

THE CALLBOARD

OF THE REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION



January – March 2002

All Railroad enthusiasts are welcome to enjoy an afternoon of model railroading fun on Sunday, February 24th.

There is no charge to attend.

February Meeting

at
Napa Valley Northern RR
Napa

NMRA standards and has properly aligned Kadee couplers. The decision on any questions will be at the discretion of the Napa Club.

The RED business meeting will include the election of a new division Director. A ballot is included for RED members with this CALLBOARD issue.

Napa Club member RICH HELLER will present a clinic entitled “Kit Bashing and Super Detailing” which will discuss Rich’s ideas and techniques for altering and cross-kiting steam locomotives.

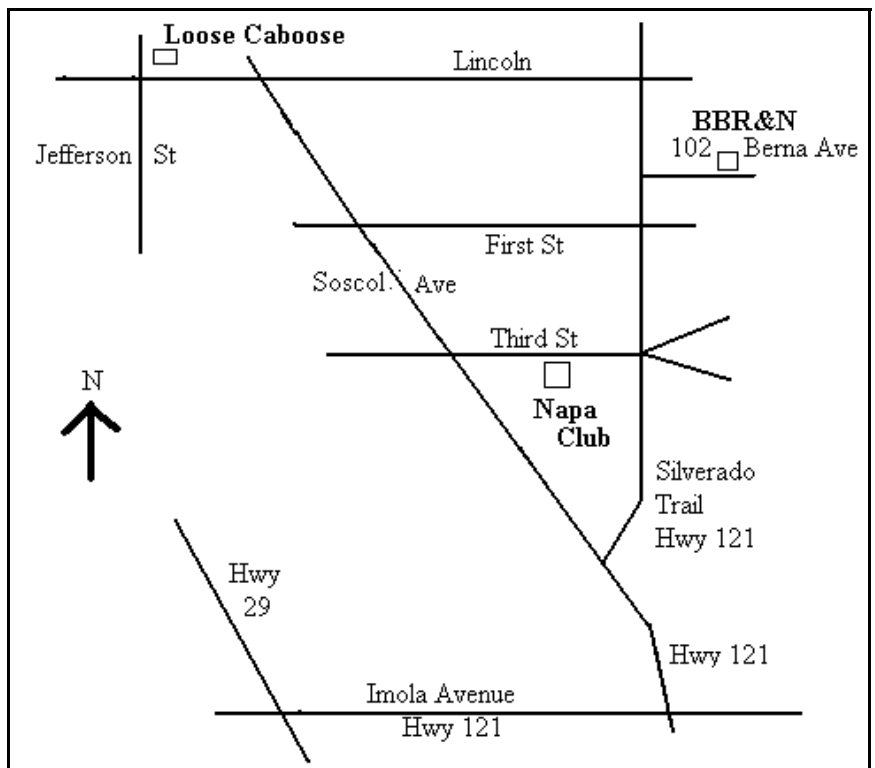
As usual, everyone will get a free door prize ticket. If you are wear-

(Continued on page 3)

The annual business meeting of the Redwood Empire Division will be held in Napa on Sunday February 24 starting at 1 PM. The hosts for this meet will be the Napa Valley Model Railroad Club, operators of the Napa Valley Northern Railroad. They are located in Napa on the grounds of the Town & Country Fairgrounds at the Third Street gate.

Doors open at noon so come and enjoy SHIRLY MENTZER’s great sandwiches, brownies, cookies and coffee. The club usually sells cold sodas as well.

The Napa Club invites you to bring your pet locomotives and rolling stock. The only requirement is that the equipment meets



STAFF ROSTER**DIRECTOR**

Gus Campagna
323 Willow Av. Corte Madera, CA 94925
(415) 924-4992
E-mail: campgus@earthlink.net

SUPERINTENDENT

Howard Brown
2321 Sunrise Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95405
(707) 578-7167
E-mail: howardb@sonic.net

CHIEF CLERK

Pat Boyle
6425 Vine Hill Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472
(707) 576-7605
E-mail: patnt@sonic.net

CONTESTS

Open

MEMBERSHIP

Mike McSween
2033 McSween Lane, Petaluma, CA 94954
(707) 762-8585

TRAIN SHOWS

John Leins
731 San Marco, Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 422-8266

LAYOUT TOURS

Open

NOMINATIONS

Open

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Harold Mentzer
102 Berna Avenue, Napa, CA 94559
(707) 226-5153
E-mail: Gramashrly@aol.com

ESTATE COUNSELOR

Don Clauder
305 Garfield Park, Santa Rosa CA, 95409
(707) 539-3510

CALLBOARD EDITOR

John Rolston
240 Chase St., Sonoma CA, 95476
(707) 938-5478
E-mail: jrolston@pacbell.net

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BY GUS CAMPAGNA

Hopefully you got to the SCMRS layout before it closed. I had a great time running trains with DAVE GIBBONS.

Since we are decreasing the number of meets this year, the next one will be our yearly business meeting. Please use the ballot in this issue and vote for our new Director. Even an unopposed candidate wants reassurance from the members they are representing. Also, please think about running next year for the offices of Superintendent or Chief Clerk; this division is only as good as WE make it. Meanwhile we still need a nominations chairman and a contests chairman - you only need to volunteer for a year on the job. Give me a call if you are interested.

I wrote an article for the BRANCH LINE about satellite clinics. If you would be interested in hosting one in your area, let me know and I'll help to set it up and coordinate the Division's role. Basically, the idea is like the Coast Division's 'In Home Clinics'. The Division could sponsor a clinic in a remote area such as the North Coast or Western Sonoma Coast, Marin County or the Vacaville/Fairfield area. It would not be a full-fledged division meet, but an abbreviated one with a clinic and short program. It could be held on a weeknight as well, since it would likely only last 1½ to 2 hours.

About the BRANCH LINE: it has a new editor and has been sent to the printer (hopefully you will have received it by now). BILL KAUFMAN, a RED member, is the new editor and he is looking for articles for the next one due out in late March. You can e-mail Bill at whk58@pacbell.net with an article or a schedule update for your favorite event. Also send him a note about what you like or dislike about the BRANCH LINE.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Napa on February 24th.

**From the
SUPERINTENDENT**

BY HOWARD BROWN

Is it worth it? This question keeps popping up in my mind. I have just received my renewal notice from the NMRA.. It, of course, contains the new dues rate schedule. I've read all the comments from the powers that be about why the dues had to be raised and, to be honest, I'm not sure I agree with any of them. I really don't have enough information to make an intelligent decision on whether it was necessary. The only thing I can do is look at my own personal situation. I've done some serious and, I hope, objective thinking about what value the NMRA is to me. I've been a member for almost 30 years (why I never became a life member I don't know) and have never been unhappy with the dues structure. I've always felt I got my money's worth. I'll admit that for a few years I felt the Bulletin was fairly worthless but the NMRA itself served a very important purpose. As I attempted to review the dues I could come to only one conclusion: the organization has more than fulfilled what I feel is it's primary reason for existing (standards) and I expect it to continue doing so for quite some time to come. I'm sure all of us have, at one time or another, found reasons for being dissatisfied with specific individuals in the organization but, considering the organization as a whole, I can find very little to fault.

My "hobby" money is near and dear to me. I have a great many interests and all could gobble up any spare change I might have. My question is, as stated in the first line of this article, "Is it worth it"? My answer is an unequivocal YES. All of us (except life members) must decide for themselves. Good luck with your pondering.

(RED February Meeting
1) Continued from page

ing your Division name badge, it will be worth an additional free ticket, as will bringing a model (any freight equipment) for the contest display.

Tickets can be purchased (3 for each dollar) for the special door prize, which will be a \$25.00 gift certificate donated by **The Loose Caboose Hobbies** store in Napa. Their location is 2412 Jefferson St., just north of Lincoln Ave., across from the Napa High School. The phone number is (707) 258-1222. The **Loose Caboose** has a good selection of railroad supplies covering N through G scale. They will be open on Sunday from Noon to 5 PM, so drop by and say hello to RAY DAHLGREN and his crew and thank them for the day's special door prize.

To finish off the day, HAROLD MENTZER's home HO Gauge railroad layout, the *Bellena Bay Railway & Navigation Co.*, will be open from 4 to 6 PM. The BBR&N is located at 102 Berna Ave., just a few blocks from the Fairgrounds, off Silverado Trail, a block north of First Street.

The BBR&N is set in turn of the century Northern California. The road runs from Bellena Bay, a niche in the towering bluffs of the Northern Humboldt coast, to the Southern Pacific line at Redding in the Sacramento Valley. The layout covers only the western portion of the railroad from Bellena Bay to Alta at the summit of the Coastal Range.

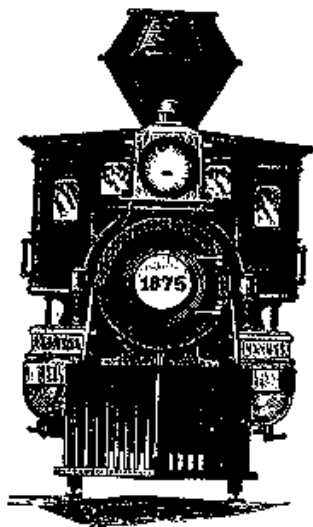
The layout has been designed for timetable operation using a car-

card system. The line uses a block control and incorporates four mainline throttles. The layout still has a number of structures yet to be built and has only rudimentary scenery. Also under construction is a 3 ft. narrow gauge line, the Loranine City & Williamsbur RR, connecting the gold diggings on the New River with the mill at Loraine City.

The BBR&N was completed in the late 1880s to move lumber and local products east and west, as well as trans ship British Columbia coal from colliers at Bellena Bay to the SP laying track up through Northern California into Oregon. By the late 190s the BBR&N was at its zenith with a connecting line being built south to form a link with Eureka.

Everyone is welcome following the RED meet.

Refer to the map on page 1 which shows the Napa Club, Loose Caboose Hobbies and BBR&N layout tour locations. We hope to see you on Sunday February 24 before 1 PM.



CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT BY PAT BOYLE

The November 2001 meeting of the Redwood Empire Division was hosted by the Sonoma County Model Railroad Society (SCMRS). RED members were able to take a close look at the SCMRS layout and facilities before the group packs up and finds a new home at the end of their January lease.

Everyone had a good time running trains on the club layout. A door prize drawing had to be announced to coax people away from the rails.

DAVID GIBBONS from SCMRS presented "Atheam Diesel Locomotive Maintenance and Upgrade". The hands-on clinic stressed improving operational reliability and performance with some low-cost solutions that modelers can perform themselves. The majority of the strategies sought to provide high-quality electrical connections throughout the mechanism. The excellent handout gave a comprehensive guide to upgrading with your own Atheam diesels.

BOB MOUNTJOY updated everyone on the plans for Shasta Daylight 2002. He reminded the group of the web site for this PCR Annual Spring Convention to be held in Redding May 1-5, 2002:

<http://www.toyman.ws/pcr2002/default.htm>

Thanks to SHIRLY MENTZER who provided a tempting array of sandwiches, sweets, soft drinks, and coffee for the group. Much appreciated.

The "Ancient One" BILL WILLIAMS hosted the group for a tour of the Bodega Western Railroad (B.W. RR) just down the street from the Boys and Girls Club. The builder described the B.W. RR as "...not

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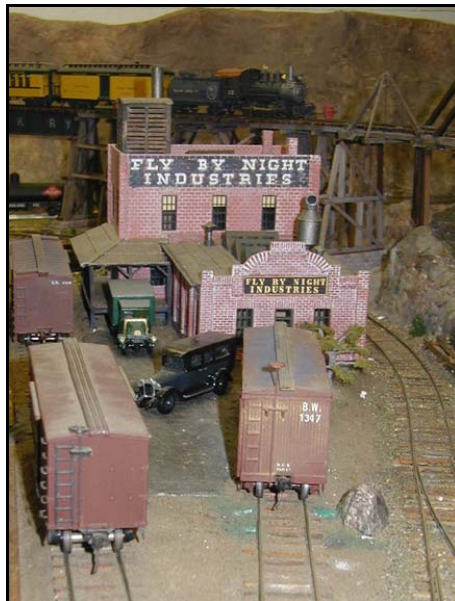
(CHIEF CLERK REPORT Continued from page 3)

elegant but it is DIFFERENT. You see stub turnouts, mixed gauge track, odd locomotives ..and more." In addition, you get see the featured turntable from his articles in the RED Callboard. Our genuine appreciation to Bill for hosting us and having wonderful exhibits and plentiful handouts for visitors..

The regular door prize winners were:
 GUS CAMPAGNA Walthers
 boxcar kit
 BILL WILLIAMS 2002 NWP
 Calendar
 STEVE SKOLD Athemn Pere
 Marquette box car
 ED McSWEEN HO SD Texaco
 tank car

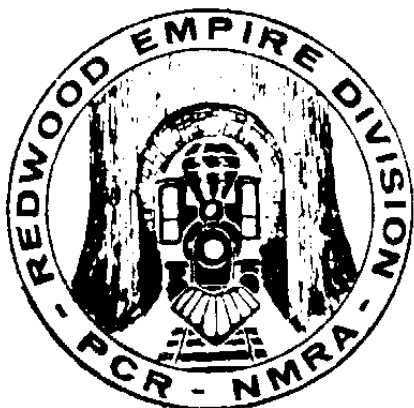
The two SPECIAL door prize winners were:
 STEVE SKOLD Trucks &Trains
 \$50 gift certificate
 SCOTT LOCKHART Three VCR
 tape set on the Great Northern.

Many thanks to OWEN SHIRWO at Trucks & Trains Hobbies & Collectibles at 4237 Montgomery Drive in Santa Rosa (707-537-6586) for his generous contribution of the special door prize gift certificate.



These photographs are from BILL WILLIAM'S B.W. RR layout including the famous turntable some of his recent THINK SMALL articles have discussed.

All photos by Pat Boyle.



THINK SMALL

An ancient one who is a great grandfather expects to field tough questions like, "What do you mean when you say 'Think Small'?" My answers can take many trails.

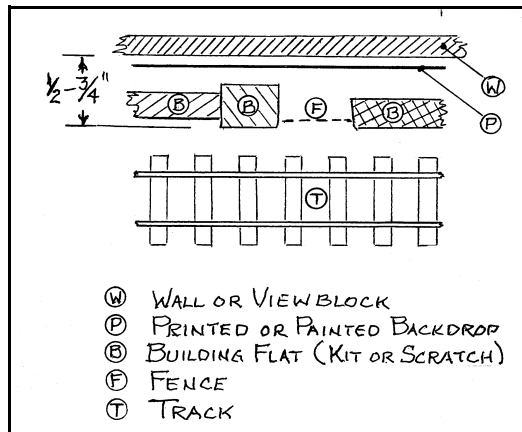
Do you like numbers? We have 22, 2, 64, 100 and 220 in addition to the more popular 48, 87 and 160. A good friend modeled in 5/12 scale - 15 inch gauge live steam. We model railroaders shrink the real world with assorted ratios but with a common goal. We hope to capture some of the emotion we have or had when railfanning the 12"=1' prototype.

The narrow gaugers are a small thinking splinter group. Models of the real trains that ran on rails just 24, 30, 36 or 39.37 inches apart have advantages. A SMALL prototype with short trains makes the available space seem bigger. Perhaps it is just an addiction. We narrow gaugers are fond of our little trains. We THINK SMALL.

Whether we fancy multiple SD 90 MACs with a 100 car train or an 0-4-0T with three cars, all of us can THINK SMALL. Many little things will improve our modules or layouts. This hobby blossomed during the 1930's depression. The post-war years of young families with big mortgages and tight budgets saw explosive growth of our hobby. Today's "financial adjustments" will not smash your hobby if you THINK SMALL.

Do you have a yard track close to a wall or back board? A smidgen of space can have great value.

Back walls of buildings and scenic



backgrounds can expand the apparent size of your module or layout. We THINK SMALL folks look for ways to minimize work and expense. A fence is much simpler and cheaper than a building. Be lazy and frugal. Use an occasional fence between buildings.

Do you have fences? In the real world fences are everywhere. The school yard is fenced, also the graveyard. I bet your back yard has a fence. Real railroads define their right of way with fences. Now look at layouts and modules. In the scale world opportunities for fence contractors abound. Model railroaders have ignored much of the need for fencing in their scale empires.

Older or seedy industrial areas common along the tracks usually have plain board fences most often built with six foot boards ten or twelve inches wide. The posts and rails are on the property owner's side. We see just the boards when looking from the cab of our locomotive. There is no need to model the clutter hidden behind the fence. We have compressed that part of our miniature world to zilch!

How do you make a plain board

fence? You are the boss. You can draw a section of fence to scale and in color. You can make color prints of real fences. Then cut to fit and paste them on your backdrop. Plain black on white prints can be stained or painted to provide cutouts for the backdrop. You can make lots of fence quickly or find buckets of hobby time as a fence builder.

We all know about making styrene look like weathered wood. If you want to expand your hobby time with this project, a single piece of plain styrene and a number eleven blade will keep you amused for several sessions. Fun time is the name of the game. Yet another option is to be a realist. You can use real wood. Either scribed wood or strip wood from the hobby shop can yield a most realistic wood fence. As is often said, "Accept no substitute. Demand the real thing!" Remember, you are the boss.

There are many other types and uses for fences along our model tracks. We can visit that on another day. I have a question for you. Are we fencing good people out of our hobby? Our membership is shrinking. New faces are scarce at our meetings. These tense times may offer opportunities to increase the ranks of model rails. This is a family hobby that need not be costly. Like it or not, you are an ambassador for the hobby. Do not fence out a possible future model rail. Tout the performance of Kato's and Stewart mechanisms verses Athearn with your buddies at the club. Your budget busting outlay for DCC control stuff is best saved for discussion with us old

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hands. That kid down the street with a Christmas train set has spent the holiday money from grandpa. Your fellow worker having problems with a balky locomotive may be wondering how to make the next mortgage payment.

Your addiction to trains is known. When a tentative question is asked, always try for the best and most helpful SMALL and LOW COST answer. A small portion of your time may reap big rewards. If asked, check the beginners track. Fix the misaligned or loose rail joiners. Use your tweezers to remove the lint from turnouts and wraps around axles. Check for loose wires. Then, demonstrate your favorite ways to clean track and wheels. If the beginner is shy, and track gauges match, an invitation to run his or her locomotive on your rails is the way to go. (I have cars with horn books on one end and KD's on the other.) Start the visit with "show and tell". Clean the wheels of their locomotive and a portion of your rails. This insurance investment for better operation reduces the need to explain poor running on your track. Hand the neophyte a throttle and let the train work its magic. You can help with hooking up a few cars and aligning the turnouts..

Sharing our hobby expands the fun. Our fences should have gates. As ambassadors we must remember to oil the hinges.

Until next time, THINK SMALL and share the fun.

Bill Williams The Ancient One

Volunteers Needed & Space Available

Volunteers are needed to work at the doors and membership table during the train show sponsored by RED at the Apple Blossom Festival in Sebastopol on April 27 & 28. Space is also available for train related endeavors. Contact John Leins at (707)422-8266. (His address is listed on page 2)

CLASSIFIED ADS

This is where we run classified ads from members to members. There will be no charge for Redwood Empire Division members to place an ad here. Non-members will be asked to pay a nominal charge of \$2.50 for each 4 lines.

Benchwork For Sale

Carpentry not your strong suit?
6' x 14' L-girder/open grid in two bolt-together 6' x 7' sections
Former home of the Cimarron Valley RR (RIP).
Mostly clear Douglas Fir, 1x4 and 1x2, lightweight but rigid.

\$100 O/B/O

Chuck Gardner (707)578-7713

chuck.gardner@worldnet.att.net



EDITOR'S NOTES:

Future CALLBOARD schedules are as follows:

April-June CALLBOARD
Staff Meeting: 7 PM, April 16
Text Deadline: April 26
Mailing: May 1
Meeting: May 19

July-September CALLBOARD
Staff Meeting: 7 PM, June 25
Text Deadline: July 5
Mailing: July 15
Meeting: August 4

October- December CALLBOARD
Staff Meeting: 7 PM, October 1
Text Deadline: October 11
Mailing: October 15
Meeting: November 3

Submit all articles, calendar items, classified, and/or comments to:

Editor, 240 Chase Street,
Sonoma, CA 95476
or send it by e-mail to:
jrolston@pacbell.net

Send address corrections to:
PCR, 530 Fig Tree Lane
Martinez, CA 94553

FULTON STATION

Home

of the

South Fulton Sipping and Switching Society
Model Railroad Supplies, Books and Antiques

HOURS:

Monday – Friday: Noon to 6:00 PM
Saturday: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday: 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM

4754 Old Redwood Highway, Suite 454
In The Larkfield Shopping Center
(Mailing address: PO Box 38)
Santa Rosa, California 95403-1408
(707) 523-3522 (Phone)

CLUB SCHEDULES

Redwood Empire Garden Railway Society, No. 1 gauge, various scales. If you are interested call Don Herzog (707) 823-3023 (please let the phone ring) or Terry Strom (707)526-0820.

The Meadows Railroad Club, HO. Meets 2nd Thursday of each month in the Atrium Theater, 1800 Atrium Parkway, Napa at 2:00 P.M. Contact Jerry White MMR at (707)253-7889.

Napa Valley Model Railroad Club, HO layout. Meets Fridays 7:30 PM at Town and Country Fairgrounds, Napa. For information call: Clubhouse (707) 253-8428 or Ron Rogers (707)224-4040 or John Rodgers (707)226-2985. www.nvmrc.org

Lake County Model Railroad Club, HO modular. Meets Tuesday at 7:00 PM in the old National Guard Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds on Martin Street, Lakeport. Call John Grutzmacher (707)279-8026 or Ron Zawerucha (707) 275-2875.

Coastal Valley Lines, HO modular. Meets 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM at Pizza Gourmet, 1415 Fulton Rd, Santa Rosa. Call Brad Squires (707) 568-4298 or Don Hanesworth (707) 823-9615 <http://home.pacbell.net/jrolston/>

Vallejo Model Railroad Club meets each Wednesday and Friday evenings, starting at 7:00 PM in the Civic Building, Solano County Fairgrounds, 900 Fairgrounds Drive off I-80 and Hwy. 37, in Vallejo. Enter via Sage Street/ Gate #1. The Club operates both HO and N scales. Information: (707)643-1809 (with answering machine) at the club.

Sonoma County Model Railroad Society. SCMRs is relocating. Contact Dave Gibbons at (707)526-2057.

Humboldt Bay & Eureka, HO layout, Eureka, CA. Contact David Berriman, P. O. Box 915 Arcata, CA 95518. (707)825-7689.

Solano Rail Rats, HO Scale For information call John Leins (707)422-8266

Bay Area S Scalers. Contact Lee Johnson at (925)943-1590.

Redwood Empire O Scale Model Railroad Club. For information call Bill Gallagher (707)584-4680

NPC Operators. On3 modelers in the North Bay area looking for members to form an operating group. Must have at least one On3 engine. Contact Steve Skold at (707)539-1782.

Mendocino Coast Model Railroad & Historical Society, a Fort Bragg area group that promotes the hobby of model railroading. Construction underway of a historically accurate layout depicting the California Western (Skunk) from Ft. Bragg to Willits. Contact Philip Miller at (707)937-3605

North Coast Live Steamers, a group, from the Fort Bragg-Willits area, that promotes the hobby of large-scale railroading and other steam related history. Contact Bill Shepard at (707)961-0329.

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders, HO Scale layout under construction. Meets each Friday evening at 7:30 P.M. at the Ferndale Fair Grounds, Ferndale, CA. Write to P O Box 950 Fortuna CA 95540 or call Ron Plies at (707)725-9063 for more information.

North Coast Narrow Gaugers
www.ncng.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 9/01
REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION (RED)
PACIFIC COAST REGION (PCR)
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION (NMRA)

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____ NMRA # (if a member): _____

I want to become a member of the Redwood Empire Division in the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA. I have checked below the type of membership I desire and have enclosed the proper amount in a check payable to PCR-NMRA.

I understand that membership in the RED/PCR requires membership in the NMRA.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RED/PCR and NMRA for one year at \$51.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> RED/PCR only (requires NMRA membership # above) at \$6.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RED/PCR and NMRA for five years at \$235.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> RED/PCR only five years (requires NMRA # above) at \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RED/PCR and NMRA affiliate at \$29.00
(No NMRA monthly <i>Bulletin</i> magazine) | <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if this is a renewal PCR #: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RED/PCR and NMRA Youth (under age 20) at \$36.00
Date of Birth: _____ | |

Life memberships in both the NMRA and RED/ PCR are available. Contact Member Services Chairman for actuarial quote. Send application form and remittance to : PCR Member Services, 530 Fig Tree Lane, Martinez, CA 94553. Please allow 3-6 weeks for processing your application.

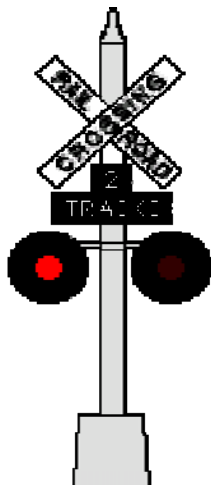
COMING DOWN THE LINE

- February 24: **Redwood Empire Division** meet in Napa.
Details are on page 1.
- March 9: **PCR Sierra Division** annual banquet, Rancho Cordova.
Contact Bob Mountjoy before 2/16 at Rfmountjoy@aol.com
- March 9 & 10: **Coastal Valley Lines** train show at Calif. Parenting
Institute Family Expo, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa.
- March 9 & 10: **GATS** train show at the Cow Palace, Daly City.
- April 27 & 28: RED sponsored **Train Show** at the Apple Blossom
Festival in Sebastopol. See add on page 6.
- April 27 & 28: **Coastal Valley Lines** train show at the Apple Blossom
Festival in Sebastopol.
- May 1- 5: **Pacific Coast Region Annual Convention** in Redding.
A registration form is in the PCR BRANCH LINE newsletter. The
PCR web site is <http://www.toyman.ws/pcr2002/default.htm>
- May 4 & 5: **Coastal Valley Lines** train show at Day Under The Oaks,
Santa Rosa Jr. College, Santa Rosa.
- May 19: **Redwood Empire Division** meet in Vallejo.
- June 1 & 2: **GATS** train show at the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds.
- July 14-19: **NMRA National Convention** in Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- August 4: **Redwood Empire Division** summer picnic in Sonoma.
- November 3: **Redwood Empire Division** meet in Santa Rosa.

If your club has an event coming up, contact the Editor for inclusion in the CALLBOARD'S **Coming Down the Line** column. **NOTE: All dates and events subject to change or cancellation. Please contact event sponsors for details and confirmation.**

Many of the art items used in this newsletter are courtesy of Ken Houghton Rail Images or came from the website

www.rrhistorical.com



Redwood Empire Division on the WWW

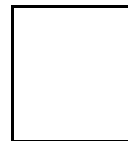
Yes, we have a home page too! Just point to <http://home.earthlink.net/~campgus/>. This location has an updated calendar (weekly) and links to other great railroad interest sites. Check it out !

COMPLEMENTARY COPY?

A complementary copy of this CALLBOARD issue is being mailed to all NMRA members who do not belong to the Redwood Empire Division (RED) and Pacific Coast Region (PCR). Also, complimentary copies are distributed to others to keep them up-to-date on local model railroading news and information. If the CALLBOARD issue you are reading is stamped **Complimentary Copy** in the mail label area below, please consider joining the RED (which includes the PCR), and the NMRA if required. A membership application is printed on page 7 and can be used for new members and renewals.

CALLBOARD

John Rolston, Editor
240 Chase Street
Sonoma, CA 95476



FIRST CLASS