

THE CALLBOARD

OF THE REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

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

October--December 2010

All railroad enthusiasts are welcome to enjoy an afternoon of model railroading fun on **SUNDAY, November 21st.**
There is no charge to attend.

November Meeting

Monroe Hall
Santa Rosa

The next meeting of the Redwood Empire Division will be held on **Sunday, November 21st** starting at 1 PM. The meeting is being held at Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Avenue in Santa Rosa.

Doors open at noon. There will be sandwiches, snacks, coffee & tea available for purchase, furnished by MARY MOORE-CAMPAGNA,

to satisfy any hungry and/or thirsty railroad enthusiasts.

PCR President RON PLIES will discuss construction of his HO scale Port Costa HO modules. They were featured in the July and August 2000 issues of **Railroad Model Craftsman** magazine and now are part of the train layout located at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale, CA.

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 a model, finished or unfinished, for the contest/show & tell display (see page 4). Tickets can be purchased, three for one dollar, for the special door prize (TBD).

We hope to see you before 1 PM. The meeting will run until 4PM.

Driving Directions

Monroe Hall is located in Santa Rosa on the south side of West College Avenue between North Dutton Avenue and Stony Point Road. Go west on College Avenue from Hwy 101. Vehicle parking is located behind the building.



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**DIRECTOR'S REPORT
BY CAROL ALEXANDER**

It's late on Tuesday night, the deadline for the Callboard is here and I'm scrambling for something to write that is going to be worth your time to read. The mid-year Board meeting for PCR was just last weekend. We met at the facility where the 2011 PCR mini-convention will be held here in Santa Rosa. I have to tell you, if you have never been to the Finley Center in Santa Rosa, you are in for a treat. It is a very modern facility with very nice rooms for our activities. I hope you've signed up for the **Sonoma Short Line!**

The Board passed a change to the manual of operations that will allow us to have meetings by electronic means between regular bi-annual face-to-face meetings if something important and/or pressing comes up. Your PCR Secretary, Tom Crawford, has carefully planned and thought out the process to be consistent with our by-laws and I'm looking forward to taking the new process for a spin.

We briefly discussed that fact that revenues are far behind expenses this year and accepted the recommendation that we make up the difference this year from the very healthy convention reserve fund. We are however looking at ways to raise operating funds without asking the member to dig into their pockets and fork over the money. If you have ideas, I'd really like to hear them; I'll be sure to share them with the other Board members.

PCR elections are coming up next year and the deadline for nominations for PCR President and PCR Vice-President close on December 31, 2010. We have three candidates for V.P. but only one for President. Anyone out there interested in running for President?

Happy Railroading!

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
BY STEVE SKOLD**

RED has a last minute change of venue from Lakeport to Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. Due to the availability of the Monroe Hall, we are meeting on SUNDAY November 21st.

The summer meet was held at Roots of Motive Power in Willits in September. It was a beautiful warm (80ish) clear day with lots of steam. There were two locomotives running. The 2-6-2T was piloted by RED member DON NELSON from Eureka and he was letting people ride in the cab. It was a bit on the hot side, but fun nonetheless. I always enjoy the steam shovel operating. ED MERRIN took some good pictures of it digging in the dirt. A new one for me was the beautifully painted steam roller. Several steam donkeys were operating and some small steam engines I did not recognize. My wife Carol and I drove over to Ft Bragg and rode on the CalWestern Skunk train on Sunday. We just missed riding on the rail car; maybe next year.

RED participated in the 2nd and now annual train show as a part of the home show in September. The Hall of Flowers in the Fair Grounds was full of various model trains. We have been invited back next year, September 16, 17 and 18. We will need a new chairman as Carol and I will be coming back from the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Hickory, NC that weekend. I would like to thank GUS CAMPAGNA, CAROL ALEXANDER, VERNE ALEXANDER, GIUSEPPE AYMAR, ED MERRIN, BILL WILLIAMS & JOHN ROLSTON for helping man the table.

The 2011 mini convention commit-

(Continued on page 3)

(Supt. Report Continued from page 2)

tee hosted the PCR Board Meeting on Oct. 23rd at the Finley Center followed by a BBQ dinner at the Skold household. We are making progress on the convention but need more of you to send in your registration forms. We currently have 28 signed up and are looking for upwards of 100. There will be clinics, contests and layout tours on Saturday and a breakfast at **Roberto's Trattoria Lupo** and door prizes on Sunday. This will be May 14 and 15, 2011. In addition, there will be a PCR Board Meeting and some more layout tours on Friday the 13th.

We are looking for people to run for Superintendent and Chief Clerk starting in May of 2011. I have been Supt for almost 4 years now and Ed Merrin is jumping from RED to running for PCR Vice President. Nominations will be closed at the Napa meeting in February and the election will be held in May. I am looking forward to seeing you at Monroe Hall in November.

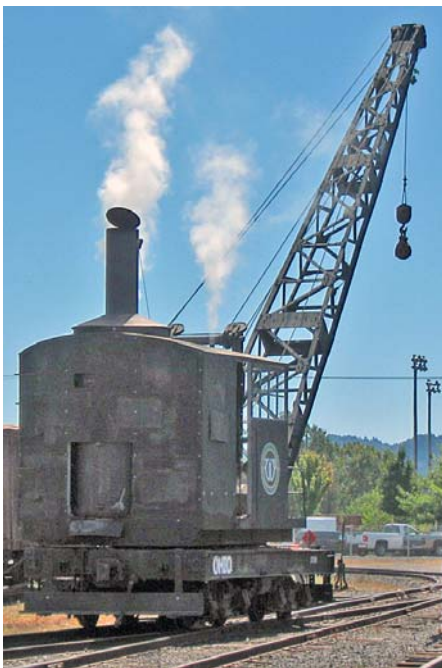


Photo by John Rolston

CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT BY DR. ED MERRIN

Summer was on its last legs, but it was a beautiful and sunny Saturday in Willits on August 11th. The occasion was the Annual RED Summer Picnic, juxtaposed this year on the Roots of Motive Power "Steam Up."

Although the turnout was a little light, RED members who attended were able to see an incredible collection of steam powered transportation and work machines fired up and moving as if we were set back in time to another era. Robert Fulton and Cornelius Vanderbilt would have been proud of us.

To be fair, there were a few diesels around, but none of them were operating and they were upstaged by the guy riding around on his little steam-powered roller. A ride around the loop of track was available for the thrill seekers. The train was pulled by Mason County Logging Co. Number 7, a 2-6-2 tank engine, with NWP Caboose #13 on the rear. Alert observers may have caught PCR President Ron Plies riding in the cab. Higher office has its perks.



Photo by Ed Merrin

Of course, there were a lot of other people there as well, so RED members were spread around the crowd. It is also the first time this writer has seen a steam train running around a field while soccer games were going on. The players didn't seem to notice the trains.

We did manage to gather together at the picnic area, which shows that if you want people to gather, bring food. We've got a few pictures here, just to prove that we were there.

Meanwhile, plans are underway for the next RED meet. Unfortunately, last minute circumstances resulted in the cancellation of our plans to hold it in Lakeport, as we had done last fall. Instead, we will be meeting on Sunday, November 21st, at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. The highlight of the meeting will be a clinic given by the above mentioned Ron Plies, who will describe his award winning modules on the SP's Port Costa facility. We will also have plenty of time at Show & Tell for members to boast about their latest projects. We hope you will participate and show no shame in sharing your modeling exploits!

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CONTEST/DISPLAY REPORT BY GIUSEPPE AYMAR

The “Art of Planning” is as old as the human race. Our ancestors learned very quickly crops need to be planted at a certain time of the year so as to gather the fruits at a later time. Had they not planned properly there would not have been food to eat. They had to plan hunting wild animals at the most opportune time, like during migrations, when the herds were populated with the inexperienced-young and the weaker-old animals. We are reminded by the great story teller of Ancient Greece, Aesop, of the importance of planning in the story of the Ant and the Grasshopper:

“In a field one summer’s day, a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart’s content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest.

“Why not come and chat with me”, said the Grasshopper, “instead of toiling and moiling in that way?”

“ I am helping to lay up the food for the winter,” said the Ant, “and recommend you do the same.” And the Ant went on its way and continued its toil. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants enjoying corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew:

It is best to prepare for the day of necessity.

Late Fall will flow into Winter, then Spring will be followed by Summer. While nothing much is happening in the Fall and Winter, Spring will be

hosting our PCR Convention in Santa Rosa (RED is the Host Division) and Summer will usher in our National Convention in July in Sacramento (PCR is the Host Region). Needless to say, our RED will be well represented at both events in the Contest room, Right? But to have models ready for those dates takes some planning. No, no, not the night before, nor the week before the event. One needs to start NOW! Plan what you want to enter and begin putting together that kit or embellish that structure you already have built. Become the Ant in Aesop’s fable, get toiling with your models now and you will reap the rewards later. RED has been blessed by so many fabulous modelers as we have been able to witness in the last few years through the many wonderful Show and Tells at our meetings. The stage is set to show the rest of the PCR and the entire country the bevy of modelers inhabiting our RED. I have seen your work, admired your ingenuity and ability.

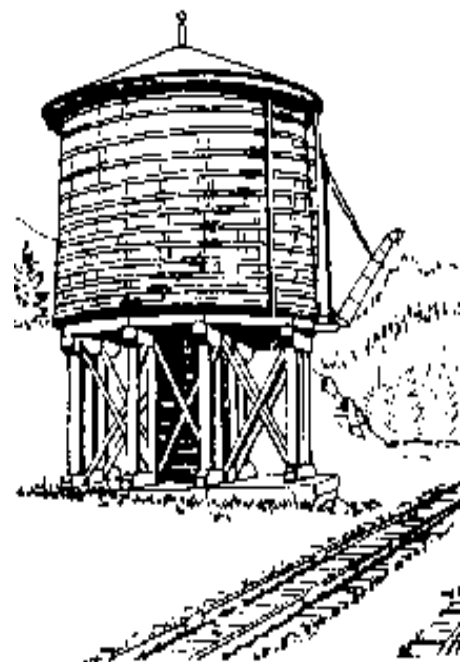
At this time I would like to set forth a goal for our RED: each member who attends either the PCR and/or National Convention bring at least one model for the Contest room. For some of you this will be the very first time you would have entered a Contest and panic will undoubtedly make itself known. But never fear, your very own , personal Contest Chairman (me) is here. Since we are planning this in advance and have time available, we will be able to go over your entries way before the Contests and I will be able to discuss with you areas where the model(s) can score more points and bring you a deal more satisfaction and pride. Let’s do it! Stand up, puff your chest, click your heels and say out loud:

“YES SIR, I will bring at least one model for the Contest, count on me. I am IN.”

For any type of help you might need, please feel free to contact me at: giuseaymar@aol.com or 707-291-0701 (cell). The greatest joy for me is to be able to help fellow modelers achieve goals thought unachievable at one time, and to see the smile on your face afterwards. Many modelers have been instrumental in helping me grow as a modeler. I’m still growing now, as I toil with the intricacies of electrons running through wires. Their patience with me is a symbol of what can be achieved by friends helping friends: That is what it is all about; friends helping friends achieve the most out of this fabulous hobby we call Model Railroad-ing.

The next Show and Tell will be at Monroe Hall in November. Here is your first opportunity to bring your model(s) whether completed or still in progress. All categories and scales are welcome. Let’s have a great turnout. You will be pleased to be a part of it.

Go RED, Go RED



THINK SMALL # 64

A Vote for Narrow Gauge

When we were kids the biggest problem with our train set was often finding a place to keep the tracks for play and out of that box in the closet. (Mothers have this thing about putting all playthings away before bedtime.)

As train happy adults, we have a similar problem. Space to run model trains is hard to find. Club layouts are one solution. By banding together, a like minded group can build a miniature replica of the real world - to be served by model trains actually moving traffic with a meaningful destination. BUT, there is still that longing for a railroad that is ALL YOURS!

Check the magazines. Shelf layouts, switching layouts and room size layouts are popular features. Garden layouts are tempting because more space is available for tracks.

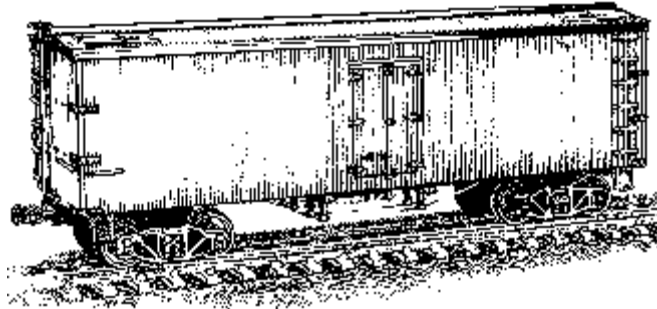
Have you noticed a recent innovation: Z scale! Trains are now available in a scale smaller than "N". There is a problem: How do us older folks work on mechanisms so small? A hand twitch of a millimeter or two is huge in Z scale. Hobbyists will need to train fleas to fix glitches in track work or adjust couplers.

HO, S and O scales seem the best fit for most of us when building structures. There is a warm glow of satisfaction when we create- which beats just buying stuff.

Modeling narrow gauge trains solves some problems and eases a

few frustrations. We narrow gauge modelers do need to accept limits, like the historic era.

When rails spanned the continent in 1869, the die was cast and the odd English gauge of 4ft, 8.5 inches became the U.S. standard. Rails spaced 5 feet apart in many southern states and 6 feet on the Erie in the northeast, were moved and wheel spacing narrowed to meet what became the national standard. This allowed free movement of freight and passengers across the nation.



Major railroads became big and powerful. They pushed people around. A narrow gauge movement (usually 3 foot gauge) blossomed during the 1870's. The slim gauge roads were more local and often financially shaky. Short of cash, they were lightly built, usually with sharper curves and steeper grades - but they served local needs. In 1880, nearly 1/4 of railroad track miles built in the U.S. were narrow gauge (mostly 3ft gauge)

It was 1877 when rails 3 feet apart connected Sausalito with Duncans Mills via Tomales, Valley Ford and Occidental. Our Redwood Empire slim gauge trains carried local people and cargo (butter, potatoes and, of course, redwood lumber). The 3 ft rails were extended to Cazadero. There was even a 2 ft. gauge mine railroad, that ran during World War 1, delivering Magnetite to 3 ft gauge cars at a siding near Cazadero. As a teenager I walked 2 ft track and tres-

bles that were still in place.

Rails were still spaced just 3 feet apart when train service was abandoned from Pt. Reyes via Tomales and Occidental to Monte Rio- just 80 years ago. Pictures and traces of the right of way are abundant. The same can be said of other 3 ft. trains that ran in California.

I railfanned the NCNG as a high school kid. Result: a life-time narrow gauge nut.

The little railroads were not just a Colorado feature; California and Nevada had their share. The towns served were usually small, as were the buildings. The geography is interesting and varied. If you go back just a few years for prototype, fitting an interesting and practical model railroad into a smaller space becomes possible with narrow gauge. Buildings are smaller, trains have fewer cars and ordinary box cars measure, not 40 or 50 feet, but 24 or 30 feet (that's 40% less). Even one car on a siding takes less space.

When you add that "n", as in On3, Sn3, HOn3 or n30 to your favorite scale, you expand your available space for a layout. I say "Think Small"; Narrow Gauge can translate to Nifty Game!!

As I was working on the rough draft of this sales pitch, the October 2010 **RMC** magazine arrived with an article featuring an On30 layout that measures just 6x10 feet. Take a look at pages 40 to 44.

We narrow minded folks do have an advantage when searching for layout space!

Bill Williams The Ancient One

(CLERK'S REPORT Continued from page 3)

Which brings us to one last topic, a serious one. This spring Steve Skold and myself will term out on our RED offices of Superintendent and Chief Clerk, respectively. As of this writing there hasn't been a single candidate nominated for either office. Is this deplorable situation going to continue, or are some folks going to overcome their shyness or uncertainty and let their interest in running for office be known? Take this as a challenge, folks. I'll be watching to see who takes it. Be brave! See you in November.



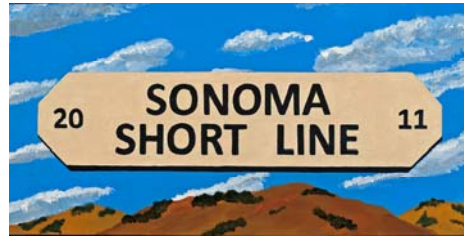
Redwood Empire Garden Railway Society (REGRS), No. 1 gauge, various scales. If you are interested call Ken Brody at (707)526-0195 or email westie@sonic.net

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



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

Plan ahead... Fill out AND mail the registration form on the next page.



EDITOR'S NOTES

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.

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.



PCR/NMRA
 Sonoma Short Line
 2011 Convention
 Santa Rosa, Ca
 May 13, 14, & 15, 2011

Return Form and Payment to:

Sonoma Short Line
 c/o Carol Alexander
 5307 Spain Ave
 Santa Rosa, Ca 95409

Email: carolnma@msn.com
 Website: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2011/

Hosted by: Redwood Empire Division, Pacific Coast Region, National Model Railroad Association

Registration Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ (will print on badge)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ email: _____

NMRA # (membership is required): _____ NMRA Region (if not PCR): _____

Registration type: Model Railroader Non-Rail Youth

Primary Scales and Interests: HO S N O G Narrow Gauge SIG Other: _____

Additional Registrant Living at the Same Address:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ (will print on badge)

Registration type: Model Railroader Non-Rail Youth **NMRA #:** _____

Item	Qty	Price ea.	total
Full Fare Registration		\$50.00	
Spouse/Partner Non-Rail Registration		25.00	
Youth Registration		25.00	
Breakfast only for non-participating spouse or partner		15.00	
Convention car (hand car with trailer and shed)		10.00	
Shirts (royal Blue w/logo) size: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL		25.00	
Total			\$

Make payment by check or money order payable to: **Sonoma Short Line Convention.**

Send payment to: Sonoma Short Line
 c/o Carol Alexander
 5307 Spain Ave
 Santa Rosa, Ca 95409

Hotel and Restaurant Information: www.visitsantarosa.com

COMING DOWN THE LINE

November 5-7: **Sierra Division** layout Tours in Reno, NV area.

<http://highsierrahobbies.com/content/RRTour2010.pdf>

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

November 21: **RED** meeting in Santa Rosa. Details are on page 1.

Nov. 20 & 21 & Dec. 11 & 12: **Napa Valley Model Railroad HS** open house 10-5 #

December 4-5: **Coast Division** layout tours in North West bay area.

December 12: **Coast Division** meeting, Bushser Middle School, Santa Clara

January 28-30, 2011: **Bay Area Layout Design & Operations** weekend, Santa Clara

www.pcrnmra.org/sigs

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

May 13, 14 & 15, 2011: **PCR Sonoma Short Line** Mini-Convention in Santa Rosa.

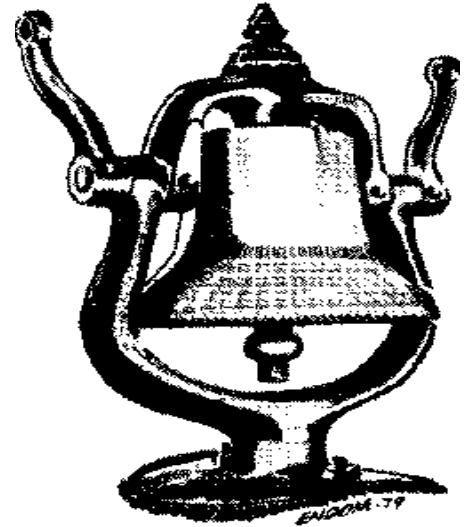
www.pcrnmra.org/conv2011

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 6.

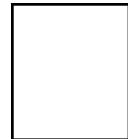
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Many of the art items used in this newsletter are courtesy of Ken Houghton Rail Images or came from the web site: www.rhistorical.com

CALLBOARD

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FIRST CLASS
