The Sierra Division is offering an exceptional building opportunity for its members. For just $5 you can purchase a NorthEastern Scale Models “YARD STORAGE” laser kit in either HO or N scale. The kit is an easy to build structure that would be great for a first time builder. A minimum of tools is needed to complete the building which measures 19’ by 40’.

**KITS WILL BE HANDED OUT AT OUR MAY MEETING.**

(Other options available—see page 3)

**THEY MUST BE PREORDERED NO LATER THAN FEB. 17** by calling Gary Ray (530) 873-0626 or ordering at the Feb. 4th meeting. **Only one kit per member at this special price.**

Members should commit to sharing their completed model at the May meeting or by submitting a photo.

Many thanks to NorthEastern Scale Models (http://nesm.com) in helping make this offer available. Newsletter printing and postage savings from members subscribing to Digital Short Line also helped defray the cost.

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**Build an HO or N Scale Laser Kit**

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**DON’T MISS THE FEB. 17 ORDER DEADLINE!**

Follow this link for the expanded digital color issue of the Short Line:
http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra/index.html
I want to thank everyone that volunteered at the International Railfair. We had another successful show even though we had less attendance than 2010. We also have to start looking forward to the 2012 show. This event is the Sierra Division’s only fund raiser. We need some people to step up and serve on the International Railfair Board of Directors representing Sierra Division. They have about five meetings a year that are held at the Fair Grounds. One of them is at the show in November. We have 2 positions on the board. I am finding it more and more difficult to do this because of my health. We need people to step up to represent the Sierra Division at these meetings.

We will have the next Sierra Division Meet on February 4, 2012 at the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society starting at 10:30am. They are located at 1990 Grand Ave, Sacramento. You can find their web site at http://www.smrhs.com/ They will present 2 clinics which include their LED lighting and their signaling system. The two clinics will explain how they are made and controlled. There will also be operating sessions on the club layout. The Club will serve their famous $5 lunch. We are looking for a head count for lunch so they know how much to prepare. Please contact me at 530-676-1798 or jimclong@sbcglobal.net They are excited about having us as visitors. Please come and see their layout, attend clinics and see what the Sierra Division has to offer.

The PCR Convention is coming up on May 2-5, 2012. The Siskiyou Summit is being held with PNR in Medford, OR. They have a full slate of clinics, contest, and tours planned. There will be a bus tour to Train Mountain by Klamath Falls, OR. You can find more information at http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012.

May 12 will be a Sierra Division Meet in the Sacramento area. We are also planning a Sierra Division picnic on August 11 again close to Sacramento.

There will be an election soon for Sierra Division Director. Mel Jones has agreed to run but write in candidates are permitted. Next October there will be an election for Superintendent, Chief Clerk and Paymaster. I am not running for reelection because of my health. We need people to step up and run for office. If you are willing please contact Mary or myself.

Jim Long
A counter has been placed on the Division website. Three weeks after the Short Line had been mailed out, 190 people had visited. I am hopeful the additional content is helpful. Even though the last edition came out in late September, there were 72 first time visits in the last thirty days and around 600 visits since October.

If you built a flat car, remember to bring it to the meet. Jim Long had said their would be a prize for each scratch built car. If you didn’t build a car, bring a car (or cars) with unique loads to share. Karen Keifer has volunteered to become the Contest Chairperson. Thanks, Karen.

Help Wanted

Our Superintendent, Jim Long, could really use some help from someone to help arrange for a meeting place four times a year. EVERYONE could help by volunteering to do a clinic (see Letters to the Editor). I would like someone to write up a report on our involvement with the Pediatric’s Hospital in Sacramento and send a few pictures.

Letters to the Editor

In the next issue I’d like to start a column where members can voice what they would like to see our organization doing to make it valuable to them. Address emails to: EDITOR and send to gerber1926@gmail.com. The ultimate goal is to increase participation at our quarterly meetings. Hopefully the current Laser Kit offer will help defray the gas cost for those like myself that must travel 100 miles and provide an opportunity to try something new or share your talent with other participants. Our organization is all volunteer and relies on your help to make it a valuable resource. Those with creative talents; let Superintendent Jim Long know that you would be willing to do a presentation to enrich us all (and maybe it doesn’t have to be really long, but something useful to help with our modeling.) If you are a history buff, maybe a presentation on the prototype could be done. A organization is only as good as its volunteers.

Gary Ray

OTHER OPTIONS to Get a Laser Kit

Our division is huge, stretching from Yreka to Modesto and the Coast Range to all of northern Nevada with the largest concentration in the Sacramento area. We have struggled with how to get all members involved but realize not all can drive the long distances to meets. To help everyone participate in the Laser Kit build, kits can be ordered by phone by calling me at 530-873-0626 and they will be ready for you or a friend to pick up at the May meeting.

If you cannot make it to the May meeting and a friend cannot pick up your kit, you may fill out an order form to have the kit mailed directly to you, but there would be the added cost of $5.20 for Priority Mail. Order forms are on page 28 of the Digital Short Line or can be obtained by emailing me (gerber1926@gmail.com). Put LASER KIT in the subject line. If you don’t have email, call me and I’ll send you an order form (530-873-0626). Order forms are only necessary if you wish to have the kit mailed to you and have to be returned by February 17th.

It’s really a lot more fun if you can make the meetings.

READ “OTHER OPTIONS” FOR ORDERING THIS KIT

Many thanks to Klaus Keil and Mike McReynolds for taking the time to share their excellent articles in this issue.

CONTENT WANTED

Editor wishes to add “HOW TO” more modeling content, PROTOTYPE INFORMATION, or INDIVIDUAL LAYOUT ARTICLES to the newsletter. If you have an idea or know of a website with a great idea, please PASS IT ALONG IMMEDIATELY!

gerber1926@gmail.com

Many thanks to Klaus Keil and Mike McReynolds for taking the time to share their excellent articles in this issue.
Yard Storage Kit Build  

by Gary Ray

I had never build a laser kit, so was looking forward to this. The hardest part was deciding upon the finish and type of building. I model 1926 and needed a Shell Oil Distributor Warehouse and decided this would be my goal.

Not many tools are required: a sharp #11 knife is it. Tweezers and a paint mixer are nice to have. I use a dental pick for applying Aleene’s Quick Dry Tacky Glue which I like better than typical yellow wood glue.

The kit is 100% laser cut. Acetate windows are included, however there are no shingles. There are two small corners on each part not quite cut through. They are located on diagonal corners of each piece. Use the #11 blade to remove these. Do not try to pop pieces out.

I experimented with different finishes on a piece of basswood. I buy sheets cheaply at the local hardware store. Lines were scribed in it and I experimented with nail holes using a push pin. I probably wouldn’t use them on a building again, but felt they might be appropriate for a weatherbeaten south-facing wall. The practice sheet had three sections: cheap grey spray paint, original Floquil reefer yellow, white. Then an India ink/alcohol (A/I) was applied. I sanded the wood with #0000 steel wool before adding A/I mix. I have a bottle of A/I made with 2 tablespoons of Higgins India Ink in 10 ounces of 90% alcohol. I have 2 other small bottles with diluted mix. Also have mixes of water based shoe polish and alcohol—brown staining at the bottom was from this.

To prevent warping if weathering or using water-based paint; paint both sides and perhaps put weights on.

I didn’t paint both sides, but added approximately 3/16 inch (home cut, so not exact) bracing. Bracing on long sides was put flush with edges to give glue block for adding ends. I put weight on to insure flatness while drying.
Detail parts were sprayed with cheap gray paint. The cheapest paint generally has less pigment which is good for seeing modeling detail. Just give a light misting. Parts are held in place by upside down masking tape.

Floquil Polyscale paint was brushed over paint that had dried overnight.

I decided to use the reefer yellow with just a little white added. It was dry-brushed on the sides, leaving a variety of thickness of paint—very light on south side. A couple of boards were lifted using a chisel pointed knife. Detail parts were lightly brushed with a brass brush to show some of weathered grey underneath. A/I wash was added to everything after drying overnight. I would recommend painting everything before assembly. Here are all the parts ready to go. I had cut out below one window from the lower front of the building in order to add a door. I used the blank door panel that was included in the kit for the taller back of the building.

I opted not to use the base because I wanted a loading dock. But here is a sample of a concrete finish. Plywood was painted with Gesso. After drying, sand down and paint with aged concrete paint, A/I wash.

For window awnings open, I made small paper hinges and glued on front, then flipped wall over and glued a larger paper hinge. Be sure to open awning to desired position before glue sets so rear hinge has enough give.

All sub-assemblies are done, painted edge of roof.

Follow manufacturer’s directions for assembly. I like to assembly on glass to insure flatness. Only place I used a clamp was when interior wall of small building section was added. Steel angle was used initially to insure square corners. DO NOT glue on larger roof until lower roof section is finished. Hard to get under the eaves. Don’t ask how I know.
I decided to have roll roofing. Three foot strips of very thin masking tape were cut and applied. Then they were painted, washed with A/I, weathering chalks were applied, then A/I puddled in different areas.

This is the way the kit is to look with the concrete foundation. Canopy glue was use to fasten windows in prior to assembling building. Also put in some shades.

Here is the finished Shell Oil Distributor warehouse with loading docks. To the left of the front door will be a dirt ramp to allow loading of trucks.

This was a fun build and was easy to do. All parts fit with no extra work. Hopefully you will order one of these to try out. It will be interesting to see what you have done with the kit at our August meeting.
The statement to the left appears to be a present day Press Release, which in fact it is not.

The Rheinstein Museum Aerodrome is a creation by Klaus G. Keil of Paradise, which he incorporated as an element of the European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) Sacramento Chapter layout. To make the concept of “Aviation in Model Railroading” available to the greater model railroader community, Klaus has also created nine (9) HO scale dioramas featuring antique aircraft and automobiles, and displays same at various venues. These models are displayed as individual focal points such as realistic flat car loads, and as a center in a medical emergency at a rail track side setting, and at a Museum Aerodrome complete with appropriate facilities, vehicles and workers and visitors.

As mentioned above Geoff and Jim Fischer generously donated to Klaus a cardboard box full of assorted JORDAN PRODUCTS HIGHWAY MINIATURES components. A detailed identification and match of the various pieces yielded a sufficient set of parts to create a tanker truck. An initial internet search enabled Klaus to potentially identify that vehicle as a 1921 Mack gasoline tanker. The very first step was to repair damaged parts by “welding” all broken pieces with KRAZY GLUE ACC cement, to increase the strength of the joints. Hereafter the various components were assembled using ACC cement or TESTOR PLASTIC CEMENT. At this stage the model appeared to very closely resemble a 1921 Mack gasoline tanker. Hereafter the vehicle was then spray painted with MODEL MASTER CUSTOMS SPRAY ENAMEL bright yellow. The windshield, which had been previously cut to size, was fixed in place with BORDEN RUBBER CEMENT. The solid rubber tires were painted with MODEL MASTER ACRYL gloss black.

The scrap box yielded a length of CLOVER HOUSE heavy chain for a static electricity ground. The starter hand crank was made from a length of stainless steel wire; its crank handle is a piece of black telephone wire insulator. The SHELL logo was computer duplicated from a FALLER kit label, and the UN hazard cargo labels were computer duplicated from appropriate images contained an FEMA Emergency Response Guide book.

While the above described effort was somewhat laborious, Klaus feels it was well worth the resultant model and the experience using JORDAN products. In fact he was so encouraged by this undertaking, that thereafter he had built a 1920 era US Postal Service mail delivery truck and a 1920 era Rail Express delivery van, which are displayed in a diorama featuring the Curtis JN-4, which inaugurated the US Air Mail service. The JORDAN vehicles are a valuable contribution to any layout representing the 1920’s steam period. Additionally in this day and age on request JORDAN will furnish any part either lost or damaged during assembly! Who else does this?

Klaus G. Keil
A very enjoyable part of the model railroad hobby is road trips to real rail operations for the purpose of photographing or recording a prototype in order to model it. The way you conduct yourself on these excursions may well determine the enjoyment and success of the outing.

In general, railroad employees use the term “Foamer” when referring to rail fans. The connotation being wild-eyed, scanner-carrying individuals with timetables sticking out of their pockets, three cameras hung around the neck and a hat-full of railroad pins, who literally froths at the mouth in excitement when they get around a railroad. While these types are in the minority, it only takes a few encounters with them to sour the railroads on spectators in general.

There are some things you can do to be a good guest. First and foremost, be upfront; ask permission before you start. A lot of the shortlines in particular don’t mind visitors if they announce themselves first. Mainline railroads are a little more difficult, but by being polite and honest, they might point out some good locations that satisfy their need for security and your desire for good photos.

Remember that railroads are private property. If you are closer than 30-40 feet from the rails you are probably trespassing and can be cited or even arrested for being there. Railroad police are not very forgiving of someone sneaking around the property in today’s security climate.

When you talk to railroad employees, resist the temptation to pepper them with questions about equipment or operations. Most employees, with a few exceptions, don’t know or care what type of engine is sitting on the tracks. All they know is it rides rough and the toilet needs to be dumped. Railroads are busy places and workers don’t have time to give you a schedule of events.

If you are rail-fanning from the street, remember to be a courteous driver. I recall when the Freedom Train came through in 1976; Highway 99 was log-jammed by a group of cars pacing the train at 45 mph from Sacramento to Fresno. Commuters and truckers trying to make a living couldn’t get through the blockade.

You can be an extra pair of eyes for the railroad. Carry the phone number of the railroad police in your area. If you see an obvious problem (someone stealing or damaging railroad property) give them a call. This will generate a lot of goodwill. Remember, it only takes a few ‘bad apples’ to give all of us a black eye. Any bonus points you can rack up will do a lot for the rail fan community.

Railroads are dangerous places. Train crews must be constantly vigilant to protect their crewmates from injury. Having extra people wandering around adds tremendously to the stress of the job and will not make you a welcome visitor. Under no circumstances should you ever climb over or crawl under railcars to get the sun on the ‘right’ side of the train. Besides being dangerous and foolish, it will get you escorted from the property without delay. When trying to get that head-on shot, stand on the outside of a curve and aim down the straight rail instead of getting between the rails, which earns you negative points.

Just be as careful and considerate as you would want someone to be on your property and there’s a good chance you will be welcome to return for another enjoyable day of rail-fanning.

Mike McReynolds is a retired railroader with 28 years with M&ET, 11 years as a steam engineer at Railtown and 13 years as a volunteer for Operation Lifesaver. (photo by Paul Niedhamer)
SIERRA DIVISION
Next Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 4
Place: Sacramento Model RR Historical Soc.
1990 Grand Ave.
Sacramento, CA
Time: 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Timetable

<table>
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<tr>
<th>May 12</th>
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<td>August 11</td>
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Short Line Deadlines

| April 9 for the May issue |
| July 6 for the August issue |
| Sept. 7 for the October issue |

Those members who have switched to the Digital Short Line helped make the $5 NorthEastern Scale Model's Warehouse kit available. If you haven’t switched, please consider doing so today. Postage and printing costs continue to rise, so this really helps. And you get The SHORT LINE early and in color!

Our sincere thanks to Jean and Nancy Oriol, owners of North- Eastern Scale Models, Inc., for helping defray the costs of the kits. Our division took a tour of their factory in Chico back in October, 2007. Not only do they do precision laser cutting of their own kits, but for other manufacturers such as Fine Scale Miniatures. To see other kit offerings, go to: http://nesm.com/

Sierra Division Area

Hobby Shows & Rail-fanning Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>January 14 &amp; 15</th>
<th>The Great Train Expo - Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 9 to 11</td>
<td>O SCALE WEST O Scale West 2012 8:00 am to 11:00 pm, 5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>WINTERRAIL - 9:00 am to 10:00 pm, Full event - $35 advance mail in only, Railroadiana Show $7 at the door, Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 33 West Ave, Stockton, CA Info: <a href="http://www.winterail.com/">http://www.winterail.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2 to 5</td>
<td>Siskiyou Summit 2012 - Joint PNR / PCR Convention, Red Lion Hotel, 200 N. Riverside Ave., Medford, OR, Online Registration: <a href="http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/registration.html">http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/registration.html</a></td>
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**Great Web Sites**

http://rrmodelcraftsman.com/extraboard/  Railroad Model Craftsman website has a section called the Craftsman Extra Board. There are several how to articles: Making White Decals, Aged Cement, Building a Wooden Car Kit, Paint Masks, Painting Resin Kits, Adding Vines, Stone Work and other articles.

http://www.barmillsmodels.com/  Bar Mills website was several short videos on preparing laser kits. Also of interest - click on Enjoy This Amazing Video if you want to see a REALLY animated layout.

http://www.kitforums.com/  Kit Forums has dozens of step by step construction articles of different kits. The web link below is of a 21 page construction forum using Sierra West's Scotia Supply kit. It includes instructions on painted walls. Each forum has lots of good ideas for craftsman kit building. There were 375 pages of 1873 topics. Great place to browse.


http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=31684&whichpage=1  Railroad-Line Forums has thousands of topics. This link is to Jimmy Simmons excellent ten page blog on weathering a Fine-Scale Miniatures kit and expands the methods found on his own website listed above. I found The Classroom and Mike Chambers’ Craftsman’s Corner especially helpful. There are some real gems when it comes to tutorials. I need to spend a lot more time exploring this excellent site.


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**Sierra Division Picnic**

On Saturday, October 8, Sierra Division had their annual picnic at Grass Valley. The Nevada County Narrow Gauge Historical Model Railroad members were our gracious hosts. It was a mild fall day and we enjoyed the beautiful wooded surroundings at the Grass Valley Fair Grounds. The NCNGHMRR was decorated appropriately for fall and the upcoming Halloween holiday. After the BBQ, members were able to tour the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum in Nevada City. We appreciate the extra effort both organizations went to in hosting this event.

The Sierra Division’s Annual 2012 picnic will be on Saturday, August 11, so mark your calendar. It will be somewhere in the Sacramento area. Warehouse storage buildings that have been constructed will be shared at this meet.

"I'm going to the BBQ before finding the winner of the Biggest Pumpkin Contest."
Nevada County Narrow Gauge Historical Model Railroad president Leah Charonnat explains to Bob Warner (UP hat), Dick Kreutzer, and Al Rowe (far left) how is Live Steam Astrocraft 2-6-0 works.
Judy Champlin, Mel Jones, Mary Moore-Campagna, Dick Kreutzer, and Gus Campagna prepare to eat.

The NCNGRR president's house is appropriately decorated for fall.
Apparently the Grass Valley / Nevada City foothills is one of the best places in the world to grow world class pumpkins.
Even though the food was great, we were all thinking about what flat car or load we were going to bring to share at the February Sierra Division meet in Sacramento.

Gus Campagna, Mary Moore-Campagna, Ed Homer, Harold Elmore, Dick Krewtzer and others.
Arnt Tonnessen (sunglasses), Gene Mayer (rear), Dick Klammer and Bob Rowe (left)

Hosts Ed Homer and Leal Charonnat
Dick Klammer (blue jacket) enjoys lunch with several of our hosts.

I really appreciate Gus Campagna. He maintains our Sierra Division web site and has really helped me in publishing the Digital Short Line in a timely manner.

Thanks, Gus!

Gary Ray—Editor
Mary Moore-Campagna explains to your editor how to do ticket sales at the front gate. Ross Graham and Dennis Drury are old pros.

Sellers are checking other merchants’ displays prior to opening
Dick Kreutzer wonders where the train rides are and Ronnie LeTorres knows. Is that an approved railroader hat?

Dale Dennis is the engineer that delighted so many future railroad buffs.
Mike and John McKenzie were at Railfair with their Red Mountain Narrow Gauge “Sn3” layout.
John McKenzie demonstrates tree making on a device that they sell.

Joel Bragdon demonstrates resin casting and his Geodesic Foam Scenery techniques.
Dick Witzens helps on Sacramento Modular Railroader’s Sacramento Central modular layout. The SCRR is a state-of-the-art modular HO scale model railroad that has been in existence for over three decades. It depicts operations between Gerber, CA in the north and Modesto, CA in the south with a major yard facility in Roseville, CA. Web Site: http://saccentral.railfan.net/
The Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club was founded in 1977 by a small group of modelers in the home town of Southern Pacific's Jennings Yard. Over time, the group moved to several locations before coming back to the Placer County Fairgrounds where they started. The HO layout shown in the top three photos is approximately 30x17 and is built in the shape of a "Z" for the membership to operate trains.

David Neighbors admires the Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club’s N scale layout. It is fully scencicd and is both DC and DCC by operating one mainline per control system. The club's Western Sierra Lines Railroad is freelanced on both layouts.
A circus train rushes by on the Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society display. The Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society is located in and around the Cities of Sacramento and Roseville, but members live in an area stretching from Pacific Grove on the West to Reno and Carson City on the East to Redding on the North, to Stockton on the South. They usually meet on the first or second weekend of each month at a member's home (generally in the Roseville - Sacramento area). Web site: [http://www.svgrs.org/](http://www.svgrs.org/)

Shopping opportunities abound at the Sierra Division's only fund raiser. It supports our newsletter, meetings, prizes, picnic, and activities such as the upcoming Laser Kit build. We need some people to step up and serve on the International Railfair Board of Directors representing Sierra Division. They have about five meetings a year that are held at the Fair Grounds. One of them is at the show in November. We have 2 positions on the board. We need people to step up to represent the Sierra Division at these meetings. Contact Jim Long ([jimclong@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimclong@sbcglobal.net), 530-676-1798) right away if you are willing to serve this very important position.
Dave Haehn admires the **Northern California Narrow Gaugers** modular layout which was exhibited during Railfair. The **NCNG** is a module club open to modelers in the Central Valley and Foothills of the Northern Sierra who have an interest in On30 model railroading. They are a loose knit group of On30 model railroaders of all skill levels. Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month in the Rocklin area. They come together to setup their module layout about four times a year at various events within two hours driving distance of Sacramento. Website: [http://www.scottrobertsonon30.com/ND%26AC%20Railroad/NCNG%20On30%20Module%20Club.html](http://www.scottrobertsonon30.com/ND%26AC%20Railroad/NCNG%20On30%20Module%20Club.html)
Pat LaTorres, Ronnie LaTorres, Ed Homer, Gus Campagna, Mary Moore-Campagna and others share conversation at Railfair’s Volunteer banquet. There are many benefits to volunteering to help. First and most importantly, it is our only fund raiser. Volunteers get in free both days, have free parking, a free banquet, satisfaction of having helped our volunteer association the relies solely on volunteers, and meeting old friends and making new ones. Hopefully you will considering for the 2012 Railfair when the time comes.

Bill Swindell, Greg Duke, Judy Champlin and Larry Champlin were among the much appreciated volunteers.
Norm Morris (to the right of flowers) not only volunteers for Railfair but has also helped lower our printing costs as **Short Line** switched printing jobs to his business.

Carolyn and Walt Schedler share a table with Dennis Drury. Walt’s wistful look is due to his hoping that there is a winner among the several raffle tickets in front of him. No need to worry Walt—he went on to win more than half a dozen prizes—I lost count. Next time I visit Walt, I’ll have to talk him into going to Colusa Casino with that kind of luck.

Hopefully your face will be here among the many Railfare volunteers next November.
Order Form

This form only needs to be filled out if you or a friend cannot make it to the May 12th meeting to pick up your kit. The kit will be mailed to you by Priority Mail at the actual cost of $5.20. Order must be received by February 17th.

I am a member of the Sierra Division and am unable to pick up my kit. Please mail it to me. I have included a check made out to “NMRA/PCR/Sierra Division” for $10.20.

Mail your order to: Gary Ray, 6601 Ray Family Lane, Magalia, CA 95954-9733.

Name: _________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State _____ Zip _________________

Phone: _________________________ Email: ________________________________

Scale (circle one): HO   N