



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



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The 2020 PCR Convention is being hosted by the Coast Division and their plans are well underway. In fact the ink wasn't even dry on the last promotional message for the 2019 convention when the 2020 convention initial announcement was first released. Heck, the Coast Division guys even had a table set up at the 2019 convention and they were taking early bird registrations already!

With this much advance planning, this next convention is likely going to be a big success - one you surely won't want to miss. So mark your calendar now for April 30 thru May 3, 2020 and the "Clear to the Coast" 2020 PCR Convention in Concord, CA.

Further details begin on page 7.

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The Branch Line
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Contents

Reports

From the President.....4
 From the Vice President.....5
 From the Membership Manager.....5
 From the Editor.....6
 Contest Report.....9
 Achievement Report.....20
 SIG Report.....22
 Daylight Report.....28
 Coast Report.....28
 RED Report.....29
 Sierra Report.....30

Feature Stories

2020 Convention..... 7
 2019 Convention Contest Winners.....10
 Special Awards.....17
 Candid Shots From Diamond Rails Forever.....18
 The Answers Are Out There.....23
 Tales Of The Santa Cruz Northern.....24
 Looking Back.....26

Regular Goodies

Call Board.....2
 Statement of Publication.....3
 Membership Tracker.....3
 2020 PCR Convention Registration Form.....8
 NMRA Membership Renewal Form..... 21
 In Memoriam.....27
 Welcome New Members.....30
 Time Table.....31
 Club Information.....34
 Web Announcement.....38
 Membership Gauge.....39

PCR Membership Tracker

<u>Division</u>	<u># Members</u>
Coast	414
Sierra	273
Redwood Empire	140
Daylight	<u>112</u>
Total PCR Members	939

From the President

By Chris Palermo, President, PCR/NMRA

Welcome to another great issue of Branch Line as we enter the summer model railroading season. I extend a hearty thank you to Ed Merrin and Carol Alexander, our past President and Vice President, for their years of service to our members, as well as gratitude to all of you for the confidence expressed by your votes for me to serve.

We have just completed a great 2019 regional convention at McClellan and I offer many thanks to Sierra Division for trying a different kind of convention facility and for running a strong program of clinics, layout tours and other activities. As you'll read elsewhere in this issue, preparations for our 2020 convention at Concord are well underway and Coast Division has assembled a great team of volunteers. More help is needed in several key areas, though! Please contact Dave Connery and offer a hand. Our conventions succeed only because of you.

At McClellan, our Treasurer Bob Osborn presented a detailed financial report. While PCR is projected to operate at a net loss in the current fiscal year, Bob has invested our cash reserves in interest-bearing CDs and, without unforeseen significant losses on events, these interest earnings should make PCR cashflow positive in two years. Nevertheless, I expect we will be asking all of you to make a small donation in the coming years to help fund PCR activities, as it is increasingly difficult to operate PCR in the black when many of our conventions and other activities are held in California, a high-cost state. Hotel food & beverage charges, audiovisual equipment charges and event space fees mean that almost all our conventions will lose money if we are to hold down registration fees and host conventions in comfortable, convenient locations.

The simplest way to donate is to pay PCR's \$8 subscription fee when you renew your national NMRA membership. Although we will discontinue mailing copies of Branch Line in October—you'll get them by e-mail instead—over time PCR has substituted software and online services for our printing and publication costs, and these services are not free. We use Constant Contact for e-mail service, FormSite for online convention registrations, PayPal for payments and other software and services. All carry fees. To offset these costs, we need your annual donation of \$8 to fund all our media services. It's a small price to pay for the level of connection to the modeling world that we provide. And if you have not provided an e-mail address to NMRA yet (about 25% of you have not), please do so at your next renewal. While some changes in the world are hard to face, the reality for NMRA and across the hobby is that electronic communications are how business is now done.

Frank Markovich and I are committed to meeting and chatting with more of you in the coming year. On June 2 we attended Coast Division's quarterly event and spoke at length with a few dozen members. On June 15 I attended the Bay Area Prototype Modelers event in Richmond to check out some of the best modeling going on in the region—PCR is a co-sponsor of this great event. On June 29 we visit the eastern region of Daylight Division with a pizza lunch at Chuck Harmon's house. There may

still be space when you read this article—contact Chuck, Neil Fernbaugh or me at once. On July 27 I'll be in the western region of Daylight for its quarterly event in Goleta. And later in the autumn and into winter we expect to visit Redwood Empire Division and Sierra Division respectively; those details are pending.



When these visits are announced, please consider joining us to discuss any issue about PCR, NMRA's national operations, or any aspect of the model railroading hobby. We're here to listen, provide information and consider new events, services or organizational changes to benefit you,

In support of those efforts, I continue to maintain close contact with your NMRA national leadership. I am managing NMRA's trademark and patent legal activities, in connection with General Counsel Bob Amsler; I have become active on the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) to the national Board and will be assisting in nominating a national Director; I've been in touch this month with national President Pete Magoun and VP Frank Koch on various issues. I'll be attending the national Board of Directors meeting at the 2019 Salt Lake City convention, as usual. PCR is unusual in having this level of regular contact with the national leadership, so please take advantage of it—if I can assist with advising on or resolving any national-level issue, contact me.

Most of the activities above have a strong social component and that's why many of us are in NMRA. But let's keep building models, visiting and operating layouts as well. As a reminder, Coast Division has formed a "Golden Spike Lion Team" that is ready and able to visit your layout, verify you've met the (very simple) requirements for the Golden Spike Award in NMRA's Achievement Program, and get the award to you. Every month the NMRA Magazine prints lists of recent AP certificate awardees, and PCR is under-represented. I encourage each of you to take a fresh look at the AP—you may have already completed most requirements just by building models or your layout.

Best wishes for a productive summer of modeling, and if I can assist you with any aspect of NMRA, please contact me. The best way is e-mail: cjpalermo1964@gmail.com.





From the Vice President

By Frank Markovich, Vice President, PCR/NMRA

The Year Ahead

First off, I would like to thank you for putting your faith in me. I will strive to serve the PCR. If you need or want to contact me it is best by email: frank@frankmarkovich.com.

We had an excellent convention in Sacramento. These were my highlights: Great clinics, excellent banquet, excellent board meeting, good fellowship, and the weather was close to perfect. My wife, Susie, really had fun at the Bingo event and even won the big prize – it paid for our lunch a few days later.

At the board meeting I was tasked with a number of items including leading a team that will be working on some updates for the contests. *(Pat LaTorres, Earl bovan, Giuseppe Aymar and myself. Any input from members would be welcome.)*

Gir-
Some background: Participation in the contests has dwindled over the past few years with the turnout in Sacramento being the lowest ever *(well at least lowest in my memory)*. This is also a problem at the national level. At the NMRA National in Florida there were not many entrees. By comparison, the National Narrow Gauge Conventions usually have over 200 entrees.

I will also start, and maintain, a backup list of key PCR roles. This is for the purpose of covering positions should one of the key individuals be out of commission for any reason.

The PCR convention next year in Concord is moving along. It promises to be an excellent convention. The committee has some excellent clinics and outside events planned. We are in need of a non-rail chairman. If interested, please contact the convention committee or myself.

Chris and I will be visiting each region at least once, but hopefully a couple of times a year to meet with members. Our first visit will be in the Daylight Division on June 29th in Fresno. Let either Chris or me know if you would like to attend.

The PCR board will be meeting again on October 26th at 1:00 PM at the Crown Plaza Hotel, the convention hotel. This is a tentative date and location. The room has yet to be determined. All members are welcome to attend.

There are some exciting conventions coming to the PCR in the next couple of years. First of all, the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Sacramento is in September this year. In 2 years the the NMRA national convention will be in Santa Clara. This year's NMRA convention is in Salt Lake City, which is just a day's (albeit long day) drive. I am planning on attending. If you go, be sure to say, "Hi."

One final note: A number of the PCR officers, and even NMRA officers, have had their email hacked. We would never send you anything asking for money. Please check the email address of any message that is suspicious.



Notes from The Membership Manager

By Doug Wagner

First off, I hope for those of you that were able to make it to the Diamond Rails Forever 2019 Joint PCR/FRRS Convention in Sacramento, California, were able to have a great time and see plenty of layouts. I was not able to make it for a couple of reasons. One, I got stuck on jury duty and my reliable "Ol Red" 2003 Ford Expedition decided to FINALLY give up the ghost. So, I was also out shopping for a new vehicle during that time. Never thought I would ever get attached to something mechanical, but that last drive to trade in Ol' Red felt like I was taking one of my dogs down to the vet to be put down. Anyway, I have a new vehicle so I'm looking forward to using it for its first Daylight Division get together, in Santa Barbara, on Jul 27th.

I just want to get you folks caught up on a couple of certain items that will affect everyone. Like it or not, the electronic digital age is fully upon us—from music, movies, and even publications. Everything has gone digital. The Pacific Coast Region is trying to stay up with the times. Publications is the category I'm going to bring you up to date on. As most of you should know by now, all PCR Division's has been fully digital for the last handful of years. That means no more hardcopies are mailed out—only digital issues. This means you must have internet capabilities to view these digital newsletters online. This has cut the costs of publishing these newsletters by a lot of money and has saved each Division a ton of money by not having to print the issue or mail out the hard copies to members.

Now comes the second part of the digital publication category. The Pacific Coast Region's quarterly newsletter, the **Branch Line**, will be fully digital for the first quarter of 2020.

Continued on page 6



This means that the fourth quarter issues, which is for the months of October-November-December, will be the last hardcopy issue of the **Branch Line**. Again, this means that you need to have internet access to view the **Branch Line**. This is being done for the same reason every other PCR Division has done it—for financial reasons.

So, to be able to send out email notification—sorry we have to do that—we need to have everyone’s email. Do we have everyone’s email? The answer to that is simple—NO. To help rectify that, each Division’s Membership Manager has been attempting to corral everyone’s emails. And don’t worry, we do not give out any emails to anyone. They are solely used for NMRA business such as getting the most up-to-date information to you and letting you know that the latest issue of your Division’s newsletter or **Branchline** is available. But if you are reading this, there’s a good chance we already have your email address on file. But if not, you can contact your respective Division’s Membership manager so that we can get your current email address. Then we’ll go through all the steps to make sure the NMRA, PCR and each Division’s staff has it, also. Again, we use these emails ONLY to contact you concerning NMRA business and nothing else. They are not used outside the NMRA sphere of influence. If you ever have any concerns with your NMRA membership, please contact your Division’s Membership Manager

Well, now that I have bored you to death with all this, I’ll go back to working on my home layout. Summertime is actually the season I get a lot done on my layout as it is just too darn hot to do anything else, here in Bakersfield. Something cool to drink, listening to the Beach Boys or Jimmy Buffett and working on your layout. Doesn’t get any better than that!
So, until next time, may all your signals be green and your stack clean!



The Model Railroad Fellowship

I am putting together this column two weeks after the final day of the Diamond Rails Forever, PCR 2019 Convention at The McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento. I never cease to be impressed by the group of like-minded, friendly, and helpful people that make up the membership of the Pacific Coast Region. This past convention was no exception.

We were fortunate enough to have been joined by another similar group with a specific focus on the history of the Western Pacific Railroad. Together, the PCR-NMRA and the Feather River Rail Society joined in a synergistic manner resulting in one great convention with an abundance of fellowship. In my opinion, this sharing of ideas, interests, and methods is, by far, the greatest reward of this fascinating hobby.

Notes on This Issue

There are some noteworthy changes evident in this issue. Perhaps most noteworthy is a new face in the “From The President” column. As most of you know, Ed Merrin has finished his term as PCR President and his successor, Chris Palermo (Coast Division) takes the reins. I look forward to working with Chris in his new job as president and his continuing contribution of “Innovators In Model Railroading”.

The “Call Board” (page 2) has a few changes as well: As noted, our president is Chris Palermo, our Vice President is now Frank Markovich, also from the Coast Division, and our new Secretary is me, Chip Meriam. I will be doing “double duty” as I will continue to be the editor of the **Branch Line**, a job I thoroughly enjoy. The Daylight Division has some notable changes too: Chuck Harmon, the previous editor of this publication, is back in the business as editor of the **Observation**. This was necessitated by Brewster Bird’s recent move to New Mexico.

Another notable change is the flip-over of coverage from the 2019 Diamond Rails Forever convention to the 2010 Clear To The Coast convention. The last report on Diamond Rails can be

found on page 17, and the 2019 contest winners can be found on page 9. Coverage of the upcoming 2020 convention in Concord, CA actually began with the last issue but becomes a major focus beginning with this issue. As noted elsewhere, the Clear To The Coast committee has an excellent start on things and we should all be looking forward to a great convention next year.



Chris Palermo has notified me that his column, “Innovators In Model Railroading” is going to be too much for his schedule now that he has been installed as the PCR President. I certainly understand his decision and I’m sure you will too. Our thanks to Chris for the columns in recent past issues.

Finally, I believe I have succeeded in updating all of the photographs of the contributing authors with the exception of Dave Connery whose current photo fits his column, “Looking Back”. It’s a photo of Dave in a conductor’s uniform looking back toward the rear of a passenger car. The latest update, however, is a new photo of Giuseppe Aymar, the PCR Contest Manager. The old photo has been adorning these pages for quite some time and it is no longer an adequate likeness. Nonetheless, I will miss the older photo because it depicts a younger Giuseppe in a ski sweater, which I just assumed had been taken in, say, Vail, Colorado or Squaw Valley, CA. “Nope.” says Giuseppe, “I was on an Alaskan cruise.”

Happy Reading!





As the semaphore shows and the convention name says, we are CLEAR TO THE COAST for PCR's 2020 convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord from April 30 through May 2, 2020. The Crowne Plaza was the site of the *Devil Mountain* convention in 2005 and the 1987 convention *Milepost 87*.

The hotel room rate is \$134 plus applicable taxes. Once the room block opens in September 2019, rooms can be booked from as early as April 26, 2020 for occupancy as late as May 5, all at the convention rate. As always, the success of PCR's convention depends in part on the number of room nights booked, so attendees are strongly encouraged to stay in the convention hotel. It's also more convenient; hotel parking is gate controlled but overnight guests have easy, in-and-out access with their room key. Convention registrants not staying in the hotel will receive parking validation stickers, but separate processing will be needed each time you leave the parking lot. Avoid this inconvenience by booking overnight at the hotel.



Registration is now open on the convention website www.pcrnmra.org/conv2020 or with the registration form in this issue of the Branchline. Early Bird registration is \$130, and First Timer is \$110. Non-rail and Youth registrations are \$40 but do not include the awards banquet. Day fares are available at \$40 per day and also do not include the banquet if purchased for Saturday. The Early Bird rate is good through November 30, 2019, which is a month earlier than last year.

At that time the regular registration increases. Don't risk missing the Early Bird rate. Register now.



The 2020 convention will include all of the regular PCR convention features - contests, clinics, layout tours, ops sessions, a non-rail program and a prototype trip. New features are also planned. For those who attended the joint convention with PNR in Medford in 2012, you may recall the mini-clinic session on Friday evening with numerous short clinics running simultaneously in one large room. Mini-clinics will be offered in PCR for 2020, in addition to the over 40 regular clinic sessions scheduled. An opening night reception is planned. The Square Foot Challenge, a popular-vote modeling contest, is certain to attract lots of creative entries. To enter, create any form of modeling, display or diorama in a space 12" x 12" and that is railroad related and includes a section of track. The Challenge was well received in the Coast Division and we expect the same enthusiastic participation from the rest of the region. So get started early on your entry.

The 2020 convention is co-sponsored by the Western Railway Museum in Rio Vista. PCR will enjoy an exclusive tour on Friday when the Museum is closed to the public, including a BBQ lunch, shop tour and ride on one or more of WRM's preserved historic electric trolleys or other rail cars. Bus transportation is planned for what promises to be a great day.



The 2020 convention will feature up to 40 clinics—so lots of clinicians are needed! Richard Brennan, Clinics chair, needs your help in filling clinic slots. Have you ever thought of giving a clinic but are uncomfortable in standing in front of an entire clinic room for an hour? Try the mini-clinics to get your feet wet with a small group for half the normal duration. Or do you have a great idea that doesn't have an hour's worth of content, here's the opportunity for that too. Of course Richard would also like to hear from you for a full clinic slot. Contact him at ctclinics@pcrnmra.org.

Continued on page 9



**CLEAR to the Coast 2020
PCR NMRA Convention**
Co-sponsor Western Railway Museum
Crowne Plaza Concord / Walnut Creek
45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, CA
April 30 – May 3, 2020
Registration Form

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Clear to the Coast 2020
c/o Jesse Walden
18 Hillcrest Court
Berkeley, CA 94705-2805

E-mail: ctc2020registrar@pcrnmra.org
Website: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2020

Visit the website to pay with PayPal or credit card

Please Print

Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Address			City		State Zip Code + 4	
Home Phone		E-mail Address			NMRA or WRM #	
Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> PCR/NMRA <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail <input type="checkbox"/> WRM				NMRA Region or Club Affiliation		
Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times: _____						
I can help more. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me <input type="checkbox"/>						
Primary Scales and Interests <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____						
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form if more than one)						
Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> PCR <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail <input type="checkbox"/> WRM		E-Mail (if Different)			NMRA or WRM #	
Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times: _____						
I can help More. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me <input type="checkbox"/>						
Primary Scales and Interests <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____						
FARES: Please fill in Qty and Form will compute the total						
Early Bird Registration Pkg. (Registration, banquet, & brkfast) (until 11/30/19; \$150 after)				Qty	Unit Cost	Total
NMRA & WRM Registration ONLY (No banquet, no breakfast)					80.00	
First Timer Pkg. (PCR Members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions)					110.00	
Non-Rail or Spouse Registration (includes non-rail lunch, no banquet or breakfast)					40.00	
NMRA Awards Banquet only					70.00	
PCR Breakfast only					40.00	
Youth Registration (12-18 years or student)					40.00	
Day Fare (Banquet or breakfast not included) <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat					40.00	
MERCHANDISE: Prices include 8.75% California sales tax where applicable.						
Convention Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL					38.00	
Convention Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL <input type="checkbox"/> 5XL <input type="checkbox"/> 6XL					42.00	
Convention Car (Sacramento Northern, HO-scale, 40' Boxcar kit by Accurail)					28.00	
Additional Convention Cars (Must order one car above at full price)					25.00	
Join the NMRA		9 month Rail Pass (allowed one time only)			20.00	
		Full NMRA membership			75.00	
Payment by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (Use website for credit card or PayPal) Make checks payable to: Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association					TOTAL	
No Refunds After March 30, 2020 (\$5.00 deducted from all refunds)						

As in past years, the convention hotel will feature an operating layout. In 2017 and 2018 conventions featured switching on Robert Pethoud's Fall Creek Branch. The 2019 convention offered a full operations session on the Sacramento Central Railroad modular Layout. In 2020, the California Central Coast On30 Modular Group will offer a large layout for operations, with trains staged to be dispatched in to pick up and set-out cars en route from the yard to a local operations area in sessions lasting 30 to 45 minutes in length. This will be a great low-stress way to try operations if you haven't done so previously.



Layout Tours and Operating Sessions are still early in scheduling and Mike O'Dorney and Dave Parks are actively recruiting layout owners. If you are interested in opening your layout and they have not contacted you yet, you can reach them at ctclayouts@pcrnmra.org or ctcooperations@pcrnmra.org respectively.

Although *Clear to the Coast* is still almost a year away, another person who wouldn't mind hearing from you is Dave Connery who is looking for volunteers to assist during the convention. His e-mail is ctcvolunteers@pcrnmra.org.

Convention details develop or change over time, and we will do our best to keep you informed in future Branch

Line issues, and with periodic e-mail notices. If you have not provided an e-mail address to NMRA, contact National headquarters and provide it now. The most current source of information is the convention website www.pcrnmra.org/conv2020.

We look forward to seeing you in Concord next year.



Contest Report

By Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Manager, PCR Contest Department

Oh, the places you'll go... You're off to Great Places!
 Today is your day!
 Your mountain is waiting,
 So... get on your way!"

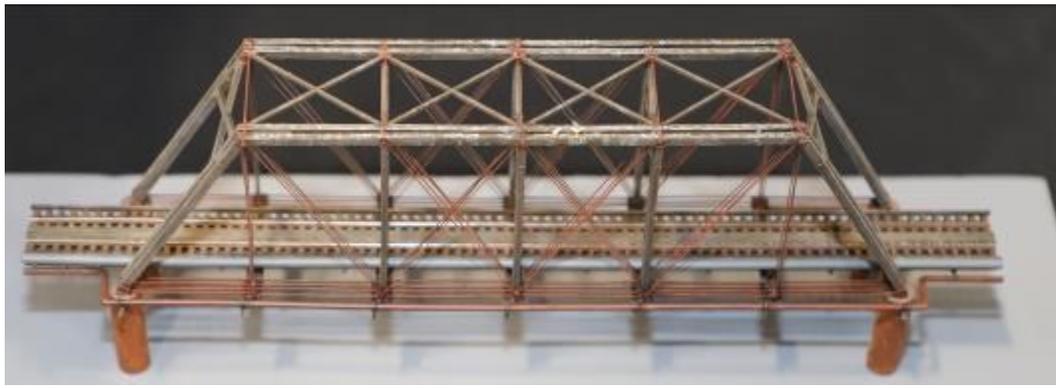
Dr. Seuss, Oh, The Places You'll Go!

Do you hear these rhymes from the past still echoing in the present? They represent exhortations to achieve great things in life and to not just be a zombie waiting for a fulfillment that never materializes. They encourage us to create our own path by deciding to explore a previously unknown trail or by "feeling the fear and doing it anyway".

The PCR's Contest at the recently concluded "Diamonds are forever" Convention in Sacramento is testimonial to such dreamers and independent achievers, all of them unafraid to share their love of trains and craftsmanship with the rest of us. We tip our hats to them and wish that more like them will take the step to share their talents and dreams.

Here is a list of the dreamers and their achievements:

Continued on page 9



Knapp, Thomas
Model, Structure – Open
PCR Award Best in Show
Bridge #5



La Torres, Pat
Photo, Model Color
PCR Award Best in Show
Shops

BEST IN SHOW



Crawford, Diane
Arts & Craft, Needlework - Original
PCR Award Best in Show
My Outback is Definitely Bigger
Than a Breadbox

Continued on page 11



Girbovan, Earl
Model, Structure – Kit
PCR Award 1st Place
Backwoods Repair Shop
Popular Vote Award 1st Place



Palermo, Chris
Model, Display – Non-Judged
Special Award Ingenuity
Tank Battle



Aymar, Giuseppe
Model, Diesel & Other – Open
PCR Award: 1st Place
BNSF 970 GE dash 9 - 44CW



SansSoucie, Milton
Model, Passenger Car – Open
PCR Award: 2nd Place
SP Dome Lounge #3606



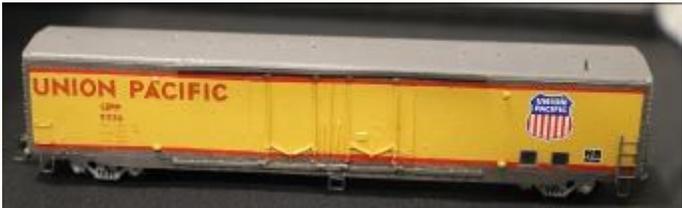
SansSoucie, Milton Model, Passenger Car – Open
PCR Award: 1st Place
UP business Car Kenefick



Harvath, Steve Model, Passenger Car – Kit
PCR Award 1st Place
Passenger Coach #379



Wesolowski, Steven
Model, Passenger Car – Kit
PCR Award 2nd Place
Gorre & Daphetid Mt. Alexander
Passenger Car



SansSoucie, Milton
Model, Freight Car – Open
PCR Award 1st Place
60' Dbl plug door box car

Continued on page 12



Wesolowski, Steven
Model, Freight Car – Kit
PCR Award 1st Place
Gorre & Daphited Tank Car #38



Wesolowski, Steven
Model, Caboose – Kit
PCR Award 1st Place
Gorre & Daphited Caboose #9



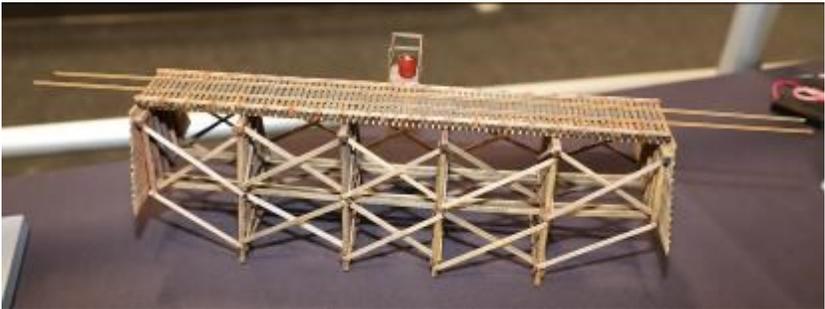
La Torres, Pat
Model, MOW – Kit
PCR Award 1st Place
Narrow Gauge Water Car



Pfafman, Neil
Model, Structure – Open
PCR Award 3rd Place
Maintenance shop, Coal Yard
Highland, NY



Harvath, Steve
Model, Structure - Open
PCR Award: 2nd Place
Gaia Extract Company



La Torres, Ronnie
Model, Structure - Open
PCR Award 1st Place
On30 Trestle

Continued on page 13



Knapp, Thomas
Model, Display – Open
PCR Award: 2nd Place
Port Harford Asphalt



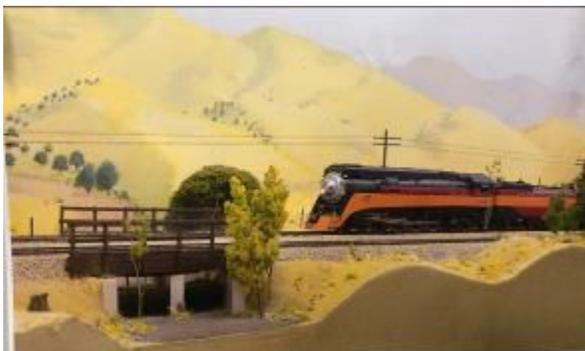
Harvath, Steve
Model, Display – Open
PCR Award 1st Place
Poseidan Fish Company



La Torres, Pat
Model, Display - Kit
PCR Award 1st Place
Narrow Gauge Switch Yard



Houlihan, John
Photo, Model Color
PCR Award 2nd Place
SP Daylight observation

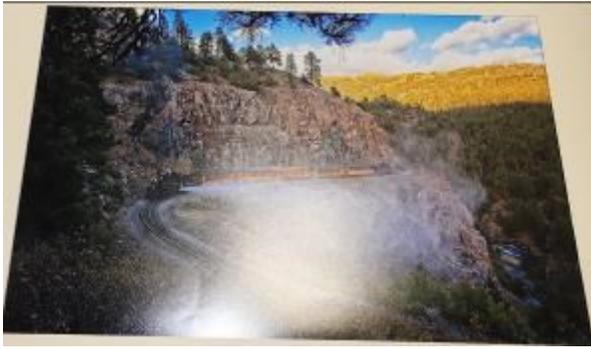


Houlihan, John
Photo, Model Color
PCR Award 1st Place
SP 4454



Ray, Gary
Photo, Prototype B&W
PCR Award 1st Place
Meet on the Durango & Silverton

Continued on page 14



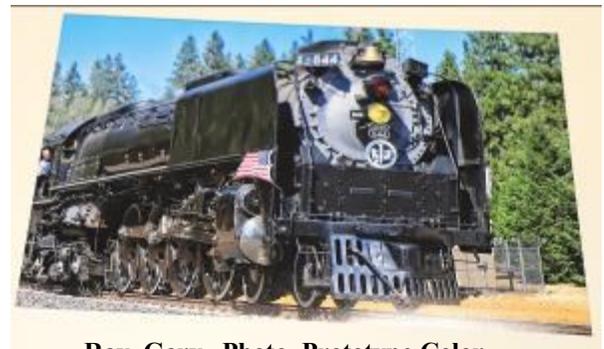
**Ray, Gary Photo, Special Event
Popular Vote Award 1st Place
Looking Down on the Animas River**



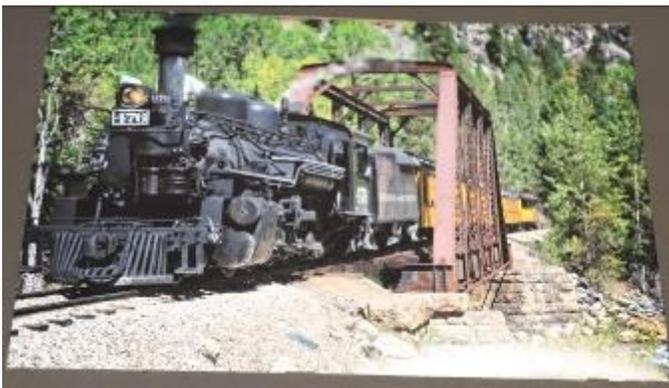
**La Torres, Pat
Photo, Prototype Color – Trains In Action
PCR Award 3rd Place
Daschutes**



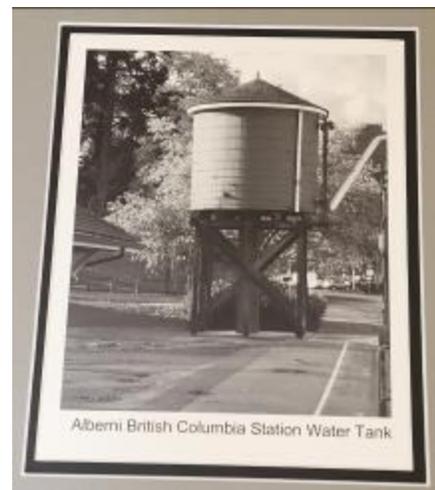
**La Torres, Pat
Photo, Prototype Color – Trains In Action
PCR Award 2nd Place
Southward at Jalama**



**Ray, Gary Photo, Prototype Color -
Trains In Action
PCR Award 1st Place
844 Outside of Colfax**



**Ray, Gary Photo, Prototype Color -
Tracks and Structures
PCR Award 2nd Place
Trestle High in the San Juan Mountains**



**Keena, James Photo, Prototype Color -
Tracks and Structures
PCR Award 1st Place
Alberni Water Tank**

Continued on page 15



**Ray, Gary Photo, Prototype Color -
Working on the RR
PCR Award 1st Place
Taking Water at Antonio**



**La Torres, Pat Photo, Prototype Color -
General Rail Subjects
PCR Award 3rd Place
Clover Valley #4**



**La Torres, Pat Photo, Prototype Color -
General Rail Subjects
PCR Award 2nd Place
C.V. #4**



**Ray, Gary Photo, Prototype Color -
General Rail Subjects
PCR Award 1st Place
Nighttime @ Durango Roundhouse**



**Baumer, Denni Arts & Craft, General -
Original
PCR Award 2nd Place
Succulent arrangement in repurposed coffee
mug with eyelashes**



**Baumer, Denni Arts & Craft, General -
Original
PCR Award 1st Place
Succulent arrangement in doll house miniature
bathtub**

Continued on page 16



Deis, Dorothy Arts & Craft, Needlework -
Pattern
PCR Award 1st Place
Shimmering Triangles



Baumer, Denni Arts & Craft, Railroadiana -
Original
PCR Award 3rd PI
Succulent arrangement in an old lantern



Baumer, Denni Arts & Craft, Railroadiana - Original
PCR Award 1st Place
Succulent arrangement in engine and tender planters



Baumer, Denni Arts & Craft, Railroadiana -
Original
PCR Award 2nd Place
Succulent arrangement in a hopper car



PCR Honors Conferred By Dave Connery

During the Diamond Rails Forever 75th Anniversary Convention at McClellan the Region and Divisions recognized members who have been especially important to the success of the organization.

During the banquet the Coast Division Member of the Year was awarded to Pete Birdsong MMR, by Director Frank Markovich MMR.

Director Tom Van Horn recognized Klaus Keil as Sierra Division's Member of the Year.

RED Director Steve Skold announced the RED Member of the year was Scott Lockhart.

Director Neil Fernbaugh identified Dave Grenier as Daylight Member of the Year.

The PCR President's Award was presented to Jim Collins, Co-Chairman of the Convention and past Sierra Division Superintendent, by outgoing PCR President Ed Merrin

Ed Merrin also made a special award to our guest speaker and Past NMRA President Charlie Getz.

During the Annual Business Meeting, at breakfast the next morning, Ray deBlieck, PCR Honors Chairman, presented the prestigious John Allen Award to Past PCR President Pat LaTorres. Congratulations to this year's honors recipients.

**Pete
Birdsong**



**Klaus
Keil**



**Scott
Lockhart**



**Dave
Grenier**



**Pat
La Torres**



**Charlie
Getz**



**Jim
Collins**





A Few Candid Shots from Mc Clellan, CA
May 2 - 5, 2019

Diamond Rails Forever



David Slone Enjoys A Weathering Clinic



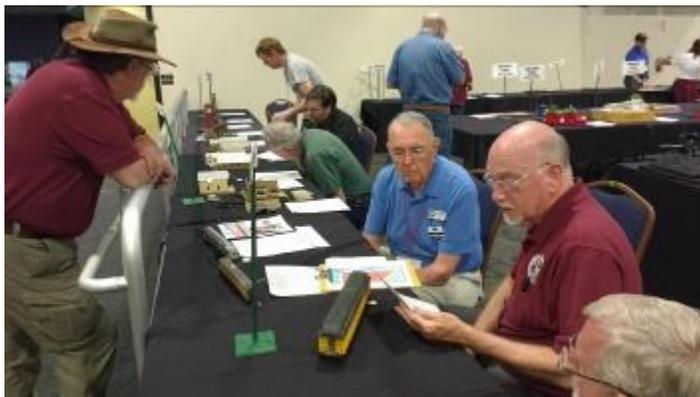
Ed Merrin Switching On Dave Stanley's Morada Belt



Structure Entries In The Contest



Live Scene Form The Sacramento Modular Railroaders



Judges At Work - Klaus Keil, Doug Smith and Mike Hamlin
Examine A Passenger Car As Pat La Torres (far left) Looks On



Silver Streak Bayless On The Last Afternoon
Could Have Been All Of Us.....

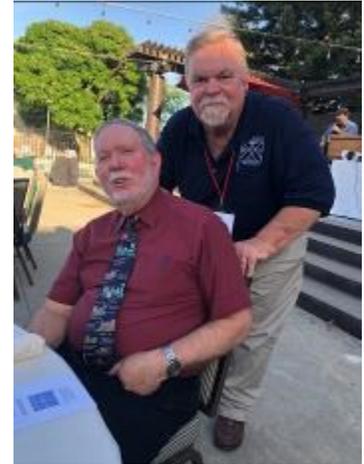
Continued on page X



A Large Banquet Crowd On A Warm Evening



**Lorri Meriam and Dave Fryman
The Company Storekeepers**



**The Co-Chairmen
Jim Collins (seated) and Chip Meriam**



**Emcee, Chip Meriam
Gets The Festivities Started**



**Bill "Grumpy" Scott and Giuseppe Aymar
Preparing To Present The Contest Winners**



**Chris Palermo "Guards" The
Entrance To The Breakfast**



Breakfast Is Served



**A Happy (and proud) Pat La Torres
After Breakfast**

Achievement Program - Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical

By Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department



Continuing our discussion on various AP certificates, this month we will talk about the requirements for Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical. Like the other certificates, the full requirements for this category are available on the Internet at the NMRA website.

The essence of this AP certificate is to demonstrate knowledge of wiring a model

railroad. The required work can be done on your own layout, a club layout, or even some on a friend's layout.

I will talk about the first two requirements this month and the rest of the requirements in the next issue of the **Branch Line**.

The first requirement is that you construct and demonstrate the satisfactory operation of an electrical control system on a model railroad capable of simultaneous and independent control of two mainline trains in either direction and containing at least a) five electrical blocks if running DC or, for DCC, sufficient gaps and switches to maintain polarity, phase if needed, and troubleshooting; and b) one mainline passing siding; and c) one reversing loop, wye, or turntable; and d) one yard with a minimum of three tracks and a switching lead independent of the mainline; and e) facilities for the storing of at least two unused motive power units; and f) one power supply with protective devices. Note that you do not need to build a power supply as long as it includes the required protective device. While this might seem like a long list, note that even a small DCC layout could qualify if there is a way to turn motive power and it includes a small yard, a passing track, and circuit breakers.

The next requirement is that you wire and demonstrate the electrical operation of at least three of the following items: turnout, crossing, crossover, double crossover, slip switch, gauge separation turnout, double gauge separation turnout, three-way turnout, gauntlet turnout, spring switch, or an operating switch in an overhead wire. You do not need to scratchbuild any of these track components, just show that you can make them work electrically. For example, wiring up the simplest powered turnout from the hobby shop will satisfy one of the three required electrical track components. Likewise, most commercial crossings come pre-wired. All you need to do is set one up so that you can run trains through both tracks. The whole point of these requirements is for you to demonstrate a variety of skills and understand the need for track gaps, etc. The guidelines

continually stress to not read more into the requirements than need be or make them harder than they have to be.

I'll talk about the rest of the requirements in the next issue.

Once you complete these requirements, submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which includes the required drawings and forms. Witnesses must sign a *Certificate of Operation* verifying that the required items are operational and meet all applicable NMRA standards. Send the completed SOQ to your Divisional AP representative, **along with a photocopy of your NMRA membership card** and you are on your way toward another certificate!

I am happy to announce five new Achievement Program awards this issue:

- Thomas Blinn - Association Volunteer
- Thomas Blinn - Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical
- Thomas Blinn - Model Railroad Engineer – Civil
- Mike Blumensaadt - Master Builder - Prototype Models

Richard Brennan - Association Volunteer

Thomas Blinn has obviously busy filling in Statement of Qualifications! Note that the Association Volunteer category requires a minimum of 60 time units (TU's are serving the hobby through work on convention committees, presenting clinics, hosting an open house during a convention, etc.) The SOQ submitted by Thomas listed 96 TU's!

Mike Blumensaadt was awarded an AP Certificate for Master Builder - Prototype Models. You may have seen his N scale Civil War scene at the 2015 PCR Convention or in the September 2015 issue of **Model Railroader** magazine. Great work Mike!

Richard Brennan recorded 210 TUs for Association Volunteer! His work included over six years as **Branch Line** editor which alone was worth 184 TUs!

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





NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC. ®

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RENEWAL NOTICE

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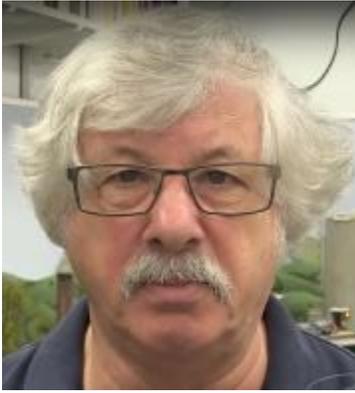
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Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann



Pacific Coast Region SIG Report for the Second Quarter 2019

Gary Ray organized a SIG program for the PCR convention in Sacramento on May x-x, LDSIG had a table and sold back issues of the LDJ and The OPSIG had 98 participants on 11 different layouts.

A large Bay Area contingent participated in the Western Oregon Operations (WOOPS) meet the weekend of June 13-15. About a dozen layouts were offered and all five that I visited ran well.

There will be full range of SIG activities available at the NMRA in Salt Lake City July 7-13. OPSIG has Op Sessions every night, a meet and greet on Sunday evening, the LDSIG Tour will be all day Wednesday, we'll have a SIG track of clinics all week and a SIG dinner on Friday night. I hope to see you there!

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact me off line.

Seth Neumann

sneumann@pacbell.net



Distribution Changes Coming To The *Branch Line*

This is the second of three issues remaining to be printed and mailed. We will print and mail the current issue, July 2019, and the October 2019 issue.

Thereafter, the **Branch Line** will only be available electronically. As always, you can find the Branch Line at the PCR website, <http://www.pcrnmra.org/> And also as usual, you will be notified by email that the Branch Line has been posted there.

Additionally, we will be experimenting with direct emailing - beginning with this issue. We'll see how it goes. The editorial staff believes this will work well, but we'll know more after this first attempt.

No computer? No email? May we suggest you visit the local public library where internet access is available.



Build a Barn from Scratch. Part 3

Before the rains come, we need to fashion a covering for that roofless barn we constructed last time.

Roofs are always prominent features on scale model buildings, so special effort is justified in creating a convincing representation.

Continuing my tactic of putting in extra hours in order to save money, I decided to scratch-build a shake roof for the barn. The result was easier and less time-consuming than I expected.

For the gable roof, I started with two panels of 1/64-inch thick plywood, cut slightly oversize so they could be trimmed to fit after the shakes were applied. After calculating how many strips of shakes I would need, allowing 1/8-inch as the width of each strip, I set the panels aside and went to work on the shakes.

Creating the shake shingles consumed the most time for this project, but considering the cost of commercial products (over \$10 for a sheet the size of a large postcard) and the ease of the method I used, this part was also the most satisfying. Here are the materials and tools I used: plain 3" x 5" file cards, the same India ink and leather dye stains used for the foundation and walls (1 tsp. black ink in a pint of isopropyl rubbing alcohol, 1 tsp. brown leather dye in another pint), Pan Pastel 740.3 Burnt Sienna Shade, a small brush, and a pair of scissors. I also used an interesting scrapbooking tool called deckle-edge scissors, basically scissors with an irregular edge, but this is entirely optional.

The procedure I used is as follows:

Draw lines on the card parallel to a long edge and 1/4-inch apart

Use sharp scissors to make cuts perpendicular to one edge of the card (and perpendicular to the lines you drew). Each cut should be about 3/16-inch long and they should be randomly spaced between 1/16- and 1/8-inch apart

If you use the deckle-edge scissors, now is the time to make the card's edge ragged

Cut off this strip of shakes along the line nearest the edge of the card

Repeat the last three steps with the next strip at the new edge of the card

Continue the process until you have enough shakes for the whole roof, plus a few extra strips for experiments and/or mistakes. This is a good activity to do while watching TV or listening to music.

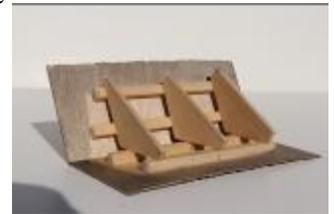
Coloring the strips of shakes with a small brush was very easy. I began with four coats of the brown leather dye stain, making no effort to cover evenly—some variation in the coverage adds to

the realism. I followed this with two coats of the black India ink stain. To get a more reddish-brown result, I finished by brushing on some of the Burnt Sienna Shade from Pan Pastel.

The next order of business was to attach the shakes to the 1/64-inch plywood roof panels I set aside much earlier. I began by drawing parallel guide lines on the plywood, 1/4-inch apart. Apply the strips starting at the eaves and working up to the peak.

For each strip, I applied a bead of Aleene's Original Tacky Glue, then pressed a shake strip into the glue and used a coffee stirring stick to carefully adjust it to be perfectly straight and parallel to the guide lines. Each successive strip must overlap the previous one, covering the top part of the strip which was not sliced through between the shakes. When I finished fastening the shakes to one plywood panel, I placed it on a piece of glass and weighted it down with a heavy book to dry.

After both roof panels were thoroughly dry, I glued two lengths of 3/8-inch square poplar to the underside of each panel to stiffen it and, by extending below the tops of the walls, to fix the panel's position on the walls. I cut three triangular pieces of the 1/8-inch thick MDF to match the pitch of the roof and glued one edge of each to the poplar stiffeners on one of the roof panels. When these three glue joints were dry, I glued the second panel to the upper edges of those triangular pieces to complete a removable roof.



To finish it off, I trimmed it to size and added a tar paper strip along the peak. The "tar paper" strip was created by "painting" a piece of cardstock with a black permanent marker, creasing it, cutting it out with an X-acto knife, and gluing it in place with Formula '560' Canopy Glue.



With the roof in place, I released the sun, wind, and rain to age it. In this production, the part of the elements was played by Bragdon Enterprises weathering chalks, applied with a stiff brush.

My HO scale barn is now ready to serve the farmer who owns the property adjoining my model railroad's cannery spur. The techniques I first tried out on this project—stone foundations from gravel, individual wooden boards from thin basswood sheets, and roof shakes from 3 x 5 file cards—will certainly find their way into future structures. I invite you to experiment with these ideas on your own model buildings and share your results. Send your comments and questions to me at pethoud@comcast.net



Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

By: Jim Providenza

No Claws, No Wedgies and No Fat Tires - 2

So, we covered Fat Tires and Claws (and a bit of philosophy) two columns ago. What's next? "Wedgies!"

Wedgies are those badly oversized, triangle shaped 'things' that represent ladder rungs and grab irons on so many older hoppers and covered hoppers in our fleets. They don't have to be that way, as newer models have shown. So, the goal here is to replace those wedgies without excruciating pain... we will add new parts without a lot of drilling!

Out comes the Xuron rail cutter, X-Acto knife with fresh (and I do mean brand new, fresh, like really SHARP) #11 blade, files, sand paper and scale sized brass rod. The Xuron takes care of the major surgery in short order, but you have to be careful not to stress the corner vertical posts where the side and end ladder rungs connect. Then comes close trimming (X-Acto) and some final sanding and filing to clean up the inner surfaces (files, 220# or 400# sand paper). I left the ends of the rungs / grab irons on the car sides / vertical posts to represent bolts as needed. I remove a bit of paint below each of these. The Xuron cutters get an encore to cut the brass rod to length to fit under the bolt heads. I then ACC the rungs and grab irons in place and touch up the paint. While not as secure as drilling holes to mount formed grab irons, I only have to replace one or two grabs / rungs a year on a fleet of 50 or so such cars. Seems worth it when you can avoid trying to keep the corner verticals intact while drilling five, six or seven .0225" or smaller (your choice) holes. Take a look at the photos of the two SP covered cement hoppers...



A stock MDC model, the original.



A heavily worked (and worked over) MDC car, note cut levers, ladder rungs, stirrup steps and roofwalk.

How about roof walks? Depends on your era, pocket book and aesthetic, of all things. . . In the SCN's 1971 era most older boxcars had already had their roof walks removed and cars built from 1966 onward were built without them. But there are still a few boxcars running around with them, plus covered hoppers. Many modelers use the etched brass or stainless steel replacement roofwalks available from several of our manufacturers. These are very nice, but I personally think that they are too thin – seriously. The prototype metal roofwalks I have had a chance to

measure are made of pressed and formed steel. The sides and ends are bent down to form what is effectively a channel shape when the roofwalk is looked at in cross section. And these sides and ends present a face about 1 ½ inches tall. I use Kadee or Tichy aftermarket plastic roofwalks, which appear to me to have the correct side and end thickness. I will use etched metal ones if needed for a specific car, or – I can take a stock plastic roofwalk, bevel the undersides of the sides and ends to reduce the visible edge and use a black wash to give depth to the top surface. A pencil run lightly over the top grating will give a bit more relief...

Each car is different, sometimes the car sides are thick enough to carefully drill mounting holes into with a #74 drill after removing the originals. Other times I take a page from noted freight car historian and modeler Tony Thompson's notebook and glue small rectangles of styrene to the underbody at the ends and drill the mounting holes into them.

For myself, I add cut levers to every car on the railroad. These can be a bit fussy to install. You can buy preformed ones – I usually just bend my own from .012" brass wire. And I buy bags of Detail Associates 2206 Eye Bolts almost every time I am in a hobby shop to support the outside ends of the cut levers. Does this seem a bit much? All I can say is I have never seen a real railroad car without them. 'Nuf said on this one – a personal choice.



Athearn 50' double door boxcar. Notice the difference in roofwalk edge to the left and the right of the point above where the two car doors meet. The left hand side has been thinned down.

Continued on page 25

This of course does not cover even half of the work one could do to upgrade a given car. But it is a good start (read major improvements) and something anyone can accomplish if they want. As the photos of the cement hoppers show you can have a fleet of well detailed upgraded cars equal to the current crop of excellent models if you are willing to do some work.

One last thought – ‘But Jim, won’t all this work suffer during operating sessions?’ Hmmm, well a little, maybe. Every so often something gets damaged, and it is usually easy to fix or replace. The SCN is a railroad, it operates. I wouldn’t ever want to be held hostage to the things I own or the work I have done!

Stirrup steps are another fruitful area. You can thin them with files, you can scrape the insides of many painted ones to expose the underlying black plastic on many cars which again makes them seem much thinner, or you can replace them. Bags of A-Line formed

metal stirrup steps are like candy to me – I can’t buy just one bag it seems.



Replacement A Line Type C stirrup step. Also note that the top grab iron has had the paint scraped away on the inside edge exposing the black plastic underneath. Compare how this looks to the lower grab iron.



Stirrup step on the right side, the paint has been scraped off to expose the black plastic underneath presenting only the outside painted edge to the viewer.



A current high end covered hopper for bench marking and comparison.



Looking Back

by Dave Connery, MMR, PCR Historian Voices – An Interview Steve and Carol Skold



Steve Started Our Interview by showing me a photo of him at one year old sitting under a Christmas Tree with a three rail train running around Steve and the tree so we know he got started in model railroading at a very early age. Actually, Steve's first train that he remembers was an American Flyer train that he got at age 7 or 8. His dad liked the two-rail system and so opted for Flyer. This was when Steve and his family were living in San Francisco – it was a



set with a 4-6-2 and early plastic cars. This eventually got boxed up and turned over to Steve's sister – who had five boys and it became their train set and today Steve thinks it is with Tim and Carol Shilling in Albuquerque, NM.

Carol remembers attending Water polo games and meeting Steve there. She grew up in Stockton and does not have many early memories of trains except for when visiting her grandmother in Redding. As a young girl she remembers hearing the train coming and running down to the crossing to see the train slowing as it approached the depot a few blocks away. She would wave to the enginemen and they would always wave back.

After college in 1963 Steve was accepted into the US Navy and attended Pre-flight training where he got commissioned as an Ensign and received his wings as a Naval Flight Officer. As a Navigator he was assigned to a school in San Diego to learn to also serve as a Tactical Coordinator. At this time he got back into model railroading with a small 2' X 4' layout and it was during this period he purchased his first brass locomotive – a V&T 4-4-0 "Reno" for \$24.50. The Skolds were next transferred to Whidbey Island, Washington and Steve again had a small layout in a shed at the back of the carport, which he worked on between several deployments to South East Asia.

In 1967 the Skolds were released from active service and moved to Santa Rosa, where Steve first worked as a stockbroker and a short time later became an underwriter for State Farm Insurance. They purchased their current home in Santa Rosa in 1968. The next year Steve got back into model railroading and rejoined the NMRA (at the time a Life Membership cost \$100 and was one of the best investments Steve has ever made). He also became a Life Member of the Pacific Coast Region (note:

life memberships are no longer available in either the National or Regional organizations). At this time Steve learned of the Redwood Empire Division and got involved and has been active in the Division ever since. It was at this time that Steve began building his first of three layouts in the garage, this effort a 16' X 16' HO layout that was suspended from the ceiling so Carol could still park her car in the garage. The layout would be winched up into the rafters when Steve was not working on it.

Steve met Harold Mentzer, who was living in Laytonville at the time and every Wednesday evening Harold would drive down to Santa Rosa and help Steve with this first version of the Whiskeytown and Shasta RR. Soon Dave Dorance and a few others joined in the Wednesday night group and it became the Sonoma County Hi-Ballers, who still meet every Wednesday evening and have been for 49 years now. This was 1970 and Steve attended his first PCR convention, which was held in Palo Alto that year.

Steve and Harold Mentzer thought they were asked to put on the 1973 PCR Convention. When Steve wrote to Whit Towers to ask if there were any guidelines on how to run a convention, Whit replied with a two-page mimeographed description and the news that because of some problem they were now needed to put on the 1972 PCR Convention. Thus, Steve became chair of the 1972 convention, which was held at the El Rancho Tropicana Hotel – a good venue for our conventions. At the convention they met.

Steve has always been active in Redwood Empire Division activities. From 1974 to 1978 he served as PCR Director from RED. During this timeframe, he also served the Division as Callboard Editor, Contest Chairman, Membership Chairman, Program Chairman, Chief Clerk and Superintendent. Frank Slater asked Carol to help Arleta Elmore with the PCR Contests, then during Harold Mentzer's terms as PCR President 1978-82 Carol served as PCR Contest Chair. Carol was also involved with Shirley Mentzer in providing sandwiches and cookies for RED meets.



Continued on page 27

In those years, they would often have 120 models to judge, which meant they did not finish the final award tallies until the banquet was already underway. She also helped with the Photo Contest at O-Scale West. In addition, over the years Carol has won awards in the Photo Contest, Railroadiana and one time in the model contest with a reworked V&T 2-6-0 locomotive. Carol did all this and raised three daughters! For the 1979 Convention Steve was the Manufacturers Exhibit Chairman and in that year Carol and Steve were jointly awarded the prestigious John Allen Award.

It was also in 1979 that Steve began to do some On3 modeling. His first model in this scale was of a caboose. In 1980 Steve decided to dismantle the HO layout as the Hi-ballers had Don Cabral's Hessel & Lone Pine layout to operate on. Steve started to construct his second layout in the garage, an On3 version of the Whiskeytown & Shasta. This was built up high so Carol still had a way to get her car in the garage and necessitated working on the layout from temporary scaffolding – made from boards laid on top of saw-horses. One night there was a near tragedy when someone climbed off one end of the scaffolding the person on the other end suddenly crashed to the ground. This happened in the mid-1980's and convinced Steve that what they were doing was too dangerous. So it was again dismantled and for the third edition – another On3 layout which started as a couple of modules built on hollow-core doors and later incorporated into the around the walls layout. Steve has always enjoyed the Narrow Gauge Convention format better than the NMRA plan so while he has only attended 3 NMRA National Conventions he goes to the National Narrow Gauge Convention most years.

In the 1980's Steve was also involved in sailboat racing on San Francisco Bay (C-15 and O'Day Day Sailor's) and crewing on racing boats. The sailing boats slowed down Steve's model railroading until his knees started to give out and he found our hobby easier on these critically important joints. In his post sailing time Steve has served as Chairman of the Mini-vention held in Santa Rosa in 2011 – same

year as the NMRA Convention in Sacramento. He was Chief Clerk of RED from 2011 until 2014, Superintendent of RED from 2014 to 2017 and is currently serving as Director from RED, a term that expires in 2020 and Steve says is his last. In 2006 Steve was RED Member of the Year, and in 2011 Steve garnered the PCR Presidents Award. Not to be out done, Carol received the PCR Presidents Award in 2018.

When asked if she had any suggestions for spouses, Carol suggested a spouse find a part of the hobby they can enjoy and do that and allow the spouse railroader to participate as they see fit. It can be as simple as feeding the crew when they come to the layout or at meetings, or going to a convention and taking advantage of what is planned for spouses or just going shopping in a new town while the RR person enjoys clinics, etc. She and her cousin always figured they could justify spending money on fun stuff while the guys were buying railroad goodies; or they can volunteer to help with the event such as sitting at the registration desk, passing out goodie bags, etc. This way a couple can enjoy the time that is available for both to enjoy like "happy hour", banquets, layout tours, annual breakfast (the meeting takes very little time) or maybe exploring a new area after the activity is finished.

Steve and Carol enjoy both the social and modeling aspects of our hobby. They have especially enjoyed conventions in Colorado (National Narrow Gauge) where they get to ride on the C&TS and the D&S NG. In 2006 they got to ride in the sole surviving operational goose about half way from Durango to Silver ton and return – an unforgettable journey. It should be clear from the above that both Steve and Carol have made a very significant contribution to PCR and have been especially critical to the success of Redwood Empire Division. We should all be thankful for Steve and Carol and for the many ways they have improved our enjoyment of this hobby.



In Memoriam		
Member	City, Sate	Date Joined
Daylight		
Daniel Seames	Bakersfield	2/17/1997
Jim Scott	Lompoc CA	3/21/2005
Sierra		
Dan Mahoney	Sacramento, CA	5/26/2000
Redwood Empire		
James Jones (Life Member)	Petaluma, CA	1/1/1976
Coast		
James Jones	Petaluma, CA	1/1/1976

Coast Division Report

By Doug Smith



Like many of us I very much enjoyed the Diamond Rails Forever gathering in Sacramento at the beginning of May. You'll read a lot about the event elsewhere, many places, in this issue. I took a little different approach to the activities, being involved in planning for the 2020 PCR convention. I spent some time with the DRF staff, learning what went well and not so well. There is a lot to one of these meets that you don't see until you are involved in planning one. Which is not a complaint by any stretch. It's exciting, challenging, and eye-opening. There are things to be done that you may have had no idea about, probably because of the hard work by the convention teams to make things go well. If you get a chance to help on a future PCR planning team, do it!!!

You'll get a chance to know a lot of other members whom you've known about but never had a chance to work with. I was at the 2020 table for some of the time and got to meet many folks. I wrapped that time around some great clinics, an operation session in the convention hall with the Sacramento Modular Group, and getting some great modeling lessons from being a contest judge. It may sound like a low-key itinerary, but it was a great time. Thanks to Jim Collins and his team for a very enjoyable time.

Our most recent meet was in San Leandro on June 2nd. It was a busy day, sadly not all of it at the meet. I had to leave early, but Frank Markovich, Chris Palmero, Brian Booth and others filled in. Thanks to everyone who helped out. The clinics got great reviews. Earl Girbovan walked through some of his LED techniques that you may have admired on his models. Ray Davis walked us through the CriCut tool showing how to create detailed cutting patterns on various materials. I haven't received an auction report yet, but there were many interesting items in many scales on the tables as the morning started.

Our next meet is scheduled for September 23 at the Elks' Lodge in Alameda. We have a special clinic presentation planned with a new format. It's called mini-clinics. There will be several shorter clinics each given several times. These 15 minute presentations will let folks see up to 8 short clinics in the 2 hour span. You can even repeat one or more if you like. This is a test run for a similar format being planned for the 2020 PCR convention. If you have something that can be presented in a short time but don't want to stretch it to a full hour, give it a try. Rich Brennan is our clinic lead and he'll be happy to hear from you.



Daylight Summer Meet Planned for July

by Bruce Morden

Save the date of July 27 because you are invited to the beautiful Santa Barbara area. We will be meeting at the Historic Goleta Depot. At the time of this writing we are not sure what will be on the program; maybe a track clinic with prototype track or with 7 1/2" gauge track. Also being considered is a history talk and tour of the 1901 Depot, or perhaps a eucalyptus tree making clinic. If anyone else has a clinic and is willing to step forward, we would welcome that also. We will also have some

railroads to visit after the meeting so save that date! We are discussing some way of live streaming the meet so those in Mariposa, Merced, Fresno or Bakersfield don't have to make the long drive. No promises but stay tuned.



Photo by Chuck Harmon





Redwood Empire Division Report

By Ron Kaiser and Steve Skold

Even though the pouring rain made for a soupy parking lot at the Monroe Hall, there was a good attendance of thirty, including a few from the Sierra Division and the Coast Division. There were six Dave's at the meeting, including a new member, David Bruce, moved from the east to Novato.

The business meeting included an invitation from Pat La Torres to the 2020 PCR Convention in Concord, as well as a report by Ed Merrin at the convention just held in Sacramento.

The election results are in, with Scott Lockhart taking on another term as RED Superintendent and David Grundman assuming the role of Chief Clerk. Steve Skold reported on PCR business, as well as asking for volunteers to run for his Director's seat in the next election.

The always popular Show & Tell had about twelve entries, along with the stories, which is the best part. Pat La Torres brought his one square foot diorama, and Dave Ulmer also brought one, still in progress, using a collection of terrific craftsman kits. Verne Alexander held everyone rapt with his story of his Dad operating a steam engine (Verne had a model and a photo of his Dad in the real thing) in local switching duty in Spokane, then changing places with the fireman for the run back up the hill with the longest cut of cars ever tried, shoveling coal like mad, and never running out of steam! Dave Grundman brought yet another model of a grain elevator. How many do you have, Dave? But, not all show and tell involved models. Justin Leong had a story about chasing down the car number on a uniquely repaired coach, Dave Croshere shared the discovery of his inexpensive new small drill press, and Dave Turner showed sixteen paint samples of caboose red that he had bought in his search for just the right match!



The lunch break with food provided by Mary Moore Campagna gave everyone a chance to examine and kibitz about the models. Then there were plenty of door prizes and raffle prizes for everyone.

Then, Dave Sheber and Kent Hinton presented a very informative clinic on the whole package of JMRI model railroad software, with a number of those in the audience really into the nitty gritty.

Finally, about a dozen or so braved the rainy drive to the Healdsburg Freight Station for a tour of the North Coast Historical Model Society layout. It is a good start, but it looks a little stalled in progress until they get clarification from SMART about the future of their tenancy in the building

Our summer picnic this year will be early. It is in conjunction with the Annual Power Up of the Penngrove Implement Museum. It will be Saturday July 13th from 10 AM to 4 PM at 200 Phillips Dr in Penngrove - just off Old Redwood Highway. Details will be in the RED Callboard which should be out by the end of June. Our final meeting of the year will be at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa on November 16th. Doors open at 10 AM and the meeting starts at 11.



Sierra Division Report

by Chip Meriam



The Sierra Division held no 2nd quarter meet because we were hosting the 2019 PCR Convention during the same week we would normally have our meet. Rather, we all enjoyed (and several of us worked at) the 2019 Diamond Rails Forever Convention at the McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento. Sierra Division Committee members were Jim Collins, Chip Meriam, Scott McAllister, Dan Moody. Dave Bayless, Steve Harvath. Scott Inmann, Brian Witt, Gary Ray, Mary Moore-Campagna, and Dave Putnam. Other committee members were Eugene Vicknair, Michael Eldridge, and Ray Ritch. A special appreciative thank you to all who participated in the convention.

As noted in the piece by Dave Connery, the Sierra Division's Member of The Year is Klaus Keil. Klaus is most deserving of this recognition because, despite having lost his home and his entire layout in the Camp Fire last November, he has continued to participate in division activities, has actively re-started his modeling, and even created and presented a well received clinic at the convention in May. Throughout all of this, Klaus has maintained a very positive attitude and has been a complete joy to be around. At age 91, Klaus is a true inspiration and leader for all of us.

Congratulations, Klaus. This is truly a merited honor.



Klaus Keil, Sierra Division Member of the Year



Welcome Aboard ! PCR's Newest Members

Member	City, State	Date Joined
Daylight		
James Dale	Goleta CA	4/9/2019
Steve Gersch	Paso Robles CA	5/24/2019
Coast		
Michael Sweeney	Walnut Creek CA	4/25/2019
Ronald Herdman	Pacific Grove CA	5/24/2019
Scott Holmes	Livermore CA	5/28/2019
Sierra		
Samuel Cook	Mountain Ranch CA	4/9/2019
Randy Anderson	Sacramento CA	4/23/2019
Debbie Angulo	Lathrop CA	5/5/2019
Dave Butterfield	Roseville CA	5/24/2019
Dana Davis	Sacramento CA	5/24/2019
Hanns Haesslein	Sacramento CA	5/24/2019
Bert Donlon	Roseville CA	5/29/2019
Redwood Empire		
Paul Rice	Sonoma CA	4/9/2019
Luca Catanzaro	Sonoma CA	5/5/2019

PCR is Celebrating 75 Years

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

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

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

August 10, 2019

Sierra Division Meet, 9:30 AM to Noon at the Fair Oaks Public Library and 1:00 until 4:00 at the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers in Hagen Park. Barbecue will be available at Hagen Park. For information: chipmeriam@comcast.net

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

For a list of monthly activities see page 33

August 10, 2019 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, 25th Annual Garden Layout Tour and Food Drive to benefit [St. Joseph's Family Center](#) in Gilroy and the Community Pantry in Hollister, presented by the [Bay Area Garden Railroad Society](#) and the South County Garden Railroaders. Visit 5 stunning model railroads running through some of the most spectacular backyard gardens in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Hollister. Drop off your donations of non-perishable food items (canned goods, pasta, cereal, etc.), cash, or checks (payable to "St Joseph's Family Center" or "Community Pantry") and pick up a guide book of the layouts at any of these locations: [Garden Accents](#), 11155

Lena Avenue, Gilroy (near 101-Masten exit) (408) 846-4555 BookSmart, 421 Vineyard Town Center, Morgan Hill (Near Depot Street at RR tracks) (408) 778-6467 or [download it here](#) (2.0 MB) For more information or to have a guidebook e-mailed to you, contact Nigel at nigel@candntractors.com.

August 10, 2019 (Saturday only) - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. [MAP](#) • [FLYER](#) Visit the Carquinez Model Railroad Society's HO scale three level 36'x60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California to Sparks, NV through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains, to Sparks, NV. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

August 17, 2019 - [Redwood Empire Division](#) Summer Picnic, Location: TBD

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

Coast Division N-Scale modelers are invited to join the Nor-Cal Nn3 Group which will be used to coordinate preparations

Calendar

for this convention and the layout(s): <https://groups.io/g/Nn3-NorCal>

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

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

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

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

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

October 4 – 6, 2019 - [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. [MAP](#)

October 12, 2019 Sierra Division Meet—Chico, CA Time and venue to be announced. chipmeriam@comcast.net

October 12 & 13, 2019 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. ([MAP](#)) Visit the Carquinez Model Railroad Society's HO scale three level 36'x60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California to Sparks, NV through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains, to Sparks, NV. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

November 16, 2019 - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, [Redwood Empire Division](#) Fall Meet, Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave, Santa Rosa, CA. [Map](#)

December 7 & 8, 2019 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. ([MAP](#)) Visit the Carquinez Model Railroad Society's HO scale three level 36'x60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California to Sparks, NV through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains, to Sparks, NV. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

Continued on page 32

Calendar

2020 Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

For a list of monthly activities see page 33

January 24 – 26, 2020 – Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sponsored by [Pacific Coast Region-NMRA](#) and [Layout Design SIG](#).

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

More information will be posted in the latter months of 2019. Save the dates!

[TSG video report on 2019's meet](#)

April 30 – May 3, 2020 - [Clear to the Coast 2020](#), Pacific Coast Region Convention, co-sponsored by [Western Railway Museum](#), Crowne Plaza Concord / Walnut Creek, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, CA. [MAP](#) **Registrations are now being accepted!** Special "Early Bird" fare of \$130.00 is good until 11/30/19, then full fare will be \$150.00.



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

IMPORTANT !!!!

Monthly Activities

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

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

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

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

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

Second Wednesday 8:00 PM / [West Bay Model Railroad Association](#), Monthly Business Meeting, 1090 Merrill Street, Menlo Park, CA / Lou Cartalano at 650-964-5603/e-mail cartalano@sbcglobal.net

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) Sacramento, CA / Roland DiFranco 209-948-6776 or Steven Stern, e-mail: sterns@rahul.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



These activities occur each month on the days indicated. See the Club Info section starting on page 34 for location and contact information

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Alameda County Central Railroad Society

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

Amador County Model Railroad Museum

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

Antioch Model Railroad Club

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

Bay Area Ntrak Model Railroad Club

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

Bay Area S Scalers

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.bayareasscalers.org.

California Central Model RR Club

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

Carquinez Model Railroad Society

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

Coastal Valley Lines

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

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

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

Continued on page 35

Elsie

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

Empire Builders Model Railroad Club

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

European Train Enthusiasts

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

Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society

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

Golden State Model Railroad Museum – East Bay Model Engineers Society

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

Humboldt Bay & Eureka Model Railroad Club

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

Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad Museum

26 Station Place - Salinas, CA 93901
The Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad Museum is dedicated to creating & maintaining a Railroad Museum in Salinas with an emphasis on the historic, contemporary and future value of the Railroad to the Salinas Valley and Monterey Bay Regions, providing experiential educational opportunities for children of all ages enhancing the core curriculum and inspiring civic involvement in our communities.
Open first weekends of each month 10AM - 4PM
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www.msvrr.org
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Continued on page 36

Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society

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

Nn3 Alliance

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

Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society

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

Sacramento Modular Railroaders

Most of our events are operating sessions, where we make up trains in our large switch yard, and send road crews out to switch cars into and out of industries at the towns along the main line. The club owns a large main yard, the corner modules, some special modules, and some rolling stock. Members own their own modules and rolling stock. Contact: memberhip@sacmodularrailroad.com

Sacramento Valley Live Steam Railroad Museum (SVLSRM)

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

San Joaquin Valley Garden Railway Society

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

San Joaquin Valley Toy Train Operators

We are an all scale train club. We have members in scales from Z to G. Whether you are someone who likes to run toy trains in circles or model an exact date, railroad or scene or anything in between you are welcome. Everyone who likes trains is welcome. You don't need to own any trains. We have two portable layouts that we set-up at public locations. We have set them up at care facilities, Amtrak stations, train shows and other places. We also have outside club activities. We have gone on the train to Sacramento and the Sacramento Rail Museum. We've ridden the train at Railtown 1897 SHP and had a private tour there. Also we have visited home train layouts and will have many other activities in the future. Our meetings are at the Scouts Hall, 4717 Elm Street, Denair, CA at 1:30 PM (doors open at 12:30) on the first Sunday of each month. Holidays or other events can change that. We always get there by 1:00 PM to visit and see what others have brought to show. For more information please call Ed Cathcart at 209-479-4432

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Continued on page 37

San Leandro Historical Railway Society

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

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA)

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

Silicon Valley Lines

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

Siskiyou Model Railroad Club

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

South Bay Historical Railroad Society

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

Sonoma Short Line (SSL)

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

South Coast Society of Model Engineers

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

Tidewater Southern Railway Historical Society Inc.

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

Tri-city Society of Model Engineers

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

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). 2019 weekend schedule: Jan 19-20, Mar 16-17, May 18-19 and Sept 14-15 (11:00AM-6:00PM). Holiday Open House schedule: Nov 22-24 & Nov 29 - Dec. 1.

West Bay Model Railroad Association

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

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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

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

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

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

Just contact our editor, Chip Meriam, at:

chipmeriam@comcast.net

We're looking forward to hearing from you!





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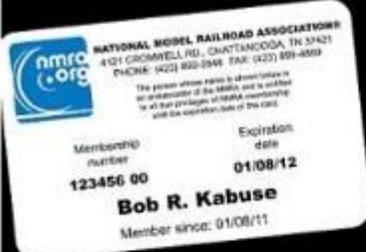
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