



# PACIFIC COAST REGION NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION CONTEST DIRECTORY

Revision of 24 October, 2009

## *I. Intent, Scope, and Changes*

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

## *II. Contest Personnel and Duties*

- A. The PCR Contest Manager is appointed by the PCR President and is generally responsible for conducting the PCR contest program. The PCR Contest Manager is specifically responsible for:
  - Working with the Convention Contest Chairman to arrange and conduct PCR contests at the annual convention.
  - Informing the Convention Contest Chairman of contest requirements and estimated contest expenses.
  - Recruiting judges and supervising judging.
  - Creating and maintaining the required forms and records.
  - Arranging for the production, presentation, and engraving of awards.
  - Publicizing PCR contests in the PCR newsletter, and informing the editor of contest winners.

- Informing the Achievement Program of candidate entries for merit awards and of the names of judges and event chairman.
  - Recommends changes to this directory, seeking approval for such changes, and keeping the directory current.
  - Settling contest disputes.
  - Presiding over the Contest Committee.
- B. The Convention Contest Chairman is chosen by the Host Contest Committee, and is generally responsible for arranging facilities and staffing for PCR contests, and working with the PCR Contest Manager to conduct the contests. The Convention Contest Chairman is specifically responsible for:
- Arranging rooms, furniture, equipment, etc., for PCR contests.
  - Arranging clerical staffing and security for PCR contests.
  - Arranging reimbursement for the cost of awards and other convention-related contest expenses.
  - Publicizing PCR contests in convention literature.
  - Assisting the PCR Contest Manager to recruit judges.
  - Arranging for and conducting any contests sponsored by the Host Convention Committee.
- C. The PCR Contest Committee consists of the PCR Contest Manager, the Convention Contest Chairman, and the Division Contest Chairmen. The PCR Contest Committee is responsible for:
- Coordinating PCR and Division contests and contest procedures.
  - Publicizing and promoting PCR and Division contests.
  - Advising the PCR Contest Manager and Board of Directors.
- D. Event Chairmen are appointed by the PCR Contest Manager as needed to arrange and conduct Photography, Locomotive Performances, and Switching Contests, and the PCR Contest Manager will determine their duties.

- E. The Head judge will be appointed by the PCR Contest Manager for the duration of each convention, and is responsible for:
- Direct supervision of judging.
  - Deciding ties.
  - Resolving technical issues in consultation with the PCR Contest Manager.
- F. All contest judges shall be NMRA members in good standing.

### *III. Entry requirements*

- A. NMRA members in good standing may enter all PCR contests with the following exceptions:
- Commercial model builders may not enter model contests.
  - Commercial photographers may not enter photography contests.
- Commercial model builders and photographers are those who derive more than half their income from those activities.
- B. Anyone in the age groups specified may enter Youth or Teen contests, regardless of NMRA membership:
- Youth contests: Under thirteen years old.
  - Teen contests: Thirteen through seventeen years old.
- C. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed PCR entry form and score sheet (see appendix), or substitutes acceptable to the Contest Manager.
- D. Proxy entries will be accepted.
- E. Entries that have won First Place in a PCR or NMRA contest may not be entered again.
- F. There will be no limits on the number of entries other than those specified elsewhere in this directory. There will be no entry fees.
- G. Neither PCR nor the Host Committee or their officers assume any responsibility for loss or damage to an entry.

H. By entering, entrants agree to abide by PCR rules and procedures.

#### *IV. Contest Sponsorship*

A. PCR will sponsor all awards for contests described in this directory:

- Trophy or plaque for Best of Show, Levity, and Ingenuity Awards.
- Trophy or plaque and blue ribbon for first place; red ribbon for second place; white or gold ribbon for third place; and green ribbon for honorable mention.

B. The PCR Contest Manager will arrange for the supply of trophies, plaques, awards, and engraving for PCR Contests.

C. The Host Convention Committee is responsible for all PCR contest award expenses. Neither PCR nor the Host Convention Committee will solicit or accept donations for awards or contest sponsorship of PCR Contests.

D. There will be a Popular Vote contest for Models, Crafts and Photography. The ballot for this contest will be provided by the convention organizing committee and will be included in the registration packet for each registered attendee. Facilities will be provided in the contest room for attendees to deposit these ballots. The voting of these awards will be closed when regular contest judging begins.

E. The PCR Contest Manager will conduct no other contests or authorize any other awards. The Host Committee may sponsor other contests. The Convention Contest Chair is responsible for all aspects of such contests.

#### *V. Model Contests*

A. The model contest includes five classes and nine categories. Each entry must specify one class and one category on the entry form. There is no limit on the number of entries per person. Each entry can have only one entrant and only the work of that entrant will be judged. Additional documentation may accompany the score sheet, but judges are not required to consult it.

B. The model contest includes these five classes:

1. Open: Anyone who fulfills the entry requirements in Section III may enter the Open class.
  2. Kit: Anyone who fulfills the entry requirements in Section III may enter the kit class if the model is kit-built, kit-bashed, or cross-kitted. A kit entry is generally defined as one built using components, packaged together for commercial sale, although the entrant may modify or supplement such components.
  3. Novice: Anyone who fulfills the entry requirements in Section III and has not previously been awarded (a) more than 87 points in the contest category being entered, (b) more than 100 points in any model contest category, or (c) a model contest Best of Show may enter the Novice class.
  4. Teen: Anyone 13 through 17 years old may enter the Teen class.
  5. Youth: Anyone under 13 years old may enter the Youth class.
- C. There are nine model contest categories:
1. Steam Locomotive: All types of steam locomotives. Entries must be powered.
  2. Diesel and Other Locomotives: All locomotives except steam or traction, including heavy electric locomotives. Entries must be powered; multiple-unit entries must have at least one unit powered.
  3. Passenger car: All types of cars in passenger service other than cabooses, traction or maintenance of way.
  4. Freight car: All types of revenue freight cars, including express and company service cars other than M of W.
  5. Caboose: All types of cabooses, including M of W.
  6. Maintenance of Way: All types of non-revenue equipment not included in categories 3-5 above, all types of trackwork, all types of non-revenue railroad off-track vehicles.
  7. Structures: All structures, other than trackwork, without significant scenery. Scenery, if any, is not judged.
  8. Displays: All dioramas or groups of models with significant scenery.

9. Traction and Self-Propelled Cars: Self-propelled cars, and all models of electrically powered equipment except heavy electric. Models must be powered; multiple-unit entries must have at least one unit powered.

Examples:

- A reefer in express, freight, or company service goes in Freight Car; in M of W service or company service it goes in M of W.
  - A sawmill without a pond goes in Structures; a sawmill with a pond goes in Display.
  - A powered interurban car goes in Traction and Self-Propelled Cars; a non-powered interurban trailer goes in Passenger Car.
  - An office or business car goes in Passenger Car; a high-rail inspection truck goes in M of W.
  - An interurban freight motor goes in Traction and Self-Propelled Cars; a GG1 heavy electric goes in Diesel and Other Locomotives.
- D. Judges and a Head Judge for the model contest will be selected by the PCR Contest Manager for each convention. Entrants may serve as judges, but may not judge a category in which they are entered. Judging will be conducted according to the Judging Guidelines in Appendix C. Judges will consider only work performed by the entrant.
- E. Judges are organized in teams of two or three for each of the judging factors (Construction, Detail, Conformity, Finish, Scratch Building) and judge all entries on that factor. All models in each category will be judged together, without regard for scale or entry class, except for differences specified in the Judging Guidelines. Judging will be conducted in the contest room, with exceptions for large displays or instances determined by the PCR Contest Manager.
- F. The Best of Show will be given to the most outstanding entry. The Best of Show award will preclude a place award in the winners' category and the other places in that category will be adjusted accordingly. The Ingenuity Award will be given for the entry with the most ingenious or innovative features, construction methods, or materials. The winner of the Ingenuity

Award must provide the PCR newsletter editor with a written description of the model's winning features. The Levity Award will be given for the most humorous entry. The winner must provide the Levity Award for the next year's winner. The Best of Show, Ingenuity, and Levity Award winners will be chosen by the PCR Contest Manager, or by judges he or she designates. The PCR Contest Manager will determine the method of selection.

## VI. *Module (Portable Layout) Contest*

- A. The Portable Layout contest is open to anyone who fulfills the requirements of section III. Entries may include:
- Portable layouts including small layouts, switching layouts, or layouts composed of non-interchangeable sections.
  - Interchangeable layout modules.
  - Other types of portable layouts or layout sections as determined by the PCR Contest Manager.
- B. There may be six classes in the portable layout contest:
- Individual: Entries on which one person did all the work.
  - Group: Entries on which work was done by more than one person.
  - Teen Individual: Entries on which all work was done by one teen.
  - Teen Group: Entries on which work was done by more than one teen.
  - Youth Individual: Entries on which all work was done by one youth.
  - Youth Group: Entries on which work was done by more than one youth.
- C. The PCR Contest Manager will select Judges for the Portable Layout Contest. Entries will be judged in accordance with factors explained in the entry forms (Appendix A). Where portable layout entries have factors in common with the Model Contest, The Model Contest Judging Guidelines (Appendix C) may be used to supplement the entry forms. Only the work of the entrant(s) will be judged. Rolling stock on the entry will not be judged.

## **VII. *Switching Contest***

- A. The Switching Contest gives entrants a chance to exhibit operating skills in solving switching problems set up on a "Time Saver" switching layout. The Switching Contest is open to anyone who fulfills the requirements of Section III and to additional entrants as determined by the PCR Contest Manager or the Switching Contest Event Chairman.
- B. Rules, entry forms, and switching problems will be created by the Switching Contest Event Chairman.
- C. Entry classes, scoring, and awards will be also determined by the Switching Contest Event Chairman.

## **VIII. *Photo Contest***

- A. The Photo Contest includes the Print Contest, which is conducted and judged separately. Anyone who fulfills the requirements of Section III may enter the photo contest.
- B. Prints entered for judging:
  - Must have an image size of at least 5 x 7 inches and at most 8 x 12 inches.
  - Must be mounted on a rigid mounting board at least 11 x 14 inches and at most 12 x 16 inches.
  - Must not be framed or mounted under glass.
  - Must be accompanied by the PCR Print Contest Entry Form (Appendix A).

An entrant may enter a maximum of three prints in any one category, and a maximum of six prints in total. The entrant must have exposed the original negative.

- C. The Print Contest has seven categories:
  1. Model Black & White: black & white prints of model subjects.



2. Model Color: color prints of model subjects.
  3. Trains in Action: color prints of available-light images of prototype railroad equipment in motion.
  4. Track and Structures: color prints of available-light images of prototype railroad track, right-of-way features, or structures.
  5. Working on the Railroad: Color prints of railroad workers in the performance of their duties while working on the railroad. This includes employees of common carrier and private railroads as well as employees and volunteers at railroad museums, but is restricted to full size (12"=1') railroads regardless of track gauge.
  6. General Rail Subjects: color prints of prototype railroad-related subjects not covered in 3 through 5 above. These may include, but are not limited to, images of people (except as covered in Section 5 above), isolated details, or rolling stock; flash-assisted or special effects images; and composite or multiple-exposure images. Computer enhancement beyond what could normally be done in the darkroom is not allowed. If there is any question on this, the region Contest Chair will make the final decision.
  7. Display: Railroad-related prints of all kinds that are displayed in the photo contest room but are not judged.
  8. Special Event: an optional category that may be opened by the Print Contest Event Chairman for entries on a special theme, such as a recent photogenic event. Special events must be announced in the PCR newsletter before the convention.
- D. Procedures for Print Contest judging and selection of award winners, including Best of Show, will be determined by the Print Contest Event Chairman.
- E. By entering, the entrant grants reproduction rights to the PCR newsletter without compensation. The Slide Contest Best of Show winner is usually published in the NMRA calendar, also without compensation.

## ***IX. Arts and Crafts***

- A. Categories. Each entry shall be placed in a single category as follows:

1. General (*any non-needlework art of craft: e.g., painting, drawing, sculpture, woodcarving, photo montage, etc.*)

- a. Kit Built (commercially available kit; includes plans/instructions and materials)
- b. Pattern (existing plans/instructions; entrant acquires materials separately)
- c. Original (entrant's own design)

2. Railroadiana

- a. Kit Built (same as General Kit Built, except entry must have a railroad motif)
- b. Pattern (same as General Pattern, except entry must have a railroad motif)
- c. Original (same as General Original, except entry must have a railroad motif)

3. Needlework

- a. Kit Built (same as General Kit Built, except entry is type of needlework - e.g. knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc.)
- b. Pattern (same as General Pattern, except entry is type of needlework - e.g. knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc.)
- c. Original (same as General Original, except entry is type of needlework - e.g. knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, etc.)

(Note: Quilting and sewing are included in the "General" category, rather than the "Needlework" category. Any quilting or sewing entry with a railroad theme may also be entered in the "Railroadiana" category.)

## B. Awards

Awards shall be given for first, second and third place in each category and sub-category:

- General - Original
- General - Pattern
- General - Kit
- Railroadiana - Original
- Railroadiana - Pattern
- Railroadiana - Kit

- Needlework - Original
- Needlework - Pattern
- Needlework - Kit

The awards shall be based on the total number of points assigned to each entry by the Arts and Crafts division judges. The item scoring the most points overall in Arts and Crafts shall receive the Marion Madsen Memorial Arts and Crafts "Best of Show" Award. (As with the other contest divisions, the Best of Show winner will be counted separately and the item with the next-highest point total in that category will become the first-place winner.)

Honorable mentions shall be awarded to all entries receiving at least 87-1/2 points which are not selected as first-, second- or third-place winners in their respective categories.

### C. Judges

Judges for the Arts and Crafts division may be judges for other contest divisions as well, or they may choose to judge Arts and Crafts only. Judges who have entered the Arts and Crafts contest may judge entries in any category and sub-category other than those in which they have entered.

Each entry will include a copy of the General Entry Form and a copy of the official Arts and Crafts scoring sheet, so the judges can make their comments and award the appropriate number of points in each section.

The Arts and Crafts entries are judged on the following criteria:

- Correct Execution (maximum 50 points)
- Difficulty (maximum 30 points)
- Finishing (maximum 25 points)
- Neatness (maximum 20 points)

Any questions on judging will be resolved using the standard contest procedures followed by the PCR.