

CALLBOARD

Monroe Hall Site for May 50th Anniversary Meeting

The next meeting of the Redwood Empire Division will be held on Saturday, May 21st starting at 1 PM at The Monroe Hall.

Doors will open at noon. There will be Pizza soft drinks and coffee & tea available, all hosted by MARY MOORE-CAMPAGNA the "RED CHEF" which will satisfy any hungry, thirsty railroad enthusiasts.

A short RED business meeting will include approval of the minutes from the previous 5/15/10 annual meeting (which were published in the Callboard July -Sept 2010 issue), a report on the state of our division and the election results for Superintendent and Chief Clerk.

Everyone will get a free door prize ticket. Be sure you are wearing your division name badge which will be worth an additional free ticket, or bring at least one guest and/or a model, finished or unfinished, for the contest /show & tell display. Tickets can be purchased, three for \$1.00, for the special door prize, which promises to be worthy of 50 great years of friendship and great model railroading.

As you may have noticed the election ballot is attached to the front page of the



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.

Call Board. Please tear it off and vote your choice and return the ballot either by mail or bring to the meeting and deposit it in the ballot box.

Get there early for "Campagna Chow" and good times with old friends!

From the Director

It is almost May and several things are happening at once; Mothers' Day, the PCR convention and the 50th Birthday of the Redwood Empire Division. Add in to that mix that it is

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time for new officers for the R.E.D. and that's a lot for one month!

I do want to acknowledge the dedication and effort of our current leadership team, Steve Skold, Superintendent and Ed Merrin, Chief Clerk. Both men have done an

excellent job and I thank them on behalf of the member of R.E.D. for their Service. I also want to remind all you members to please vote; even if there is only one name on the ballot, it gives the candidates some confidence that you're really behind them if you take a minute to check your ballot and return it.

Fifty years ago a group of model railroad enthusiasts got together and started the Redwood Empire Division of the PCR. At our upcoming meeting we're going to take some time to celebrate their achievement. I hope you'll be there to join us. I understand that there will be cake and ice cream.

See you there!!

Superintendent's Report All Things Come to an End

This is my last article as Superintendent as there is a ballot attached to this Callboard to elect a new Superintendent and Chief Clerk. I have enjoyed my last 8 years as Chief Clerk-Paymaster and Superintendent. John Rolston was my right hand man always reminding me of things that needed to be done. John is retiring as Editor of the Callboard after 11 years. Thank you for all your work.

When you get this it will only be a week until the 2011 PCR Convention at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa. You still have time to sign up to attend. The Convention will be on Saturday and Sunday May 14th and

15th. Three layouts will be open in Petaluma on Friday night and you can download maps from the Convention Website. On Saturday, there will be 8 clinics, the PCR Contest, Non-rail Membership Meeting for PCR.

During the lunch break food will be available at restaurants nearby.

Layout tours continue on Saturday night. Sunday morning brings a buffet breakfast at the Union Hotel on Mission Blvd between Hwy 12 and Montgomery Dr. This will be followed by an awards ceremony and the Annual Membership Meeting for PCR. Layout tours in Marin County will start at Noon.

My final RED meeting will be Saturday May 21st at Monroe Hall at 1:00PM with the doors open at Noon. We will be celebrating RED's 50th Anniversary. At the meeting, we will announce the election results and I will introduce the new Callboard Editor, Dick Foster from Sonoma who recently moved from Reno. I would like to thank everyone who has helped on the Division these past 8 years. Meanwhile, my Whiskeytown & Shasta beckons.

I will end this on a sad note. I have just been informed that long time RED

member Glenn Jamieson passed away earlier this month. He was 88. My condolences go out to his wife Lois and her family.

Thanks for the train ride.....

Chief Clerk's Report

The RED held its recent quarterly meet on February 19th at the Napa Valley Model Rail Road Historical Society site at the Napa Fairgrounds. The attendance was robust, with 29 officially registered and rumors that there were some in the room who hadn't formally signed in. There were seven nonmember guests signed in.

Upstairs from their excellent club layout we had a full agenda that got off the mark at 1 pm.

RED member Ron Plies gave us his last address as PCR President. He spoke of how much he enjoyed his job and reminded us of the upcoming PCR Mini-Convention in Santa Rosa this May as well as the NMRA national meeting in Sacramento the first week of July. In addition, he advised us of developing plans to hold a joint PCR/PNR meeting in Medford Oregon in May of 2012. The highlight might be a trip to the fabulous Train Mountain.

RED Director Carol Alexander thanked John Rogers for his work as liaison with the Napa Society and for helping

arrange for the RED to gather here in its home.

Superintendent Skold brought up the subject of nominations for RED Superintendent and Chief Clerk/Paymaster. Steve is terming out and not seeking further office; Ed Merrin (yours truly) was put on the spot and revealed to be running for PCR Vice-President and thus unavailable for RED office at this time. Stu Benson and Ed Zakareckis received and accepted nominations for Superintendent and Chief Clerk/Paymaster respectively. Results of the election will be announced at the next meet in May.

In honor of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the RED, long time and pioneering RED member Russ Clover brought along a trove of records from its early days. They are bursting with material and memories of past and some still current RED members.

As usual, the Show & Tell was a major part of the proceedings. Carol Alexander brought molds she created to reproduce the medallions needed for first class looking award plaques for the PCR contests. Bill Williams, the ancient one, showed off details for N scale buildings. Steve Skold shared his technique for making building signs using a computer and Epson self-adhesive photo paper. Ron Plies showed progress on two buildings for the Eel River Modelers layout. He also shared the results of using materials from Michaels for simulating

rust on metal structures (a technique passed on by Brice Benson). Guest and host Gary Valenstein displayed a business district kit-bashed by using walls from the same kit to create multiple buildings. Frank George showed us scratch built wood coaling towers based on a Tyco plastic kit. Gus Campagna brought a wooden narrow gauge ballast car in "F" scale. Brice Benson, not to be outdone, constructed a detailed model of an old blacksmith shop from a family photo. Giuseppe Aymar may have topped everything with his multiple projects - weathered and detailed diesel, scratch built pickle car, flat car with load, and a work in progress; a Bakersfield theater with many details from castings. Dave Turner, with the help of family it turns out, is working on an NW5. For those of you like myself who had never heard of an NW5 before, here are excerpts from Wikipedia:

"The EMD NW5 was a 1,000 hp (750 kW) road switcher diesel-electric locomotive built by General Motors Electro-Motive Division of La Grange, Illinois between December 1946 and February 1947." (I was an infant then)

"A total of 13 were produced, of which the majority (ten locomotives) went to the Great Northern Railway." (That's where the Dave Turner connection comes in)

"The NW5, like the NW3 that preceded it, was basically an EMD NW2 switcher hood, prime mover (a V12 EMD 567 diesel engine) and main generator on a stretched

frame and riding on road trucks (the standard EMD Bloomberg B design)."

Next was an excellent clinic and slide show delivered by Wayne Morgan, another Napa member and RED guest, on "Live Loads." No, not cows and pigs, but loose stuff (gravel, ore, lumber, and so on) that flops around in or on open freight cars and sometimes spills out. The Napa club layout, the Napa Valley Northern, uses them and, when things spill they are left there just like on the prototype. I suggest a fundraising activity for the club; an Easter egg like hunt with kids sent to find remnants of spills from derailments and so on. The winning contestant could get a freight car to start his or her own railroad.

Speaking of the Napa Valley Northern, I've included a few pictures I took of the layout right after the meeting. You can also see them on my Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2078875&id=1299356112&l=59e7bf410a>

Of course there were door prize winners, including Steve Lewis, Brice Benson, John Rolston, Giuseppe Aymar, Dave Turner, and Steve Skold. The **SPECIAL** Door Prize (please note that the capitals indicate just how special this prize is) was a 25\$ gift certificate to the Loose Caboose

hobby shop. The winner was Carol Alexander.

That's it for this report. The next RED meet is Saturday, May 21 at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. the week



NAPA VALLEY NORTHERN



Mini Convention Gus Campagna

I implore you not to forego this year's PCR convention, "SONOMA SHORT LINE". Yes, I know it is a mini-convention - only one full day and two half days - but there can be a lot of FUN packed into even this short time.

Even though there are only eight clinics to choose from, you will be able to attend

at least half of them. I decided to do a "modeling track" and an "operations track" with this year's clinics. We will start the modeling track with a hands-on demonstration of doing dry transfers, followed by another hands-on demonstration of the FastTracks turnout system. After lunch, we'll look at improving your transition-era freight car fleet followed up by building resin car kits. Over on the operations track, we will start off with an introduction to track planning by someone who has just been here, designing an operating layout. Then we will have a forum with the Layout Design and Operations SIGs. After lunch, there will be two more clinics on how Redwood Empire Division modelers followed through on design for operations. You will be able to go on the layout tours and see the work of two of the day's clinic presenters.

We will have layouts open for tours that very few Division members have seen before. While Dave Croshere's A B & Old C Railroad does not have much scenery yet, the track-work is fantastic; and be sure to check out his simple but elegant turnout controls as well. Skip Rueckert's NWP is well on its way to operations with some wonderful recreations of actual NWP scenes. I've operated on Verne Alexander's CRAP (Colville, Republic & Palouse) and Ernie Simard's WP, and visited Angus MacDonald's Petaluma Valley Railroad - all FUN layouts. Tom Swearingen's new Hart's Flat HO railroad, Ed Merrin's NWP, Ron Learn's NWP and Steve Skold's On3 Whiskeytown & Shasta - all are great layouts. We have visited Ron Kaiser's WP during our Summer Picnics and it is always a delight. In Marin we will get to see such favorites as Jim Providenza's Santa Cruz Northern and Bill Kaufmann's SF Belt, as well as Bill

Horstmeyer's Union Pacific and J. Schmidt's Nicasio Northern.



Santa Cruz Northern Ops Session

This year might also be a good time to attend a PCR Board of Directors meeting. This is your chance to give the Board of Directors your thoughts on how to successfully run our Region. On Sunday, we have included a full breakfast in your convention registration, during which we will have our Awards Ceremony and Annual meeting. It will be fast-paced and these have been known to be a lot of FUN too.

The non-rail attendees will be gathering in the courtyard, the contest will be happening on the auditorium stage and good folks will be hanging out enjoying each other's company. Mary Moore-Campagna is providing Mary's Snack Shop, a regular feature at Redwood Empire Division meets, so no one will go hungry and you won't have to leave the site for breakfast or lunch on Saturday. Also we have gathered a large cache of Door Prizes...you may be a winner!

And lest I forget to mention this, it is R.E.D.'s 50th Birthday this year; so I'm sure there will be some special events to commemorate this milestone event.



50th
ANNIVERSARY
1961 - 2011
Show & Tell Report

What's not to be proud of our RED and the great leadership shown by our Superintendent Steve Skold, who has dedicated many years to the advancement and growth of our Division. The latest RED meeting in Napa showed the results of his hard work and leadership. The hall at the Napa Valley Railroad Historical Society was full of attendees; the folks who came in at the last minute, like myself, had to take refuge at the very fringe of the room; standing room only was all that was left. That goes to show how a well put together program with interesting subject matter still can achieve interest amongst the modeling fraternity and sorority. Thank you Steve from all of us.

From comments made after the meeting, I gather that most of you really enjoy the "Show & Tell". As you can tell, anything goes and the more diversity we exhibit the better the outcome, as there will always be something for everyone. As an example, Carol Alexander used homemade forms and supplies bought at Tap Plastics to recreate the PCR shield which will adorn the plaques of the Contest winners at the PCR Regional. She explained the simplicity of the process, thereby removing ANY element of fear most modelers experience when approaching "mold making". Next on the agenda was an in progress "F" scale model of a hopper car by Gus Campagna; "F" scale? Never heard of it! See what you learn at these meetings! Napa Club member Gary Valentinsen displayed beautiful store front buildings put together from a kit. Wonderful model making indeed! An ever superb project by Brice Benson based on historical family photographs of his grandfathers shop in Idaho; he recreated the building from detailed kit{s} and as typical of Brice's style, the inside received the same attention as the outside with all the tools and accessories laying about giving it the impression of a working environment and not just a static display. . That kind of work can only be an inspiration to all of us. Ron Plies, who is modeling the NWP, displayed a rendition of the local servicing buildings in Ferndale. This is an amazing effort that will preserve for future generations the feel of the town of yonder years. Mr. Noble offered us a kit full of details; now, Mr. Noble has a few more years on me (I am 62), so one needs to appreciate the effort involved in working in N scale. Steve Skold showed us how to make signs using a computer and printer. His project was to make the graphics to be applied to the upcoming RED Convention car. Personally I will be using his method in my next project, so thank you Steve for the invaluable information. Frank George displayed two cooling towers built twenty five years ago using wood cut to scale; besides the obvious displaying of two fabulous projects, he showed us that it is never too late to display one's handy work. Dave Turner had on display an in progress kit-bashing work of an unusual EMD MW5 carefully replicating an exact time period. He also correctly identified and brought to the surface a dogma in model making: the moment you have finished with a one of a kind model, sure enough one of the manufacturers will come out with their own version, Amen. (Athearn is doing precisely that). Finally an in progress model of the Fox theater in Bakersfield with numerous moulds and castings by your very truly, Giuseppe. The idea here was to show that no matter how complicated a model seems to be and thus "impossible" to build, that if you break it down in simple elements it becomes elementary and can be built by anyone (who has the patience to finish it and a "Saint" for a wife). A special "thank you" goes to Mr. Russell Clover who, although did not exhibit it at the Show & Tell, made the logo for 50th anniversary of the RED which graces the headline of this very report. You were not there? Could not make the meet? Too bad!!!

Go RED, Go RED



Coming Down the Line

May 13th -15th- **PCR** Sonoma Short Line Mini Convention in Santa Rosa. Details at: www.pcrnmra.org/redwood

May 21st: - **RED** meeting in Santa Rosa - 50th Anniversary Celebration

July 3rd - 9th - **NMRA Extra 2011** National Convention in Sacramento. Admission to the California State Railroad Museum for the week is included in registration. Information of clinics, tours, contests and other events is available at: www.pcnmra.org/con2011.

July 8th - 10th - **National Train Show** in Sacramento. Public viewing starts Friday at noon. For details: www.x2011.west.org/trainshow.html

August 20th (Tentative) - **Annual Picnic Meeting** - Sonoma Train Town 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Coastal Valley Lines -

May 8 - **Day Under the Oaks**, Santa Rosa Junior College

June 25-26 - **Spring Lake Village**, 5555 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

May 1st, May 29th, June 26th and July 31st - **Redwood Empire Garden Railway Society** meetings

Note: "Think Small" returns next issue. Future e-mail versions will be in full color!!

CallBoard

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