and then purchased off the “no-bid” table cause delays for the Auction Committee and can lead to mistakes. Beginning at the March Meet we will no



longer sell “no-bid” items for the starting bid. Once an item has passed through the bidding process that item is complete and it returns to the seller. If you want an item you need to be alert and bid on the item when it is offered.

For the June meet: Model Contest– Diesel and others, Caboose, Display, and Freight Cars.

The Division needs someone to handle the PA going forward. This is not a large job but requires showing up by 10:00 AM and leaving at the end of the Auction. Does earn

Achievement points.

Contact Doug Smith or Frank Markovich if interested.

This will be my last report as Superintendent. Going forward Doug

Smith will be

writing this column. Coast thank you!

It has been a real honor to be your Superintendent the past four years. I know that Doug will

do a great job and I look forward to working with him and the rest of the Coast board. I will be director and will be the chairman for the Coast on the Achievement program.

I would like to thank the board members as they are the people that make it all happen:

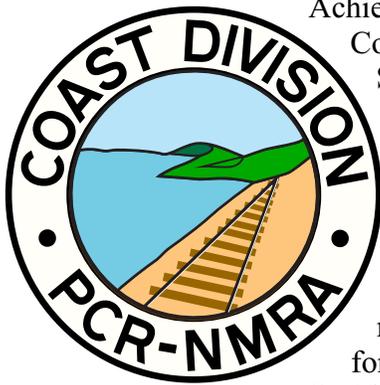
Doug Smith – Chief Clerk, Bob Ferguson – Paymaster, Bill Swindell - Auction Accounting, Pat LaTorres – Auction Cards, John Ameling – Auction, Richard Brennan – Clinics, Tom Crawford – Coast Dispatcher, Tom Vanden Bosh - Publisher, Jim Eckman - Contests, Dave Connery – Nominations, Steve Wesolowski – Publicity, Eric Moe – Switching Contest, Pete Birdsong – web master, Ronnie



Dave on Nominations

LaTorres – Registration, Howard McKinney – Roundtable, Mike Blumenstaadt - Build a Memory, and Mark Schuster for the food. There are also many who help at each meet too many to list but a sincere Thank you to one and all.

Continued on Page 25



Pete Scratch Building



Business Meeting



Auction

Contest Results:

Steam - No entries

Traction - No entries

MOW/Non-Revenue:

1st Place – Kenneth Martin’s C&S Bunk car, heavily modified from a freight car kit.

Structures:

1st Place – Tom Vanden Bosch’s Spring Lake Depot and Platform. The depot was a laser kit while the platform was scratchbuilt.

Other entries:

Bob Wirthlin’s working scratchbuilt windmill, he made his own mechanism, the fan blades are made from soda straws.

Marc Parsons’s Hog Heaven Saloon & Terry’s Harley Shop

Continued on Page 26



Pete Show & Tell



Clinic 1



Clinic 2

Saloon and Harley Shop



Tom Vanden Bosch’s Spring Lake Depot and Platform

Photo Contest – Track and Structures
1st Place – Earl Girbovan's *Rural Gas Station*.

Show and Tell
Tom Knapp brought structures and documents for an old time historical refinery that will be shown as a diorama at Bakersfield. 🚂



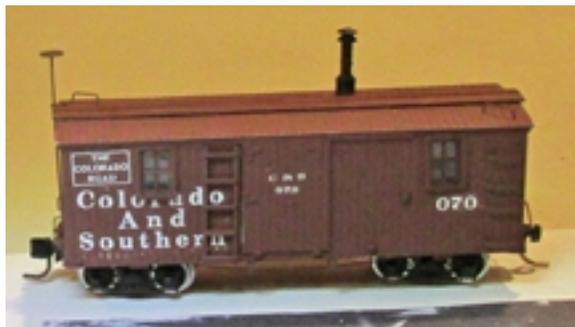
Gas Station

Tom Knapp's Show & Tell



WINDMILL
S-2

Bob Wirthlin's working scratchbuilt windmill



Kenneth Martin's C&S Bunk car

Branch Line Deadlines for 2017-2018

JUL-AUG-SEP 2017 Issue
Articles due by
June 10, 2017

OCT-NOV-DEC 2017 Issue
Articles due by
September 10, 2017

JAN-FEB-MAR 2018 Issue
Articles due by
December 10, 2017

APR-MAY-JUN 2018 Issue
Articles due by
March 10, 2018

If there are any questions contact the Branch Line Editor, Chuck Harmon at harmonsta@yahoo.com or phone (559) 299-4385.

RED Report

by Verne Alexander, Designated Keyboard Knocker

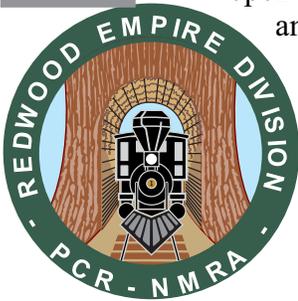
Matters are moving smoothly, if unspectacularly, up here. Positions have been filled and appropriate tasks have been completed in preparation for our joint convention with the Northwestern Pacific historical group in 2018. Those involved are anticipating a well-attended convention that will offer many quality opportunities for attendees.

Our quarterly meeting was held on February 18 at Monroe Hall, and was quite well attended. Afterward Ed Merrin's NWP layout and Ron Kaiser's WP layout were open for members to come and learn more about operation, hone their skills and in general enjoy operating trains in a prototypical fashion. The

planning committee had been quite excited about this part of the program. These are two large, high quality layouts, and experienced operators were on hand to offer whatever assistance might be desired. It was a terrific opportunity for the members, but we were very surprised that far fewer than we had anticipated took part. Those that did had a terrific time, and the on-hand members got a serendipitous opportunity to do some operation themselves.

The bulk of the program time at Monroe Hall was devoted to "Show and Tell." This has become a very popular portion of our meetings, and about half the people in attendance have been bringing models, photographs or artifacts to share with the group. It is one thing to see the items sitting

on a table. It is quite another to hear from the person who brought it to share. Sometimes we learn new techniques. Sometimes we are introduced to challenges we didn't know existed, and thus get a leg up on the matter if we ourselves ever attempt a similar project. We get exposed to some extremely clever solutions, perhaps to the values inherent in using different materials and to various means of doing historical research. At times we learn we are not alone in our frustrations when the presenter shares his own difficulties in doing something. We also get an understanding of what goes into some folks' selection of projects, and how some of these fit into their personal histories or to railroad history in general. No one gets bored during our Show and Tell sessions. 🚂



Modeling With The Masters' Clinics

Five clinics are scheduled. Clark Kooning, MMR will lead the clinics. Topics include Introduction to Plastic Structures and Painting with Pan Pastels, Introduction to Laser Kits (HO and O), Introduction to Scratch Building in Styrene and Wood (HO and N) and Introduction to Weathering with Mixable Oil Paints. Material fee required.

Sign up for these clinics by April 5. Send your registration request and payment to the convention registrar, even if you are already registered.

Full details on the PCR web site, <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2017/mwtm.html>.

Welcome Aboard ! - New Members

Member	City, State	Date Joined
Coast		
Ellen McGarmy	Lafayette CA	12/8/2016
Beth O'nyon	South San Francisco CA	12/22/2016
John Butterworth	Concord CA	1/10/2017
Greg Ockander	Pittsburg CA	2/10/2017
George Downs	San Lorenzo CA	2/13/2017
T Melis	San Mateo CA	2/17/2017
Sierra		
Roger Lammler	Lodi CA	1/27/2017
Conrad Blaschczyk	Stockton CA	2/7/2017
Redwood Empire		
John Mascitelli	Elmira CA	12/6/2016
Paul Donner	Santa Rosa CA	12/7/2016
Susan Donner	Santa Rosa CA	12/7/2016
Duane Whitten	Middletown CA	12/7/2016

Sierra Division Report

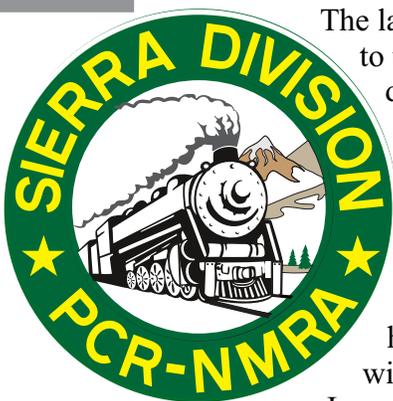
by Chip Meriam, Chief Clerk and Editor, Sierra Division

February 4th found the Sierra Division gathered at Building 1 of the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, home to the Tidewater Southern Railway Historical Society, who hosted us for a layout tour in the morning. The “Society” operates a large HO scale layout depicting the Stockton-Modesto area and the surrounding foothills.

We were entertained primarily by Del Hoffman, Ben Cantu, and David Atwater, who showed us around the layout and filled us in on the history of the group. According to Atwater, there are currently 18 active members – up from about 4 just a year ago.

Following our Tidewater Southern visit, we made the short drive to Modesto where we occupied the basement of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church for a few hours after lunch. There were 25 in attendance including three guests. During our meeting we were treated to a

Continued on Page 29



The layout is open to the public during various events at the fairgrounds throughout the year. The next major open house event will be the San Joaquin County Asparagus Festival April 21 through 23.



Downtown Modesto



Tidewater Southern Overview



Layout Entrance



Track Plan



Hobos in Orange Grove



Steel Bridge on the Tidewater Southern



Gary Ray, Chip Meriam, Tom Van Horn, Joan Giacomelli

workshop on Prototypical Waybills by Chuck Harmon and a workshop on painting scale figures by Mike O'Dorney.



David Atwater



The subject of the modeling contest was "Steam, Traction, and Self-Propelled Cars." There was one entry and, thus, one winner - a super detailed

Nickel Plate Berkshire by Walt Schedler.

Continued on Page 30



Walt Schedler Entertains David Atwater



Walt Schedler's Berkshire



Jim Collins starts the meeting

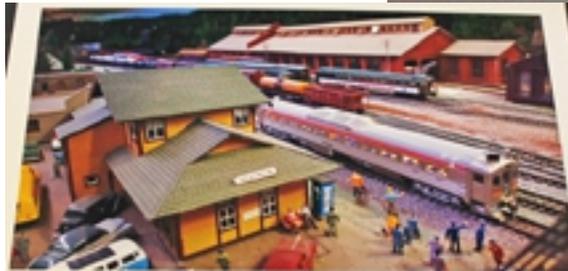
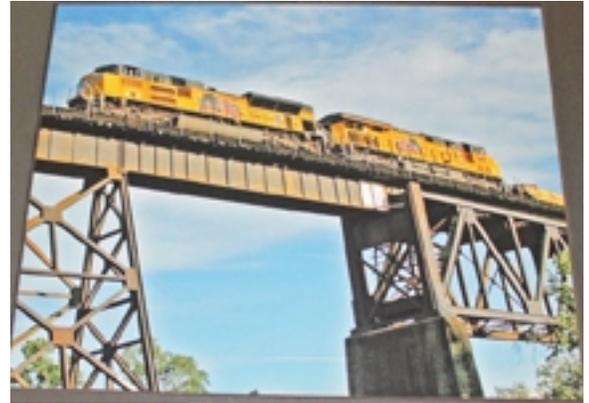
The subject of the Photo Contest was “Trains in Action.” Of the seven entries, first place went to Tom Van Horn for his Union Pacific freight atop Lake Redding trestle in Redding, CA. Second place went to Walt Schedler’s Southern Pacific RDC (SP #10?) making a station stop. Third place also went to Walt Schedler for his Black Widow covered wagon #6304.

The next Sierra Division meet is scheduled for May 13 in Sacramento with a morning Op. Session at the Sacramento Model Rail Road Historical Society and an afternoon meeting elsewhere. Times and locations will be published in the upcoming issue of *The Short Line*. The contests will be: Modeling, “Any Structure

You Have Built During The Last Six Months” and Photos: “Tracks and Structures”. For more information about the upcoming meet, or any other questions about the Sierra Division, please contact Chip Meriam: chipmeriam@comcast.net 🚂



Tom Van Horn's Lake Redding Trestle



Walt Schedler's Station Stop



Walt Schedler's Covered Wagon

In Memoriam

Member	City, State	Date Joined
Eric Rudolph	Fresno CA	1/1/1984
Norman Bray	San Francisco CA	1/1/1962
Thomas Lutrel	Concord CA	9/5/2006
Richard Wiemholt	Yountville CA	11/29/1993

Daylight Division Report

by Chuck Harmon

Daylight division held its winter meet on March 11, 2017 at the newly restored SP depot in Kingsburg, California.

Three clinics were presented. The first was "Modeling Orange Groves" by Neil Fernbaugh. Neil showed us that an orange grove consists of more than bushy trees with little orange balls, but that additional

details like smudge pots, stand pipes and wind machines are part of

a grove. He also reviewed some of the differences in the way trees are spaced and shaped, depending on the era.

Our second clinic was about operation with prototypical way bills by Chuck Harmon. Chuck explained a system using cards in plastic sleeves that was developed by Tony Thompson and first printed in the December 2009 issue of Railroad Model Craftsman. Chuck's Power Point presentation included photos of the way bills in sleeves at use on his layout and some examples of the different types of way bills or car cards.

Brewster Bird did a review of the different types of paint solvents and their safety requirements. He talked about the benefits of using Acrylics and how to thin and apply them.

Division Superintendent Dave Grenier presented the Daylight Member of the Year award to Robert Pethoud.

Following the meet some of our out-of-town guests headed for Reedley, where the Hillcrest and Watoke live steam, 5" scale railroad was operating.

The spring Daylight Division meet will consist of a business meeting during the Daylight Express 2017 PCR Convention in Bakersfield. Time and room to be announced. 🚂



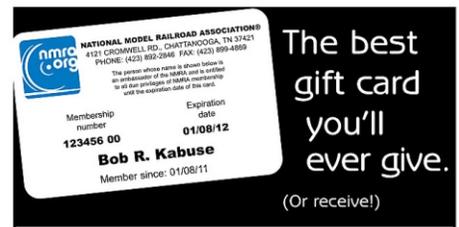
The newly restored Kingsburg Depot



The Kingsburg Depot features an outstanding side attraction



Robert Pethoud receives his Member of the Year Award from Superintendent Dave Grenier



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.

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Successful Hands on Structure Clinic #2

by Earl Girbovan

The second in a series of hands on clinics happened on February 4th. It was presented by Earl Girbovan, with Frank Markovich and Mike Blumensaat assisting. The original cap on the clinic was 10 attendees, but due to demand, we actually allowed 14 to sign up. Through Frank's teaching at Skyline College, we were able to use one of the classrooms there, which provided a wonderful venue allowing the clinic to be a mixture of lecture, video demonstrations, live demonstrations and hands-on time.

This three hour clinic presented a different set of techniques than was presented in the first clinic. The goals were to demystify board-on-board construction with a Banta Model Works kit used as the basis. Without

going through the entire clinic, here are some highlights of what the attendees were able to see demonstrated and learn for themselves: **Kit construction options**

Modifications to the kit to fit a different use or era
Overview of board on board construction

Demonstration

Adding texture

Using chalk to color boards, both video and live demonstration

Hands-on time to texture and color boards

Painting techniques

Sponge

Damp brush

Video demonstration

Live demonstration

Cracked paint using white glue

Hands-on time to paint boards

Gluing on boards
Corners are the key
Extending the front and rear wall edge boards
Glue edges, then middle

Select the board to butt end to end
Making the best use of factory ends

Hands-on time to assemble walls

Additional topics

Other board on board options

Roofing options

Dioramas

At the end, all of the attendees were asking when the next clinic would happen and what it would cover. That is yet to be decided, but stay tuned as other clinics will be forthcoming. As a side note, one of the attendees from the first structure clinic added extra details to that kit, had it judged at the March PCR meet, and received a merit award! 🚂

Stay tuned as other clinics will be forthcoming

A Very Short Message from The PCR Membership Manager

by Doug Wagner, PCR Membership Chairman

OK, so now you've joined, or are a long-time member, of the National Model Railroad Association. What do I get for your dues?

1. You get to attend division meets where you can learn how to model in the hobby of model railroading and visit



exceptional model railroad layouts.

2. You get to attend Regional and National conventions where there are numerous clinics on the hobby of model railroading and visit more exceptional model railroad layouts
3. You get to meet and mingle with the best-of-the best in the hobby of model railroading
4. You are involved in the world's greatest hobby!

Haven't been to a division meet yet or lately? Have you ever attended a PCR convention? If the answer is NO—what are you waiting for? Divisions hold 4 meets per year, so at least get out and attend one and learn stuff! There is still time to register for the Daylight Express Convention if you have never been to a regional convention, where there is a plethora of clinics to cover all aspects of the hobby of model railroading!

Get out there and start enjoying the hobby and get your monies' worth!



PCR/NMRA
Daylight Express 2017
PCR Convention
April 19-23, 2017

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
 3100 Camino Del Rio Court
 Bakersfield, CA 93308

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Daylight Express 2017
 c/o Michael Larson
 9406 Metropolitan Way
 Bakersfield, CA 93311
 E-mail: dx2017registrar@pcrnmra.org
 Website: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2017

Visit the website to pay by PayPal

Registration Form

Please Print

Hosted by: Daylight Division, PCR / NMRA

Last Name		First Name		First Name (for Name Badge)	
Address			City		State Zip Code + 4 -
Home Phone		E-mail Address			NMRA # (Not Required)
Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Non Rail <input type="checkbox"/> Youth				NMRA Region (if other than PCR)	
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"/> Other: _____					
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form for more than 1)					
Last Name		First Name		First Name (for Name Badge)	
Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Modeler <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail <input type="checkbox"/> Youth		E-Mail (if Different)			NMRA # (Not Required)
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"/> Other: _____					

PLEASE NOTE: Fares on this form are valid as of January 1, 2017.

FARES: <i>Please fill in Qty and Total</i>	Qty	Unit Cost	Total
Full Registration Package (Includes registration, awards banquet, PCR breakfast)		115.00	
Charge for Non-NMRA Member		15.00	
First Timer - PCR Members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions		95.00	
Non-Rail Registration		95.00	
Youth Registration (12-18 years or student)		65.00	
Tehachapi Loop Tour		65.00	
Convention Car – Single		22.00	
Convention Car – Pair		40.00	
Convention Car – Set of 4		75.00	
MODELING WITH THE MASTERS Clinics – Sign-up by: April 5, 2017			
Introduction to Plastic Structures and Painting with Pan Pastels – HO Scale (Thur)		49.00	
Introduction to Laser Kits – HO Scale (Friday)		49.00	
Introduction to Laser Kits – O Scale (Friday)		60.00	
Introduction to Scratchbuilding in Styrene and Wood – HO Scale (Saturday)		35.00	
Introduction to Scratchbuilding in Styrene and Wood – N Scale (Saturday)		30.00	
Introduction to Weathering with Mixable Oil Paints – N, HO, S, O Scales (Saturday)		35.00	
Swap Meet Table		12.00	
Dealer / Manufacturer Table (Requires invitation letter from convention co-chair)		24.00	
Join the NMRA!	Please go to www.nmra.org to apply or renew your membership, or ask a convention committee member for a printed application.		
Payment by <input type="checkbox"/> Check** <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (Use website for PayPal) No Refunds After 4-17-17	TOTAL		
**Make Checks Payable to: "Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association"			



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24 ~Thousand Lakes Subscription	\$10.00		36 ~ Sunshine Subscription	\$10.00	
25 ~ Pacific Northwest Subscription	\$ 6.00		37 ~ Pacific South West Subscription	\$12.00	
26 ~ Pacific Coast Subscription	\$ 8.00		* ~ Out of regions subscriptions may be charged additional fees by Region		
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 Signature _____

Calendar

2017 Events

April 8 & 9, 2017 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Train Show, [Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club](#), West Park Gymnasium at the Tehachapi Recreation and Park District, 410 West "D" Street (off Mill Street), Tehachapi, CA

April 19 to 23, 2017 - Daylight Express 2017 PCR Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton, 3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308. Come join us for 5 days of clinics, contests, layout tours, operating sessions, prototype tours, and more! See the [Daylight Express 2017](#) website for all the information you need.

April 22 & 23, 2017 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Spring Train Show, Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. Fares: Adults: \$3.00; Seniors (60+): \$2.00; Children (6-12): \$2.00
Info:

April 29, 2017 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, West Side Reunion presents the 30th Annual Logging & Mining Modeler's Convention at the Sonora Elks Lodge, 100 Elk Drive, Sonora, CA. Join us for the all-day event, including clinics, contests, and dealer sales area. See the website for details on vendor tables. Admission: \$25.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door. Seller's table: \$35.00 (includes one admission) See the website for new information! Contact: Frank Markovich, E-mail: , Phone: (408) 505-2727.

April 30, 2017 - 9:00 am, Sierra Seminar, Jamestown Hope Center (2 blocks from Railtown 1897), 10365 9th Street, Jamestown, CA. Morning presentations on the history and modeling of the Sierra Railroad. Free tables for related displays and for sale items . Narrated afternoon hike along part of the railroad ROW. Pizza lunch included for \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Contact for more information and a registration form.

May 25 – 27, 2017 - 27th Annual O Scale West, 12th Annual S West, Hyatt Regency

Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA. Admission: Family - \$35 before April 1, \$40 after and at the door, Saturday only walk-up - \$25. Contact: Rod Miller, 876 Boyce Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301, phone 650-218-5752.

May 27, 2017 - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Redwood Empire Division Spring Meet, Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave, Santa Rosa, CA. There will be elections of Superintendent and Chief Clerk. The program will also include a visit to the [Sonoma-Marín Area Rapid Transit](#) (SMART) shops from 2:00 to 3:00 PM.

June 4, 2017 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, 1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA. (at SF Bay Area Council Office of Boy Scouts of America) Driving: Exit Davis Street from 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. Enjoy free clinics, model, photo & switching contests & displays. Free door prizes. Buy raffle tickets for modeling prizes, enjoy silent and live auctions of model railroading stuff.

June 10-11, 2017 - The Tri-City Society of Model Engineers and the Niles Depot Historical Foundation invite you to our 6th Annual Open House. Free family fun! Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. N and HO scale layouts in operation along with the open Niles Train Depot Museum. Located at 37592 Niles Blvd. in Fremont, CZ in the Niles Town Plaza.<http://www.nilesdepot.org>
Q:bobcz007@comcast.net.

June 17, 2017 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, San Francisco Bay Area Prototype Modelers 2017 Meet, St. David's School Hall, 871 Sonoma St., Richmond, CA. View lots of superb railroad models! Bring your models, finished or, better yet, still in progress! All scales, eras, and roads are welcome. Bring your Friends! General Admission: \$10.00

Continued on Page 36

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

For a list of weekly and monthly activities see pages 36 and 37.

These activities occur each week on the days indicated. See the Club Info section starting on page 37 for location and contact information.

July 22-23 - European Train Enthusiasts (ete.org) EuroWest XXI (eurowest@ete.org) at Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos Airport. Layouts, clinics, vendors, raffle. Admission (hiller.org) includes Aviation Museum and free parking; 601 Skyway Rd. San Carlos, CA 94070 Sat. 10-5; Sun 10-4

July 30 - August 6, 2017 - Orange Blossom Special, NMRA 2017 National Convention and National Train Show, The Rosen Plaza Hotel, International Drive, Orlando, FL.

August 30 – September 2, 2017 - 37th Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention, Denver, Colorado.

September 13 to 16, 2017 - Pacific Southwest Region 2017 Convention, Ontario, CA.

September 24, 2017 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501, **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. Come meet other local model railroaders during our free quarterly meet and enjoy free clinics, model, photo & switching contests/displays, videos, etc! Bring YOUR questions to modeler's roundtable for answers. You may win a door prize! Enjoy our lively auction of model railroading items & more!

October 13 – 15, 2017 - [Central Coast Railroad Festival](#), San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties, CA., Hosted by [San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum](#), 1940 Santa Barbara Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA.

December 3, 2017 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, 1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA. (at SF Bay Area Council Office of Boy Scouts of America) Driving: Exit Davis Street from 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. Enjoy free clinics, model, photo & switching contests & displays. Free door prizes. Buy raffle tickets for modeling prizes, enjoy silent and live auctions of model railroading stuff.

2018 and Beyond Events

January 26 – 28, 2018 – TBA – Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sponsored by Pacific Coast Region-NMRA, Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Groups.

April 4 to 8, 2018 - PCR 2018 Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton, Rohnert Park, CA. Save the date! Come join us for 5 days of clinics, contests, layout tours, operating sessions, prototype tours, and more! For more information, contact Dick Foster, Publicity Chair 2018 PCR Convention, dickfoster97@gmail.com.

August 5 - 12, 2018 - NMRA Convention, Kansas City, MO.

July 7 - 14, 2019 - NMRA Convention, Salt Lake City, UT.

For a list of weekly and monthly activities see the calendar on the PCR website.

Monthly Activities

First and Third Thursday - 7:00 PM / Siskiyou Model RR Club.

First Friday 7:30 PM / San Leandro Historical Railway Society (HO, O, G), Monthly meeting.

Second Tuesday 7:30 PM / Empire Builders Model Railroad Club (HO).

Second Wednesday 8:00 PM / West Bay Model Railroad Association.

Second Wednesday 7:30 PM / Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (HO&N)

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 Enthusiasts (ETE) Sacramento Chapter (Z, HO, 1)

Second Saturday 3:00 - 6:00 PM / California Central Club (HO & HO3)

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

Third Tuesday 7:00 PM / Visalia Electric Model Railroad & Historical Society / Meets at Ryan's Place Restaurant, 3103 South Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA / Cecil Eppler, e-mail: cecil_eppler@sbcglobal.net

First and Third Thursday - 7:00 PM / Siskiyou Model RR Club / Third Friday 7:00 - 11:00 PM

Third Friday 7:00 to 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 / Sacramento Modular Railroaders Operating Session (HO)

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

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 E-mail: glgslewis@comcast.net Web: www.pleasantonmodelrr.org/index.html

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 Scalpers

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.bayareasscalpers.org.

Bay Area Z Module Cooperative

BAZ is a group in the SF Bay Area interested in developing and displaying Z scale modules. Members are building them to the "ZBend Track" Module miniModuleZ specs Anyone in Northern California interested in Z Scale railroading is welcome to join us. We meet Sundays 10 AM to 5 PM at members' houses. Contact: Robert Ray pray59@sbcglobal.net Yahoo group: groups.yahoo.com/group/BAZ_modules.

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://cvl.hobby-site.com>.

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April-May-June 2017

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you.

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.

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 Bill Keaney (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.

Lake County Model Railroad Club

HO layout. Meets Wednesday at 7:00PM in the old National Guard Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds on Martin Street, Lakeport. Call Mike Ernst at (707) 263-4949

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: NapaJohn@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

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Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you.

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 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: Pat LaTorres, 510-276-3121 email: duhnerd@pacbell.net

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA)

The SLOMRA is a multi-scale modular group with active N, HO, and On30 layouts. The goal of our non-profit 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 or phone Dennis Pearson at (805) 929-3062.

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

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. 7:00 to 10:00 PM or Sat. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Contact: 408-243-3969. Web: www.sbhrrs.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 Peter Barnes (707) 539-6746 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>

Siskiyou Model Railroad Club

Currently we are meeting at a member's home on the first Thursday evening of the month. Contact Tom Brass as 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.

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BRANCH LINE
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Club Info (Cont.)

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, 209-825-7215 Mail: PO Box 882, Manteca, CA95336 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>

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 at the former baggage building at 1090 Merril St., near the Menlo Park train station and Ravenswood Ave. We are currently constructing a new 2-level HO layout designed for operations. Scheduled work sessions are Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Our monthly business meeting is held at 8 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. We are seeking new members with an interest in layout design and construction, model train operations, and/or who just love trains. Contact: Lauren Mercer at 650-322-9335, Tom Vanden Bosch at 650-369-8305 or visit the club website at wbmrra.ning.com.