



THE CALLBOARD

OF THE REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION



Visit RED at : **NEW** www.pcrnmra.org/redwood

July—September 2010

All railroad enthusiasts are welcome to enjoy Saturday, September 11th.

There is no charge to attend.

September Meeting

Summer Picnic In Willits

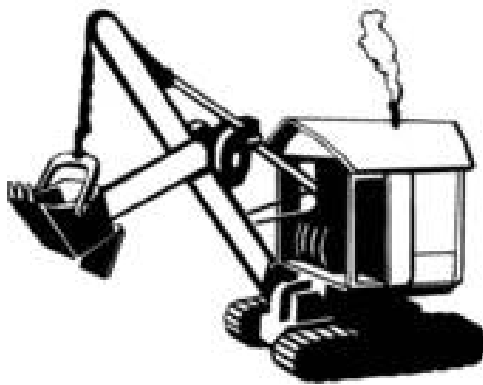
Our summer picnic will be held on Saturday September 11th in Willits, in conjunction with the Roots of Motive Power Festival. Festival activities will begin about 9AM. During the day all of the Roots equipment will be steamed up — including locomotives, a steam shovel and several steam donkeys.

Bring a picnic lunch and plan to eat in the park across the street at around noon. RED and the NWP Historical Society will be together. Roots has a BBQ planned, which will start at 4:30PM. The Roots steam-up is free and open to the public; there is a \$10 charge for the BBQ.

Roots of Motive Power originated in 1982 from a predecessor organization called Little Lake Valley Pioneer Engine Association. It is an all-volunteer organization founded to preserve and restore steam and diesel powered equipment used in the California north coast logging industry from the 1850s to the present.

Roots started out with a single piece of logging equipment. As donations of equipment began to come in, space was provided for displays next to the Mendocino County Museum. But it soon became obvious that additional space would be needed to house the growing collection.

The project includes provision for an expanded site for outside displays of equipment, a restoration building to permit year-round work and protected storage, and the Learning and Education Center which also houses the Research Library and Engine House. The facilities are linked by a ¾-mile loop of track which surrounds playing fields adjacent to the sites.



The major steam-up event of the year is the Roots of Motive Power Festival and is held annually each September. Work efforts throughout

the year are aimed at having every piece of operable equipment under power. Plumes of steam and the shrieks of steam whistles will fill the air as a variety of steam-powered equipment is fired up.

In addition to the steam-up, the Recreation Grove Park, located across the street, is reserved for the Early Day Gas Engine Society and Bill Rose's Model A Tour group to set up under the oak trees. Late Saturday afternoon, in the park, the annual Roots Appreciation BBQ and raffle is held. This has become legendary among the gourmet BBQ set. The smell of whole pigs roasting on the spit draws a huge crowd for the perfect ending to a wonderful day.

Driving Directions

When going North on Highway 101 to Willits, go one-half mile north of Highway 20 and turn East on Commercial Street. Proceed approximately one-half mile. Roots of Motive Power is on the left, just past the Mendocino County Museum, which is located at 400 East Commercial Street.

Part of the Roots of Motive Power collection is housed in the Exhibition and Learning Center; most of the collection is at the Roots facility, approximately 100 yards northeast of the museum.

STAFF ROSTER

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT BY CAROL ALEXANDER

Hello everyone, I hope that you've been out there having a good time chasing trains, taking pictures, picnicking with your family or whatever it is that makes your summer the best. You may remember a couple of columns back I wrote about getting off the dime and starting to enjoy this journey we call model railroad-ing. I'm happy to report that the garage is coming along nicely and it looks like I'll be building bench work by October. In the meantime there are a lot of activities coming in a short time.

September 11 is the RED annual picnic in Willits. I am really looking forward to getting up there and seeing all the steam equipment running as well as the antique cars in the park across the street. Also, the Roots of Motive Power BBQ in the afternoon. \$10 is a bargain and they always put on a good feed. I hope I'll see you there.

The following weekend is the 2nd Redwood Empire Train Show 9/17, 18 & 19 in Santa Rosa. I've signed up to work the RED Booth on Saturday morning and early afternoon and need someone to sign up to help me. The booth will have information about joining NMRA and what RED has to offer. I thought that I'd bring my test track and NCE system to show off a couple of sound equipped steam engines. Someone needs to bring a couple of sound equipped diesels to show off too.

The PCR Mid-year Board Meeting will be here in Santa Rosa on October 23 at the Findley Center from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Members of PCR can always attend any board meeting and now, one will be held in our division area. Of course, if you don't want to attend and there is anything you want brought to the board's attention, please send me know.

The November RED meet will be at the Lakeport model RR club and they are providing lunch again. The club puts on a very good program and if you haven't seen the layout, you should. I know, for many, it seems kind of far away up but the ride is nice and modeling is worth the trip. Please plan to come and support the RED in Lake County.

Next year will include important RED & PCR elections. For RED we need candidates for Chief Clerk and for Superintendent. Please consider running for one of these offices. Neither job is very difficult, nor time consuming. Our PCR President, Ron Plies, is completing his second term and is not running for re-election. Ron is going to be a hard act to follow and as people move on into different jobs, there are going to be some openings in the regional organization to fill as well. Please seriously consider saying yes, if you get a call asking you to help out.

Happy Railroading!



Photo by Steve Skold

TOM SWEARINGEN won the 2010 RED member of the year, awarded at this year's PCR convention .

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY STEVE SKOLD

Summer is winding down. I have been to the National O Scale Convention in July and had several visitors from out of state visiting my layout. For all practical purposes it is finished and we have had several operating sessions. That helped get most of the bugs out. Scenery is mostly done and now it is time to add some buildings.

The summer RED Picnic is coming up on September 11th in Willits in conjunction with the Roots of Motive Power steam up. Carol and I are planning on getting there about 9 AM to see all the equipment steamed up including locomotives, a steam shovel and several steam donkeys.

The 2nd Annual Redwood Empire Train Show is the following week on September 17-18-19 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. RED has a booth and I will need volunteers for all three days. If you are interested, call me at 539-1782. We have promotional material from the NMRA to hand out to prospective members. I plan to bring something to build.

Our November meet will be back in Lakeport again this year on the 20th. The Lakeport club will be providing the clinics and lunch which will be a taco and burrito bar. More on this next issue. Future meets will be Napa on February 19, 2011, the PCR Mini-convention at Finley Center in Santa Rosa will be held on May 13, 14 and 15 and finally our May meet at Monroe Hall on May 21st.

My 4th year as Superintendent will be up at the May meet so we will

need to elect a new Supt as well as a new Chief Clerk/Paymaster. ED MERRIN is running for PCR Vice-President so he will be unable to run for Supt. Volunteers for these two positions can contact ED ZAKARECKIS (see contact information on page 3). Nominations will be due at the February meet.



CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT

BY DR. ED MERRIN

RED held its May 15th Saturday meet back at cozy and familiar Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. Those of you in attendance are aware that I was missing! It seems a viscous virus got a hold of me and laid me out for a few days. Rather than dragging myself to the meet where I could infect everybody, I stayed home. Fortunately, PCR Director CAROL ALEXANDER took my place. Only because of her notes do I have anything further to say. Just remember, this is all second hand, so if I misspeak it's not my fault! (In other words, I am not Harry Truman.)

We had twenty-three folks signed in, including guests and three new members. Welcome to FLETCHER CLOVER, WILL FRENCH, and ROBERT WILSON (did you order name tags? If you want them let me know). And to DAVE BAYLESS, I hope we put on a good show for you.

Besides the proceedings of the Annual Meeting (see the minutes on page 7) we had a clinic by DON CLAUDER; you'll have to tell me how that went! We had the usual door prizes, won by RON KAISER, STU BENSON, FLETCHER CLOVER, BILL WELLS, DAVE BAYLESS, and STEVE SKOLD. Some of these names turn up a lot, which makes you wonder. My suspicions of possible corruption were stimulated further when I found that DAVE CROSHERE won another Special Door prize. This is getting to be a habit. The prize this time was a two tape instructional set on backdrop painting. We expect a pretty impressive piece of work behind you layout now, Dave.

There was an announcement that Clover House is for sale. Please, somebody take it over so we don't lose it!

One of the highlights, as usual, was the Show and Tell. According to our notes, BRYCE BENSON showed his award-winning model (It must have been a structure, right? Probably with detailed interior and lots of figures and things.) STU BENSON showed two passenger cars, an SP commuter car and a UP Pullman. GEORGE BUSH had two models, a partially completed wooden water tank and a cast iron bridge scratch built from Plastruct parts. VERNE ALEXANDER converted an ice reefer to an LCL car (but what happened to the ice?). TOM SWEARINGEN and STEVE SKOLD both brought the same structure built at a Modeling With the Masters clinic, but in different scales, Tom in HO and Steve in O. RON KAISER brought buildings built from Campbell and B&L Designs kits. BILL WELLS showed off an O Scale full-length dome passenger car. I wasn't there, but I bet this was

(Continued on page 4)

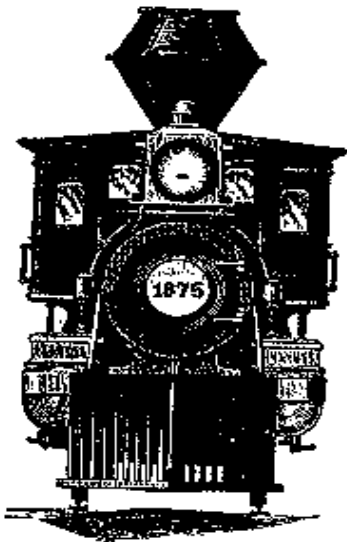
(CLERK'S REPORT Continued from page 3)

the same car put into use later on the Eureka Southern Daylight train.

Finally, our contest chair GIUSEPPE ALYMAR brought in two beauties (I know, because I've seen them). One was his prize winning scratchbuilt bridge and the other an N Scale diorama of a bridge crossing a canyon.

That seems to be the program as it happened. Apart from that, my report is done, except for the observation that we are beginning to silt up with O Scalpers. There were five of them present that I could identify. That was a whopping 21.7% of the modelers at the meet. Is his a portent of things to come, as we age and our eyes go? Or is it a regression back to the 1930s and 40s? Send in your comments, or start a blog.

Meanwhile, our next event is the annual picnic up in Willits on September 11th. On November 20th RED returns to the Lake County club for the fall meet. See you all there!



CONTEST/DISPLAY REPORT BY GIUSEPPE AYMAR

Not much going on these days following the concentrated schedule of PCR/ RED/NMRA Conventions/ meetings. Almost like the air has blown off our chests; we take a moment for reflection and for savoring all that was offered to us by these wonderful events. We are truly blessed to be part of such fantastic (read: full of activities) organizations like PCR and RED.

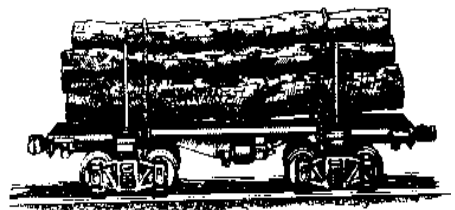
You and me (the members) are the key to maintain a lively and interesting schedule by participating in all the activities and offering our talents (whether or not we think we have any) to the rest of the membership. This is in the form of: 1] opening up our layouts to visitors; 2] helping the Editors of the **Callboard** and **Branch Line** with articles in our area of interest; 3] helping run the organization (someone has to do it), 4]volunteer so things get done and the rest of us can enjoy; 5] bringing all kind of models to the Contests or Show and Tell at various meetings, etc., etc., etc.

If you have not noticed, this is an organization run by the members for the benefit of all the members. Thus it requires some sort of active participation by most of us to be successful. If we all expect the " other guy" to get it done while we wait sitting on our duff, you can see that not much will get accomplished and eventually the house of cards will collapse. There are a number of members who are extremely good at altruism and do not shy away from taking the lead and move us forward for no other reason than being fearless and dedicated to succeeding. These are the Skold's, the Campagna's, Alexander, Merrin, Rolston, Plies (so close to us) and others at the Regional/National level who have given of themselves selflessly.

What about the rest of us? What are we waiting for? How are we going to get off our duffs? The answer is found in a self fulfilling little program called the **Achievement Program**. By becoming involved in the areas mentioned above, you (yes, you) will accumulate points to qualify for all those Achievement Certificates that will eventually honor you with the MMR Title. This is the way the NMRA can reward you for your cooperation, involvement and enthusiasm in the Hobby.

We are talking here about being rewarded for helping our organization run smoothly and thusly giving us the opportunity to benefit from it. Talk about compound interest (what is that, remember?) on our investment. So, what do you say? Let's get involved a little more; talk to me personally or by phone or by e-mail (giuseaymar@aol.com) on how to get your feet wet by stepping forward and test the waters of the **Achievement Program**. Let's get you the Certificates appropriate for helping YOUR Organization and then we'll move on from there; by then you will be halfway there already.

Oh, by the way, elections of Officers will be coming up shortly. Why not then, why not you? Do take a moment for reflection and for savoring all that was offered us by those who have led us so far. Now it can be your turn to give to RED/PCR and to receive (by default, really) points that will earn you the Achievement Certificates. Don't be selfish: GIVE.



THINK SMALL # 63

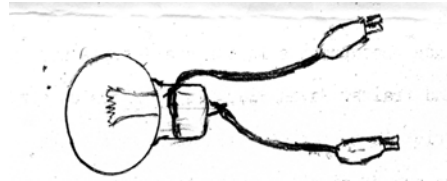
Electrical Test Gear on a Budget

Electric Trains are our hobby. In recent times trees, structures, hills and backdrops have captured a bigger slice of our hobby time but the trains are still the stars of the show. When the train "won't go" the show is a DUD and you must fix the problem! We need simple testing devices to diagnose the electrical ailments of our miniature railroad empires.

Multimeters that measure volts, amps and ohms on a multitude of scales are available today for just a few bucks. Every tool box should have one. You can solve mysteries on the layout and around the house when you are comfortable with this gadget. Just remember to check the dial twice and always start with the higher number and work down.

Mr. Ohm's laws ($E=IR$ and $I=E/R$) are often important when we use numeric information from a meter to chase electrical problems or prevent them. For example, you decide to put lights on and into that neat building you have on the work bench, almost half complete. You have some tiny light bulbs, some 1.5 volt and some 12 volt. There are also bigger 6 and 12 volt bulbs in the "some-day" box along with two of those cube transformers from gadgets that expired a few years back.

Spend some time with your meter and Mr. Ohm's laws. At little cost you can light up your building with no worries about lights that act like flash bulbs or just yield a dim glow -IF you pay attention to Mr. OHM's LAWS!



For chasing electrical problems along my rails I like simple tools. My favorite is an automotive stop light bulb that draws about one amp when it is across 10 volts (You DCC folks may need a 5 ohm resistor in series if you try the automotive stop-light tool.)

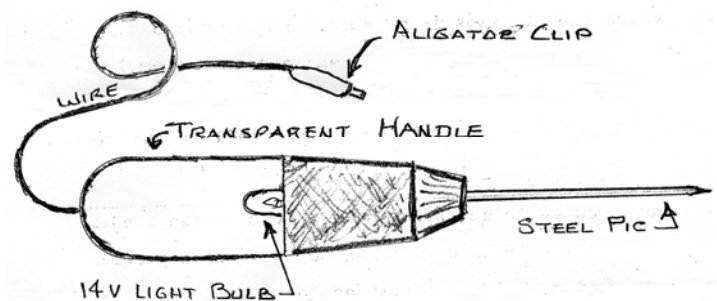
When we changed from brass to the much higher resistance Nickel silver rails, frequent feeder taps became important. A high current light bulb locates the spots along your rails where additional taps to bus feeders are needed or an old connection came loose.

Use your multimeter to measure a length of code 70 or code 55 rail. I measured a single 3 foot length of code 55 at one ohm; that is 4 ohms for just six feet of track or a loss of about 2 volts with a locomotive that draws 1/2 amp. The high current light bulb finds rails that need a connection to bus feeders - low tech shines again with a DIM glow!

Sometimes we get our feed wires scrambled when wiring complex trackwork. The polarity sensing two light tester, shown below, helps sort things out. The gadget is simple: just

two colored light bulbs on a block of wood with opposing diodes connecting to wires terminated with alligator clips. An added resistor may be needed if track voltage is greater than the light bulbs rating.

If you build special trackwork with PC ties or by spiking to wood ties, you may have missed a needed connection to the block's power supply. This odd tool (below) - designed to locate wiring problems in the family

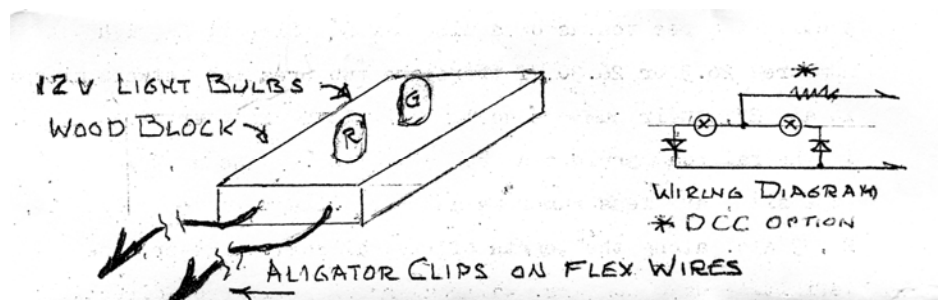


auto - and available at low cost, will save time and reduce frustration. It looks like a fancy ice-pick with a string attached.

Many of our railroads share the 12-14 volt DC standard common for our family automobile. With test voltages of 8 to 12 volts on the rails, the ice pick did its job quite well. I found the light bright and opted to test with 8 or 9 volts on the rails.

Just for fun and to be ready to test higher voltage DCC rails that might be on the horizon, I substituted a 28 volt pilot-light bulb from my collection for the one inside the handle. With just 10 volts on the rails there

(Continued on page 6)



(Think Small Continued from page 5)

was ample brightness for testing. So, ----- if your hot DCC power should blow the bulb in the tester, get a 24 or 28 volt bulb as a replacement and your test light will outlive your children !

Experience has taught me that what looks like an electrical problem might not be. Often plain old dirt or oxidation may be guilty. For Show and Tell at the next RED meeting at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa, I will bring a test device you can build to check individual wheel to rail conductivity.

Bill Williams The Ancient One

EXTRA 2011 WEST
X2011 The Unconventional Convention!
2011 NMRA CONVENTION SACRAMENTO, CA

The current registration fee for the 2011 NMRA Convention in Sacramento is a very cheap \$99! But this low rate will be only available until September 1, 2010.

Register now! Go to www.x2011west.org



The new NMRA logo...

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 method listed on page 2.

**YOUR
 FOR SALE
 OR WANTED
 ADD
 GOES HERE**

WANTED

Volunteers to help staff the NMRA/PCR/RED membership table at the Redwood Empire train show in Santa Rosa on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, September 17, 18 & 19.

Contact
 Carol Alexander or Steve Skold
 (listed on page 2)

**The 2nd Annual
 Redwood
 Empire
 Train Show**



**September
 17, 18, 19,
 2010**

Sonoma County
 Fairgrounds
 Santa Rosa, CA

- In conjunction with the 16th annual Fall Home Show
- Two great family events for one admission

Admission \$7 • Child 12 & under Free • Friday Only Seniors (60+) \$4
 Friday 12-7pm • Saturday 10am-7pm • Sunday 10am-6pm
 visit SCShows.com

Bring a can of food for the Redwood Empire Food Bank and SAVE \$2 OFF admission



NMRA, PCR and RED member *Mark Poggendorf* has opened a new hobby shop in Santa Rosa, calling it

Poggies Trains LTD

The address is 100 Foley Street.

It is located at the end of Foley St just off of Cleveland Ave between W. College and Steele Lane. He is specializing in HO and N scales. He can order from *Walthers* and does that on a weekly basis.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

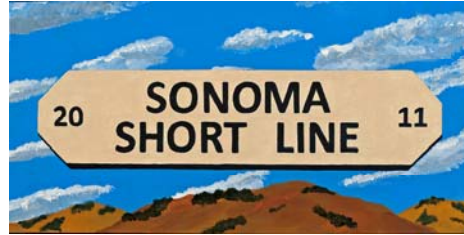
Date: May 15, 2010

1. Call to Order Time: 1:08 PM
2. Approve the minutes of the last meeting (as published in the Callboard). Moved, seconded & passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report by Chief Clerk Ed Merrin:

Ending 2008 balance:	\$ 1344.12
Total 2009 Income:	\$ 1109.50
Total 2009 Expenses:	\$ 557.38
Ending 2009 balance:	\$ 1896.24
4. Other committee reports:
 - A. Carol Alexander unanimously elected to another term as RED Director
 - B. Convention Committee report.

There was no old or new business.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM



PCR MINI CONVENTION

May 13, 14 & 15, 2011

Santa Rosa, California

**Clinics
Layout Tours
Contests and Displays
Annual Meeting
& Award Breakfast**

Rails \$50 and Non-Rails \$25

Polo Shirts & car kits are an extra charge

www.pcrnmra.org/conv2011



EDITOR'S NOTES

October – December CALLBOARD Staff Meeting: 7:30 PM, October 19
Text Deadline: October 26
Mailing: November 2
Meeting: Saturday, November 20

January-March 2011 CALLBOARD Staff Meeting: 7:30 PM, Jan. 18, 2011
Text Deadline: January 25, 2011
Mailing: February 1, 2011
Meeting: Saturday, February 19, 2011

Submit all articles, calendar items, adds, comments and corrections to the Editor.

Attention CALLBOARD readers:

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.

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 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, 2630 Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa. Call Steve Lewis (707) 527-0396 or

CLUB SCHEDULES

Blain Hendrix (707)528-8655
<http://cvl.hobby-site.com/>

NPC Operators. An On3 operating group meets one Sunday each month. Contact Steve Skold (707)539-1782 or email sandcaskold@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, currently building a G Scale indoor/outdoor layout located on California Western Railroad (CWR) property located adjacent to the Fort

Bragg depot. The group meets every third Saturday of each month. Society memberships are available. For more information, 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.

COMING DOWN THE LINE

August 29: **Redwood Empire Garden RR** meeting. #

September 1-4: **Narrow Gauge Convention**, St Louis, MO. www.30ngconvention.org

Sept. 4-5 & Oct 2-3: **Redwood Empire Live Steamers** will be running at Youth Community Park, 1725 Fulton Rd., Santa Rosa. #

September 11: **RED** summer picnic meeting in Willits. See page 1.

September 12: **Coast Division** meeting in Santa Clara

September 17-19: **Redwood Empire Train Show** at the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds.

Sept. 18-19 & Oct. 16-17: **Sturgeon's Sawmill** in Sebastopol will be running.

October 3 & 11: **Redwood Empire Garden RR** meetings. #

October 9: **Sierra Division** meeting in Reno

November 13-14: **International Railfair**, Roseville www.internationalrailfair.com

November 20: **RED** meeting in Lakeport.

February 19, 2011: **RED** meeting in Napa.

May 13, 14 & 15, 2011: **PCR Mini-Convention** in Santa Rosa. www.pcrnmra.org/conv2011

May 21, 2011: **RED** meeting in Santa Rosa.

July 3-9, 2011: **NMRA Extra 2011 West Convention** in Sacramento

Contact information is listed on page 7.

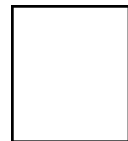
Visit **RED** at: **NEW** www.pcrnmra.org/redwood



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

CALLBOARD

John Rolston, Editor
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FIRST CLASS