

CALLBOARD

In this Edition

50th Anniversary for
RED

Reports from the
Office

Think Small Gadget

Tips and Techniques

Short Line 2011
Report

X2011 Highlights and
Contest Awards

NCRA Starts Service



August Picnic Meeting Moves

The traditional August picnic has been moved to September 10. It will take place in Willits and will coincide with the open house program of Roots of Motive Power. We will be surrounded by the hissing and sputtering of steam. Probably two locomotives will run, and will pull the beautifully restored NWP caboose #13. Very suitable for riding. A large number of steam donkeys and other equipment featuring steam power will be fired up, looking and sounding and smelling wonderful. It is extremely nostalgic. There will be an optional barbecue in the park across the street—good food for approximately ten dollars. When you drive into town, take a right turn on the street where the NWP/CW depot is, and find Roots, the museum and the park just beyond the railroad tracks.

NEW LOOK

It's a new look to the Callboard starting this quarter with an all electronic full color version.

This change was made for several reasons. One was the continuing increases in printing and mailing costs and the limitations of a black and white edition only. Another reason was that to increase the number of pages would also significantly raise our printing and mailing costs.

Let me know how you like the new format and what we can do to make it better. E-mail me at gatefive@comcast.net.

Dick Foster Callboard Editor

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome these new members who joined since the beginning of the year.

Deborah Waller of Guerneville, Blain Hendrix of Santa Rosa, David & Loretta Ellam of Guerneville, Jim Baier of Rohnert Park, Robert Steel of Larkspur, Dave Sheber of Windsor, Paul Odenkirchen of Santa Rosa, The Mark Howe Family of Santa Rosa, Peter Hess of Corte Madera, Douglas Rees of Crescent City, Al Merkrebs of Santa Rosa, Tom Melka of Corte Madera, and Roy Anderson of Santa Rosa.

Welcome aboard and I hope meet all of you soon.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR RED

Fifty Years and
Still Going Strong

1961-2011
Happy Birthday!



Nov 1961
First Division Meeting



national model
railroad association

A great time was had by all at the May 21st, 50th Birthday for the Redwood Empire Division. Russ Clover, an original member, gave a short presentation on the evolution of RED, and how it has changed over the years. There used to be The Railettes

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and Pot Luck meals, but times have changed but model railroading is as strong as ever. The first meeting was in November of 1961. My how time flies!

Mary, as always, served a fun low calorie lunch with a variety of pizzas, soft drinks and of course a slice of the delicious birthday cake.

A lively "Show and Tell" session featured a presentations of the return of the Freedom Train, Ed Merrin showing his award winning photographic skills as well as a tips on backgrounds and painting. In addition, several new and interesting projects were presented.

As usual Joe Aymar showed his almost complete Fox Theatre built from scratch, using molds and patterns that Joe developed. Steve Skold bid a fond farewell after doing a great job as Superintendent, along with Ed Merrin who is moving to PCR Vice-President. Thanks guys for all your hard work !

Our next Summer meeting will be led by our newest officers, Stu Benson, Superintendent and Verne Alexander, Chief Clerk. It will be in Willits on September 10th 12-4 PM.

**From the Director
Carol Alexander**



It certainly has been an eventful spring and summer for the Redwood Empire Division so far. Starting with the PCR convention in Santa Rosa followed by the National NMRA Convention in Sacramento this month and in September we'll be going to Willits for our annual picnic to join with Roots of Motive Power for a steam extravaganza. If you add in all the wonderful layout tours associated with the conventions and the 50th

Birthday Celebration for R.E.D. you have an action packed six months. I want to take a moment to thank all the dedicated people who have given their time and help to create all these activities. Well done to all.

I'm not as far along on my own layout as I'd hoped to be at this point on the calendar but I have had a lot of model railroading fun and picked up lots of ideas to be incorporated in the layout; not to mention a new airbrush, several models, some paint and scenery materials. I hope that you are all having as good a year in the R.E.D. as I am.

This fall I will be terming out of office as your Director on the PCR Board and your new Superintendent and I are looking for someone (or a couple of somebodies) to run for the office. It is not a difficult job but it is important. If you think you might be interested in the job you can ask me questions if you like. You know, if Stu and I don't get volunteers, we will just have to resort to a little friendly arm twisting.

Happy Railroading!



**A
Message from the
Front Office**

**Superintendent's Report
Steward Benson**

To the Trainmen and Women of The Redwood Empire Division: My thanks for all the support you have shown me by electing me to be your new Superintendent.

A special thanks to Steve Skold, John Rolston, Gus Campagna, Carol Alexander and Ed Merrin for the terrific help all of you are giving me to get the new super safely on-board and off on schedule!

To Giuseppie Aymar, thanks for being my "Mentor" and encouraging me to enter the various contests of the past years. How about the rest of you; if you don't enter you can't win!

Now ... a bit about our new schedule. Your Executive Committee and I have concocted some really hot plans. As you can see from the following report from Verne Alexander, the group has been very busy. As mentioned elsewhere in the CallBoard, the Picnic has



(Superintendent Continued from page 3)

been moved to September 10th at the Roots of Motive Power Open House in Willits.

A special note for all members. We need volunteers at the Train and Garden Show in October and at Rail Fair in Roseville on November 11th & 12th. Join your fellow members in helping out.

That's it for now. We have a Green signal and a clear track ahead. Bring your friends the next meeting. Pass your knowledge on to others. Let's Highball!

Chief Clerk's Report

The first staff meeting of your new leadership group for the next year has just concluded. Stew and I were new, while the rest of the group were veterans of long standing. It was a good mix, and the prevailing spirit was one of dedication toward enhancing the experience of our members at our quarterly meets. We want to focus on modeling. We want folks to bring models—not necessarily "contest quality" models, but models that we like, that we built or bought to fulfill a particular need in our modeling world. We want our members to be stimulated by what other members are doing. We have some great modelers in the RED, and we have modelers who still have something to teach us or to set us to thinking about something a little different in our own efforts. To get this kind of cross-pollination, we all need to bring examples to share.

In a similar vein, we are kicking around ideas about holding seminars about various aspects of our hobby. Laying track, getting locomotives to run, starting a round robin group, how to begin operations—the list is close to endless. These would not be presentations. They would be interactive exchanges of ideas and techniques designed to educate and inspire us toward broadening and improving our own work. Perhaps you have some ideas along these lines. Everyone in the room this evening was very open and receptive to new possibilities. You are all encouraged to get these ideas to us so that we can get about the business of implementing them.

Who's "us?" Those present were President Stewart Benson, President Emeritus Steve Skold, Callboard Editor Dick Foster, Division Director Carol Alexander, Contest and Achievement Program Chairperson Giuseppe Aymar, Membership Chairperson Gus Campagna, general members Mary Campagna and Carol Skold and Chief Clerk Verne Alexander. Contact information for most of us is on page 9 and 10 of the July - September Branch Line. We really would like to hear from you.

Financially, I am pleased to report that due to the efforts of Gus Campagna our inventory of PCR Convention Cars was sold out at the National Convention in Sacramento. I will be depositing a check for \$288.49. This brings our total assets up to \$2469.42.

Think Small by Bill Williams

If you control the speed of your trains by adjusting the voltage across the rails, you may have met the puzzle that gave birth to my odd gadget.

On several turnouts, an O-6-0, switcher would amble thru at a sensible 3 to 6 mph when its nose was pointed one way but often stall or hesitate when its nose was pointed the other way. The first response Clean the Track helped some but the odd behavior did not go away every time.

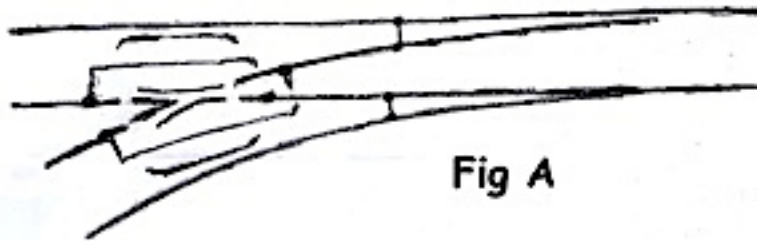


Fig A

The turnouts were old Atlas with about gauge length of insulating material replacing the metal rail at the frog. This design is called "insul-frog" today and simplifies wiring.

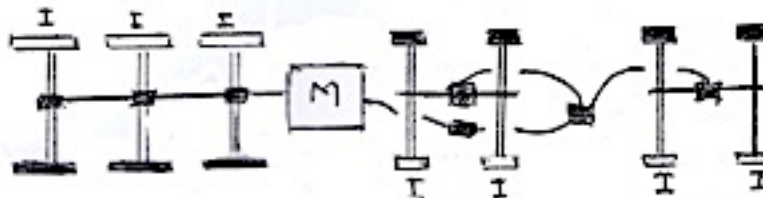


Fig B

I = Insulated Wheel

Type to enter text

A low resistance connection between the rails and the motor is vital when slow speed is attained by lowering the voltage between the rails. Multiple paths between the locomotive's motor and the rails should mitigate the reliability problems but expected mitigation was teasing me by working only some of the time.

An O-6-0 switcher at an insulated frog has a minimum of two power connections to the rails through the drivers. Since the lead frog has a length less than the tender truck wheelbase, a minimum of three wheels to rail paths are available to the tender. This happens when one wheel is on the insulated frog, three should be better than two but the stumble or stall ALWAYS happened with the tender at the frog! Why would the current path by way of the tender always be the weak link?

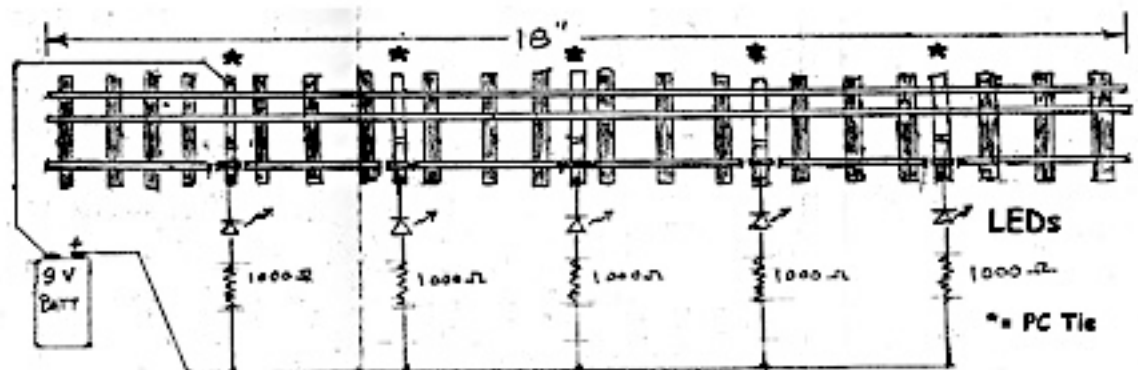
- 1- Weight: we add leads weights to our engines so that can push and pull more cars, An 0-6-0 will probably weigh twice as much as it tender and carry that tonnage on just six wheels (3 in the electron path), The tender spreads perhaps as much weight over eight wheels (4 in the electron path). Long ago I learned that weight on a wheel squashes "Ohm Bugs".
- 2- The electron paths on the engine are simple: wheel-axle bearing - frame - motor. The tender's electron paths are more complex: wheel - axle bearing - bolster to frame - tender to engine connector - to motor.

Do you remember my "See Thru" clear slab car of Think Small #62 of January 2010? Our group added red and green LEDs to show track polarity. Two wheels of each truck provide a connection from rail to LED. The red and green lights add a bit of class to the simple slab car. However the lights were dark most of the time when the car was hand pushed thru energized track. Pushing down on the car would usually wake up the lazy LED and it would glow its red or green message.

I soon realized that wheel to rail conductivity was uncertain and somewhat dependent on car weight. Problem: I could think of no way to tell which wheel or wheels were not providing a path for electrons to flow through that expected path.

I had just put new batteries in the house's smoke alarms and the old 9 volt cells were still strong. A fair supply of LEDs were rattling around in the "Someday" box. The birth of the

Figure C



Put a FRESH Battery in your smoke Alarm. Use the old one here or substitute a 12V DC supply and 1.5K resistors

A single wheel resting on a 1/4" length of rail soldered to a PC Tie verifies its path for current thru the motor by lighting a diode

This "Rube Goldberg" contraption was simple to make and provided a fair amount of semi-useful fun time, but the test is not rigorous. I did learn that the electron path from rail through a single wheel to engine motor or car lights is not a connection to depend on. For serious testing I suggest 2 AA batteries for a 3 volt supply and 150 ohm resistors with Red LEDs.

At the next meeting in Santa Rosa I should bring the Monster for Show and Tell.



This is a short series of tip and techniques that have come from our fellow members as well as from some of the best craftsmen in our hobby.

**Substitute for
Floquil Driftwood
Courtesy Bar Mills Models**

Paint laser cut plywood docks with this substitute for Driftwood stain. Visit a Sherwin Williams paint store and ask for a quart of interior wood oil satin classic. The base color is pickled white. The tint used is as follows: W1-20, B1-16, Y3-11, Y1-2. This usually takes two coats on plywood edges, then finish with a dye/alcohol mix.

If you have a trick or technique that you would like to share, please send your idea to the CallBoard Editor. Pictures are always welcome and we'll help if you feel you aren't a literary giant!

Often we see modelers using the technique of wire brushing the strip wood or laser siding to simulate a weather old wood look. A tip from the X2011 convention suggests that you should gently pound the siding and strip wood. It is claimed that knot holes and a more realistic distressed siding will result.



Sonoma Short Line 2011 A Success

Reported by Joe Aymar

What about those Conventions? When is a Mini Convention as good as a Maxi Convention? The answer is simple. When the "RED" is in charge of the Mini. If you were one of the lucky participants in this year's PCR Mini Convention in Santa Rosa, you automatically know that the Convention was a resounding success. Thanks to the hard work of our "termed out" Superintendent Steve Skold and the guidance provided by Carol Skold, Mary Moore-Campagna, Ernie Simard, Tom Swearingen, Gus Campagna, Carol Alexander, Dave Croshere, David Grundman and myself, participants were offered a full plate of clinics, layout tours second to none. Bravo RED. The Contest was no exception. Good quality models, photographs, arts and crafts made the contest a winner. Thank you to all who participated; your entering the contest made it fun and interesting to all the Convention participants and I am sure it inspired you, the readers of this column, to enter future contests. The list of winners from RED (probably the best modelers, photographers and arts & crafts people in the entire universe, don't you think)? follows:

- Ed Merrin:** Best in Show for track and structure Print
 First place for track and structure Print
 First place for Trains in Action Print
 First place for prototype B&W Print
 First place for Model Color Print
 Third place for Model Color Print
- Stephen Skold:** Second place for Working on the Railroad Print
 Honorable Mention for Model Color Print
- Stewart Benson:** First place for Diesel Locomotive kit
 First place for Caboose open
 First place for Structure novice
 First place for Display open
- Tom Swearingen:** Best in Show for Railroadiana original

- Brice Benson:** First place for Display kit
- David Grundman:** First place for Structure kit
- Dick Foster:** Second place for Structure kit
- Gus Campagna:** Merit award for logging cars
- Giuseppe Aymar:** First place for Diesel Locomotive kit
Best in Show for Fox Theater Bakersfield

There you have it. These are the people who have the "guts" to show their work and are not perturbed in the least by having their models judged by others. Since you can see from this list that all of them are your friends or common folks like you, why not jump into the arena yourself and start bringing models for the Show and Tell at the November RED meeting.

GO RED, GO RED





NMRA Contest Report



Joe Aymar



No, there was nothing boring about the "Model Contest" at the recently held NMRA Convention in Sacramento. Behind the scene, machinations of Machiavellian intrigue were underway to ensure that the total number of entries in Sacramento would top the total incurred at the Milwaukee (Wisconsin) Convention, the largest number in recent memory. Even so, we came up short; the "cheeseheads" won. They had more entries than we, proud PCR, could muster. With tongue in cheek, I reminded Bob Hamm, National Contest Manager, that even though the cheeseheads in Wisconsin won, cows are much happier in California (as shown in the now famous commercial for California cheese).

So, even though the numbers of entries were not astronomical, the quality of the models was the best. Across the board we saw the revival of the scratchbuilt model, rendering mute the argument that modelers have become lazy and prefer to buy kits rather than create models from their own hands.

PCR did fairly well with awards, while our own RED did extremely well. Your new Superintendent, Stewart Benson, won a first place in the kit steam category (UP passenger steam engine) and a second place in the kit caboose category (UP CA-6 caboose), while myself, Giuseppe Aymar, won first place in the Scratchbuilt structure category (Fox Theater), first place in the kitbashed structure category (bridge at Verdi) and first place in the kitbashed diesel category (UP SD60M); third place in photomatch (Canyon Diablo) and first place photomatch (Fox Theater); also honorable mention with Merit Awards for the Canyon Diablo diorama and the scratchbuilt chlorine car.

As of this writing, NMRA has not yet published the results on their website and I might have left someone off the list unintentionally. If this is the case, I will list more names in the next Callboard. (ask Brice Benson, Gus)

GO RED, GO RED



The time to replace our dance floor is quickly approaching- August 20th through September 4th Reopening September 5th.

I NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP TEAR UP THE FLOOR THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 20TH AND 21ST.

I would like us to meet at the hall at 8:00 am on August 20th. I will have coffee and breakfast stuff for everyone. I will also supply a hearty lunch for the heard working people. There will be a dumpster for all the debris. I am hoping that people will have some tools- Skill saw, pry bars, hammers, pliers, and gloves. What we don't have I will either buy or rent. I will supply all the bandaids.

Please let me know if you can help out-It will be fun - Marguerite Longtin

Varied motive Power on the NCRA



NWP 1922 waiting at Schelville Jct.



Genset 2009 arrives at Santa Rosa



Model: Railpower RP20BD - 7 units, 1 re-numbered
2,000 hp 3-engine genset locomotive, engines: 3 - Deutz TCD2015 V-8 (667hp ea.), on 4 axle GP/GE frame.

Roster:		Donor	Originally Converted	New	Serial	Used	Notes:
Unit Number:	Owner:	Unit:	Built:	At:	Number:	At:	
RPRX 2009	RJ Corman Railpower	BNSF 3966	Feb. 1954	CAD Lachine			

Caboose Needs Help!



If you have been to Sonoma's Depot Park it's fairly clear that SP 1130 caboose is in need of volunteers to work on fixing the interior cupola and other details. Years of neglect have left the caboose in less than stellar condition. The museum is working on securing grant monies to help with the renovation. Members with woodworking and other general craft skills are being asked to help in this worthy cause. If you would like to donate just even a few hours per month, the Depot Museum will like to hear from you. Call 707-938-1762 and ask for Sandi Hansen.



Coming Down the Line

- September 10th - **Annual Picnic Meeting** - Roots of Motive Willits, CA 12:00 - 4:00 PM
 October 1st & 2nd-The **Great Train Expo** - Craneway Pavilion Richmond, CA 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 October 14th & 15th-Redwood **Empire Train Show** - Sonoma County Fairgrounds Santa Rosa CA
 Need Volunteers - Call Steve Skold for information
 November 19th - **Fall Meet** - Creekside Village Clubhouse - Sonoma - Details to follow
 February 25, 2012 - **Winter Meet** - Napa Club - Fairgrounds Napa - Details to follow
 May 19, 2012 - spring meet - Monroe Hall Santa Rosa CA
 May 2nd - 5, 2012-Siskiyou **Summit** - PCR/PNR Joint Convention - Red Lion Inn - Medford Oregon

Notes from X2011:

Attendance topped the 2000 mark!
243 new members of NMRA
National Train Show attendance 19,000+