



THE

CALLBOARD



OF THE REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

Visit RED at Website: <http://home.earthlink.net/~campgus/>

January—March 2009

All Railroad enthusiasts are welcome to enjoy an afternoon of model railroading fun on Saturday, February 21st.

February Meeting

at the

Napa Valley Northern RR

The next meeting of the Redwood Empire Division will be held in Napa on **Saturday** February 21st starting at 1 PM. The hosts for this meet will be the Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society, 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. Sandwiches, snacks, coffee & tea are available for purchase, furnished by MARY MOORE-CAMPAGNA, so don't fill up before you arrive.

The Napa Club invites you to bring your pet locomotives and rolling stock to run on their layout. The only requirement is that the equipment meets NMRA standards and has properly aligned Kadee type couplers. The decision on any questions will be at the discretion of the Napa Club.

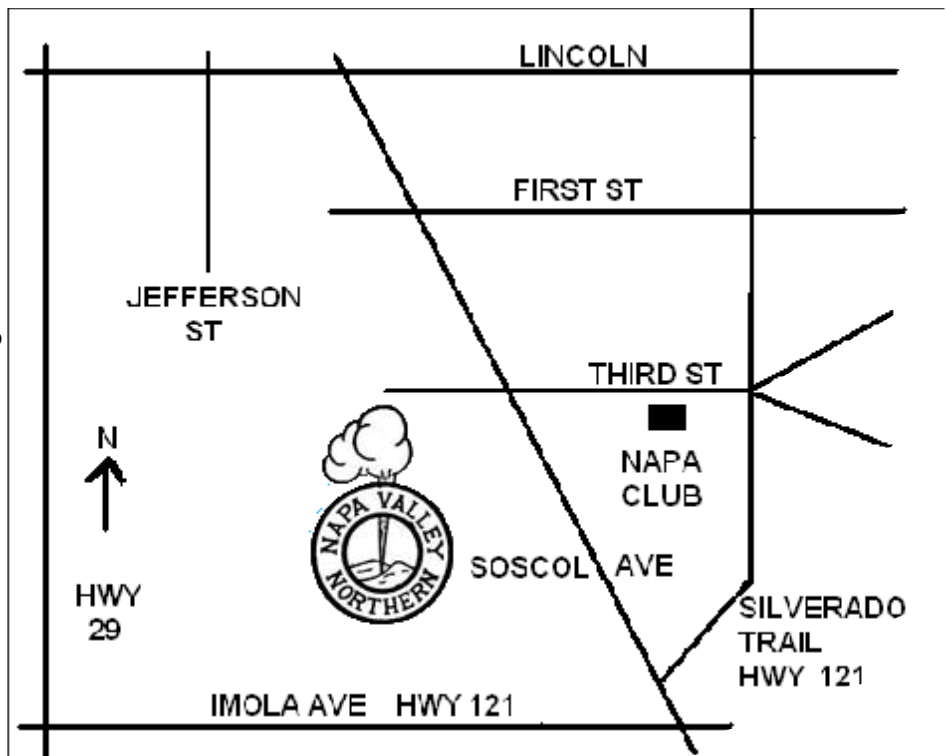
GIUSEPPE AYMAR is preparing a talk on how to get your models ready for the contest room at the next PCR convention. (See his column starting on page 4.) And afterwards, MARY MOORE-CAMPAGNA will present some tips on how to give a clinic.

A short RED business meeting will be held to accept nominations for superintendent and chief clerk.

Everyone will get a free door prize ticket. If you are wearing your Division name badge, it will be worth an

additional free ticket, as will bringing at least one guest and/or any equipment to run on the Napa Club layout. Tickets can be purchased (3 for each dollar) for the special door prizes, which will include an original framed print, by the late Don Cabrall and a gift certificate from the **Loose Caboose Hobbies** store in Napa. They are located nearby at 820 A Third St., on the Northeast corner of Soscol Ave.

We hope to see you on Saturday February 21st before 1 PM.



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**DIRECTOR'S REPORT
BY CAROL ALEXANDER**

Human beings are by nature gregarious and group oriented. We find the subset of human beings known as model railroaders to be, for the most part, squarely within this norm. They may enjoy fostering a public image of being rebels, lone wolves, or that 1% of society which doesn't fit, but their behavior tells a different story, demonstrating as strong a group orientation as any segment of the population. Plainly, model railroaders tend to hang in groups. One's railroading pals can easily become 'family', providing a comfortable familiarity which offers friendship, support and social exchange while fulfilling that deepest of all human desires, the need for belonging and identity.

That's all cool, and as it should be. The social aspects of modeling are wonderful. They are at the heart of nearly all organized railroading activities and, as such, must be respected, even nurtured and promoted.

But what if model railroading, for you, does not have this orientation? What if it does not have much to do with social behavior or meeting one's need for belonging? What if it's mostly about building models and running trains? What if you keep a beautifully modeled private world filled with mechanically perfect mechanisms for a less than social purpose? What kind of model railroader might keep such treasure so that he or she can actually get away from people rather than go toward them?

Whoa.

Well, most of us would quickly say that each modeler is entitled to model for his or her own reasons. We would not criticize this person openly, but privately we'd wonder about them. We might even take offense and reason that the solo modeler must be, well, somewhat anti-social. Or worse. Such a modeler, we might tell

ourselves, is aloof and arrogant. "Too good to hang with us regulars," would be the conclusion of still others, stated with a hint of anger.

The inner-directed personality versus the other-directed. The latter takes his or her cues from what others are doing, and sometimes, from what others might think [about them]. Maybe not all others, but certainly from those who carry some version or another of perceived social stature. Among these are the popular culture's big names, those people and lifestyles we see in the movies or elsewhere in the mainline media. We all have in our minds images of the more or less ideal person, the one who impresses us with this or that apparently rare personal attribute which we, in turn, would like to possess for ourselves. Most of us are keenly aware of the two or three images of seemingly successful or fun loving or otherwise endearing personages which we would like, at least in part, to emulate.

But the inner-directed person doesn't look at others quite that way, or think much about his or her image. They may have done so earlier in their lives, but have moved on from there. The inner-directed person is mostly into the experience, the here and the now. Their thing is either being or doing, or some combination thereof.

No man is an island. No woman is an island. Each of us, even the most independent, inner-directed loner, has need of human interaction. We were made for relationship. No matter how independent, or estranged from the popular culture one might be, there remains a compelling need to interact with other homo sapiens, others who are also on similar sojourn through this amazing life.

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(Director's Report Continued from page 2)

One of the recurring themes in our organization is that membership is dwindling; people are being sucked away by SIGS; there are too many lone wolves who only interact on the internet. Maybe. Maybe they just aren't socially motivated. Or maybe, just maybe, they don't know they're welcome. That's where you and I come in. When we find these people we have to let them know they are welcome to enjoy the social aspect of the hobby with the rest of us and if they don't want to get involved in the "politics" then, they don't have to.

We can't just depend on stumbling on to these folks either. RED doesn't do outreach, we should but we don't. There may be a lot of people in our communities that don't even know what they're missing. We need to show them. In September of 2009, RED is going to participate in a model railroad show presented in conjunction with the Annual Home Show at the Sonoma County Fair Grounds. We're going to be coming around and asking you to help by volunteering to talk to people about something you love to do for a couple of hours during the show. We won't need ticket takers, parking attendants or security people. We don't even have to pay for the space. So when someone asks you, please consider saying yes.

Happy railroading.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY STEVE SKOLD

Another year has passed and I hope everyone got the engines, cars or buildings they wanted for their layouts. I, on the other hand, received a new knee and spent most of the holidays in my recliner or doing PT. I will be getting the other new knee sometime in February, so there is a good chance I will not make the meet in Napa.

Nominations will be accepted at the Napa meeting. ED MERRIN and I will be running again in our respective offices. If anyone feels we have not done a good job, jump in and run for one of the positions. Let ED ZAKARECKIS know you are interested. Our favorite activity -show and tell - will be combined with GIUSEPPE AYMAR'S clinic on readying your models for the PCR contest in April. Giuseppe has won best of show in the past two PCR conventions and a first place at last year's NMRA convention. [Ed: See his magazine cover photos and article in the 1/09 NMRA **Scale Rails** issue.] MARY MOORE-CAMPAGNA will do a clinic on preparing clinics for conventions and other meetings.

Our May meet will be at Monroe Hall again. The RED annual meeting and election of Supt and Chief Clerk will be held. Jerry Porter, recently with PBL, will present a clinic on layout design, featuring the NWP. There is a possibility that we can visit the layout he designed in Sebastopol and see how it translated into an operating layout. The summer meet will be the usual picnic and we are considering Ft. Bragg or Fortuna. Let us know if you have any alternate ideas. We could make the Ft. Bragg picnic into a weekend and include a train ride on the California Western. We are also looking at Lakeport for our Fall meeting, when the temperatures will not be prohibitive.

Don't forget the upcoming PCR Convention, April 15-19 in Fremont. The current issue of the **Branch Line** has the registration and hotel information. There will be extra fare trips to the Niles Canyon including a train ride and speeder rides.

Finally, there is a new hobby magazine, the Model Railroad Hobbyist which is unique in that 1) it is free and 2) it is on-line. The website is: <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com> To get the full effect, your computer needs to have Adobe Reader 9. With this version, you can see short videos and other unusual effects by moving your cursor around.



CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT

BY DR. ED MERRIN

Hi everyone, it's time for my quarterly report to you all. I won't dwell on our slowly diminishing finances this time, but I do want to remind you all that at some point we need to raise funds. And to do so will require some degree of active participation from members. Just a reminder/nudge.

This time we're going to talk about the past and the future. The past was our last meet at Monroe Hall on Saturday, November 15th. Things went pretty smoothly, as those of you who attended know. We had 24 registered at the meeting, which is about what we have on average. There were a number of important announcements and reports, including PCR president RON PLIES and Director CAROL ALEXANDER on PCR board business and future PCR conventions. MARY MOORE-CAMPAGNA discussed Railfair, and TERRY STROM obtained a commitment for RED to start becoming involved in the annual Homeshow staged at the Santa

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(CLERK'S REPORT Continued from page 3)

Rosa Fairgrounds. DICK COUDEN, wearing his hat from Coastal Valley Lines, pitched the upcoming Hobby Expo 2009 at the Petaluma Community Center. Unfortunately it takes place on the same day as our next RED winter meet (see below).

Lots of people - STU BENSON, JIM NIGHTINGALE, HART CORBETT, JOHN ROLSTON (twice!), RON KAISER, MORRIS BUDGE, RON PLIES (TWICE!), MARY MOORE-CAMPAGNA, and visitor Bob Korte - went away happy with door prizes. There were two special door prizes; one was a beautiful framed color print by John Coker of Sumpter Valley Railroad articulated locomotive #25101, won by our visitor from Redwood City, Bob Korte. The other was Mike Schafer's book, "Classic American Railroads," filled with excellent color photographs of our favorite photographic subject, trains, won by Jim Nightingale.

Finally, we had a little seminar/clinic on culverts by HAROLD MENTZER. In case you didn't know, culverts keep your tracks from washing away, and yet most of us forget to put them into our plans when we build our layouts. Harold seems to know about these things, as well as bridges and anything else that has to get engineered into a railroad. Perhaps that's why his layout, the famed Bellena Bay Railway & Navigation Co. has so many bridges and - of course - culverts on it.

Now for the future. We have our winter meeting coming up inside the Quonset hut filled up by the Napa

Valley Model Railroad Historical Society. We have a full slate of activities planned, including clinics, show and tell, and the ever-popular free prizes. But before we get to all that, we need to consider some important RED business planned for the meet.

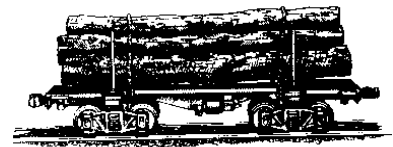
Once again, its nomination time for the offices of Superintendent and Chief Clerk. Superintendent Skold and I are certainly willing to stand for re-election, if someone is gracious enough to nominate us. Usually, the pattern in recent years has been for one nominee (hopefully) for each office and contested elections are a rarity. If that's the way it is again, so be it. But here's a thought. Who's on the bench in case someone can no longer serve?

This brings us back to another future topic, the aging of the membership in RED, PCR and everything else. It seems like every month brings more news of members who are ill or who have passed away. Ideally, we should have younger members who are grabbing the torch or who are being mentored so that they can fill offices in the future. As you all know, this just doesn't happen enough. So this is yet another call (I'm sure you've been badgered about this before) to be more active. Don't just sit in meetings and let someone else do it all for you. Don't ask what RED can do for you, but what you can do for RED. (Insert applause here)

Okay, I'm done with the soapbox. Besides the nominations, which will be coordinated by ED ZAKARECKIS, our Nomination Committee chairman, there are two clinics scheduled. GIUSEPPE AYMAR is preparing a talk

on how to get your models ready for the contest room at the upcoming PCR convention "Rails Across the Bay" in Fremont this April. He should know given his success as a winner. Must be the practice he gets chiseling away at teeth. Then, MARY MOORE-CAMPAGNA will give us some advice on how to give a clinic. I admire her for sticking her neck out on this one. Everyone will be watching to see if she follows her own advice!

That's it for this time. If you have any comments or questions, hit me with them in Napa.



CONTEST/DISPLAY REPORT

BY GIUSEPPE AYMAR

It never fails. *Sooner or later it will happen to you.* This is a Law of Nature that governs humanities daily living. It measures up not to the scale of the infamous Murphy's Law, which states: "*anything that can go wrong, will go wrong*". No, the law I am talking about is only a lowly cousin of Murphy's Law. Much less in stature, much less arrogant than Murphy's. Yet, being that it is classified a Law of Nature, it always rings true. Well, this Law has finally arrived at my doorsteps.

The preacher, each Sunday, enlightens his congregation with all that is **proper**, teaches how to be and stay good, over and over, week after week. Now this same preacher, after faltering on his own, has to repent and ask for forgiveness from the very same congregation. I am not a preacher of Devine words, but I have been preaching for a while to all of

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Holy moly!!! Is this really true?**BY GIUSEPPE AYMAR**

Today we delight ourselves with wonderful model trains from Kato and Shinohara. We marvel at the high-speed bullet trains and their sophistication. We import all makes of cars and electronic products. Everyday our lives are touched by items made in Japan.

But have you ever wondered (rhetorical question) where and when it all started? What was the seed, at the very beginning, that created this huge tide of exports from Japan to the U.S.?

Stay tuned and keep on reading; the answer will surprise you as it surprised me.

Japan, once a faraway land engulfed in mystery, a feudal system with fierce Samurai warriors defending and dispensing the laws of the land, was ruled by a long line of Emperors. Until the middle of the nineteenth century (circa 1850, around the time of our Civil War) Japan was still an isolated society, with hardly any commercial ties with the outside world due to its edict of debarring foreigners. The Portuguese (once a mighty seagoing power themselves) came and traded with Japan on a limited basis. The Dutch followed, but unfortunately were unable to continue sending ships to the Far East due to the political instability in Europe (following the French Revolution) and the capturing of their vessels by hostile British Man-of-War vessels. At this time, the United States of America had no diplomatic nor business relations with Japan.

Now, I am not a scholar of history, nor do I want to present myself as a fanatic researcher of historical facts. No, no. This bit of trivia that helped open the door to commercial trading between Japan and the U.S. just flatly landed on my lap. Period. I do believe in fate (and the little train that could). Again, keep on reading.

It was the evening of Christmas eve 2008, when magical things happen to all good boys and girls (and I was a fairly good boy, I believe). While waiting to be called for our Holiday dinner, traditionally inspired by our centuries old Northern Tuscany dishes, one would find me browsing through the hundreds of beautifully bound volumes in my sister's richly appointed library. Many of the books relate to the arts of Japan, China and Korea dealing with architecture, furniture, jade, snuff bottles etc. One book, in particular, called to me, titled: **The Japanese Influence in America** by Clay Lancaster with an introduction by Alan Priest (the well known former curator of Far Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art). It called to me because the title is counter to what I always perceived as



the norm, basically American influence on Japan (especially post WWII). I quickly read the introduction and while scrolling a few pages, I landed on page eighteen. Here, one finds an almanac of the beginnings of relations between Japan and the United States.

In the year of our Lord 1852, President Fillmore commissioned Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry to engage in talks with Japan with the scope of opening one or more ports for re-supplying fuel to coal burning vessels , for trade and to offer protection to American seamen . This mission did not end with a resounding success, but both parties agreed to meet again. On his second visit on March 31, 1854, Commodore Perry signed the Treaty of Peace, Amity and Commerce, granting Americans trading rights at the two ports of Shimoda and Hakodate.

During this second visit, gifts were exchanged between the two nations. Japan bestowed the United States with a collection of lacquers, porcelain and costumes now preserved in the Smithsonian Institution of the United States National Museum.

The United States presented Japan three main gifts (now remember, this was a very important and crucial mission in the eyes of Washington). The very first gift was a model railroad locomotive, tender and carriage, for which a circular track was laid. The train is reported to have swept round and round with great rapidity, to the astonishment of the beholders Other gifts were an electric telegraph apparatus and a daguerreotype camera that produced pictures, without the use of a pencil to create an image.

Understand the point here: at the very genesis of diplomatic and commercial relations between these two countries, a model train was at the very heart of diplomacy. The very first gift was a model train, not the telegraph nor the camera

Canon, Fuji, Toshiba, Nintendo, Toyota, Honda, Nissan owe their gratitude to this model train that swept round and round with great rapidity.

The moral of the story? When people smile at us, snickering “Oh, you play with toy trains?”, go ahead, puff your chest, lift your head high, knowing that these little trains were the reason we can now avail ourselves of so many imported products.

The little train that could was a mighty train, indeed.

We could look at the gift of the little train as a prelude to our own ceremonial tradition of giving a train for Christmas and how this gift introduced us eventually to this great hobby. And, it set us on the road to another type of commerce: buying trains.

(CONTEST/DISPLAY REPORT Cont'd from page 4)

you to please bring models to the Red Division meetings for Show and Tell. I have given you reasons why **this** is important and why we need to participate at these meetings.

Thus it is that **now** I must ask for your forgiveness. Call it dementia, call it old age creeping in, call it what you want. But I totally messed up the date of our last Division meeting. Sure, I showed up at the correct time but a day late. At first, being the only one present, I was very disappointed **nobody else had** showed up, for we had a very interesting agenda, but **then**, when I realized that neither STEVE SKOLD nor HAROLD MENTZER, our keynote speaker, were present, a funny feeling of uneasiness started pervading my stomach. A quick look at my daily planner and, oh my golly!! I walked home with my tail dragging; my wife, seeing the look on my face immediately asked what's wrong? A succinct explanation of the facts ensued. At least I got a hot choco-

late out of this senility moment. So, please forgive me and be patient with me, since you can bet your bottom **dollar** that I will make the next meeting no matter what.

Let us talk what we will be doing at the contest/display level. Given that the PCR Regional Convention is next April (a mere three months away) and that many of you will be attending, I believe it will be wonderful if each one of us **will** bring a model to display at the contest room. I know that the fear of being judged or the prospect of filling out what appears to be tedious forms puts a break on many resolves. So, let's do this: I will be giving a short, concise and easy clinic at the meeting on:

- * [how to fill out those pesky forms](#)
- * [how the model is really judged.](#)
(If you bring your model, I'll help with a mock judging.)

That should take away the fear and should **make you** feel good about your model. So, what if it does not score first place honors? There will be many attendees who will be looking and admiring your creation and

will be voting for their choice of the best entry.

In my last column, I spoke of being a participant and not a spectator. Well, here is your chance. Remember that cousin of Murphy's Law? Sooner or later it will happen to you. That same law however also works on the positive side of nature. It means that if you try and try and do not give up, good things are bound to happen. Guaranteed!!!

Start this year by participating and stacking the odds in your favor. Let us do it, and let us do it wisely and intelligently. Let us learn what it takes to show a good model and how to present it to the public and the judges, so that it can be judged fairly and receive the accolades our models deserve. Come to the meeting, bring your model(s) and bring your positive attitude. If you do, you will reward yourself with new vigor. Let us show the rest of the PCR what RED has to offer. I know we have a **great group** of quality modelers, as of now **still** undiscovered.

As I like to say: **Go RED, Go RED!**

Redwood Empire Garden Railway Society (REGRS), No. 1 gauge, various scales. If you are interested call Ken Brody at (707)526-0195 or email westie@sonic.net

Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society, HO layout. Meets Fridays 7:30 PM at Napa Fairgrounds, 575 Third St., 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 layout. Meets Wednesday at 7:00PM in the old National Guard Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds on Martin Street, Lakeport. Call Mike Ernst at (707)263-4949

Coastal Valley Lines, HO modular. Meets 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at Sam's For Play Café,

CLUB SCHEDULES

2630 Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa. Call Brad Squires (707) 568-4298 or Don Hanesworth 823-9615

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

NPC Operators. An On3 operating group meets one Sunday each month. Contact Steve Skold (707)539-1782 or email sandcskold@att.net

Redwood Empire Live Steamers. A new group is forming with the goal to build a 7 1/2 inch track facility in a local park. For information, call Don or Ann Bruner Welch at (707)578-4414 or write to PO Box 4594, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
www.redwoodempirels.org

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

Mendocino Coast Model Railroad & Historical Society is running its G-scale layout in the botanical gardens at Fort

Bragg. This outdoor operation will ultimately expand trackage to cover 6100 sq. feet. The group meets at 1:00 PM on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Contact Phil 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. Meets each Friday evening at 7:30 P.M. at the Humboldt Co. Fair Grounds, Ferndale, CA. Write to P O Box 950 Fortuna CA 95540 or contact Ron Plies at (707)725-9063 or email rlplies@cox.net for more information. www.eelrivervalleyrr.org

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

Permanent clip-on RED nametags are available for \$8.00 each. Please order yours from Chief Clerk Ed Merrin at the next RED meeting or contact him using any of the methods listed on page 2.

FREE MAGAZINES & TRACK

Model Railroader 1939 to mid 2005
Railroad Model Craftsman 1950's to 1990's
Also **Pacific News, Trains** + some others
And some hand laid code 70 track on roadbed
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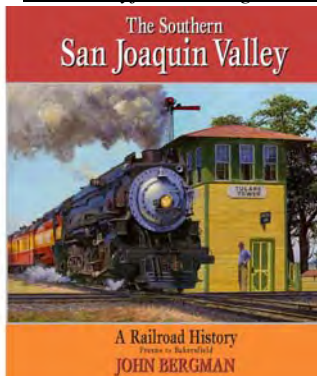
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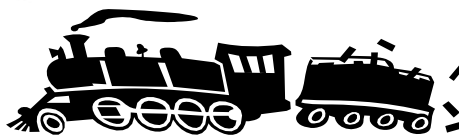
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adds, comments and corrections to the Editor.

Attention **CALLBOARD** readers:

EDITOR'S NOTES

April — June CALLBOARD
Staff Meeting: 7:30 PM, April 14
Text Deadline: April 21
Mailing: April 28
Meeting: May 16

July – September CALLBOARD
Staff Meeting: 7:30 PM, July 14
Text Deadline: July 21
Mailing: July 28
Meeting: Saturday, August 15

Submit all articles, calendar items,

Please advise if you are willing to read future newsletters on-line at the RED web site (vs. reading a printed mailed copy). Any or all pages can be printed by you at any time.

Please send your "ok" by email to the Editor at: jrolston@pacbell.net List "Yes Notification" on the email subject line. No message is required except your first & last name.

COMING DOWN THE LINE

February 21: Hobby Expo 2009, Petaluma Community Center, 320 North McDowell Blvd, Petaluma 9:30-4:00 FREE

February 21: **RED** meeting in Napa. Details are on page 1.

March 1: **Coast Division** meet, Buscher Middle School, Santa Clara

2 & 4th weekends until April: **Digger Creek & Northern Railroad** G Scale layout running 10:30 –3:30 at the Botanical Gardens, Fort Bragg

April 15-19: **Pacific Coast Region** Rails Across the Bay 2009 Convention, Fremont, CA
Information is in the PCR **Branch Line** newsletter
Web site: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009

May 16: **RED** meeting in Santa Rosa

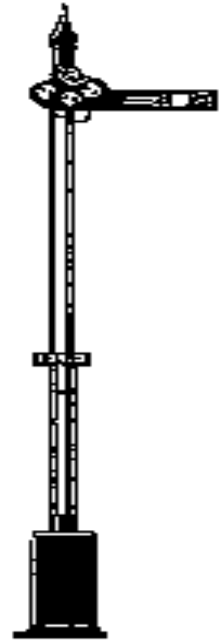
July 5 to 11: **NMRA National Convention**, Hartford, CT
Web site: www.hn2009.org/home.html

August 15: **RED** summer meeting. Location and details to be determined.

November 21: **RED** meeting. Location to be determined

Contact information is listed on page 6

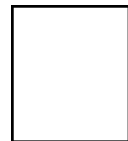
Visit **RED** at Web site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~campgus/>



Many of the art items used in this newsletter are courtesy of Ken Houghton Rail Images or came from the web site: www.rrhistorical.com

CALLBOARD

John Rolston, Editor
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FIRST CLASS