



# THE SHORT LINE



SIERRA DIVISION, PACIFIC COAST REGION, NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
September 4, 2007

## Superintendent's Report September 2008

We had a great picnic at Jamestown on Aug 11<sup>th</sup>. There were members from 4 divisions in attendance. This is what PCR is about, people getting together to talk about our hobby and enjoying themselves at our picnic. We had a great train ride and after that a shop tour. You can see some pictures of the event on our web site <<http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra/index.htm> >

**Our next meet will be Oct 6, 2007.** We will start with a tour of Northeastern Scale Models at 10 AM located at: Northeastern Scale Models, Inc., 609 Entler Ave. Ste. 3, Chico, CA, <<http://www.nesm.com/> > (530)896-0801, (800)840-0028. They manufacture many structure kits. We will see the manufacturing process. They use Laser Cutting in their manufacturing. We will finish up at Northeastern Scale Models by 11:30 and everyone will on their own for lunch. We may pick a place for all to eat together. After lunch we will meet at **The Lutheran Church. 6404 Pentz Rd, in Paradise.**

Here we will have our meeting and a clinic by Claws Kale titled "Aviation and Model Railroading". After the clinic we will have a tour of Paradise Depot Museum and 3 or 4 layouts. This weekend is **Johnny Appleseed Days** in Paradise. There will be food, crafts and many things to do for the entire family. Information can be found at <<http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra/index.htm> >. I hope to see many of you there. This is a good Meet for those that live in the north part of the Sacramento Valley.

The International Rail Fair will be Nov 10 & 11, 2007. This is a very important event for Sierra Division because it is our only fundraiser. We are responsible for the ticket selling in the ticket booth and clean up. You can read more about this in our Directors Report by Mary Moore Campagna elsewhere in the Short Line. Please volunteer to help with this event.

The Sierra Division Banquet will be January 26, 2008 at Frasinetti's Winery in Sacramento. I want to thank Dick Witzens for setting this up. We will have more information about cost and entertainment later.

There is information about what is happening on our web site. Please take a look at <<http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra/index.htm> > I want to thank Dave Grenier for setting up the web site and Gus Campagna for keeping it up. This shows us how PCR is one large family. Dave is from Daylight Division and Gus is from RED.

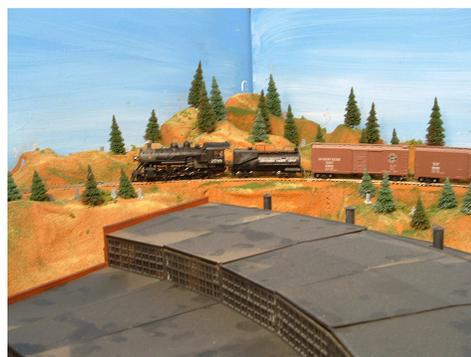
I will be again posting Sierra Division information on the PCR Yahoo Group. You can join this group by sending an e-mail to <[sierradiv-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sierradiv-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) >. By joining this Group you will receive messages about PCR, the Division, modeling and most important messages from many friends in the hobby. The group generates between 29 and 192 messages a month. Many of them are just chatting but all are enjoyable.

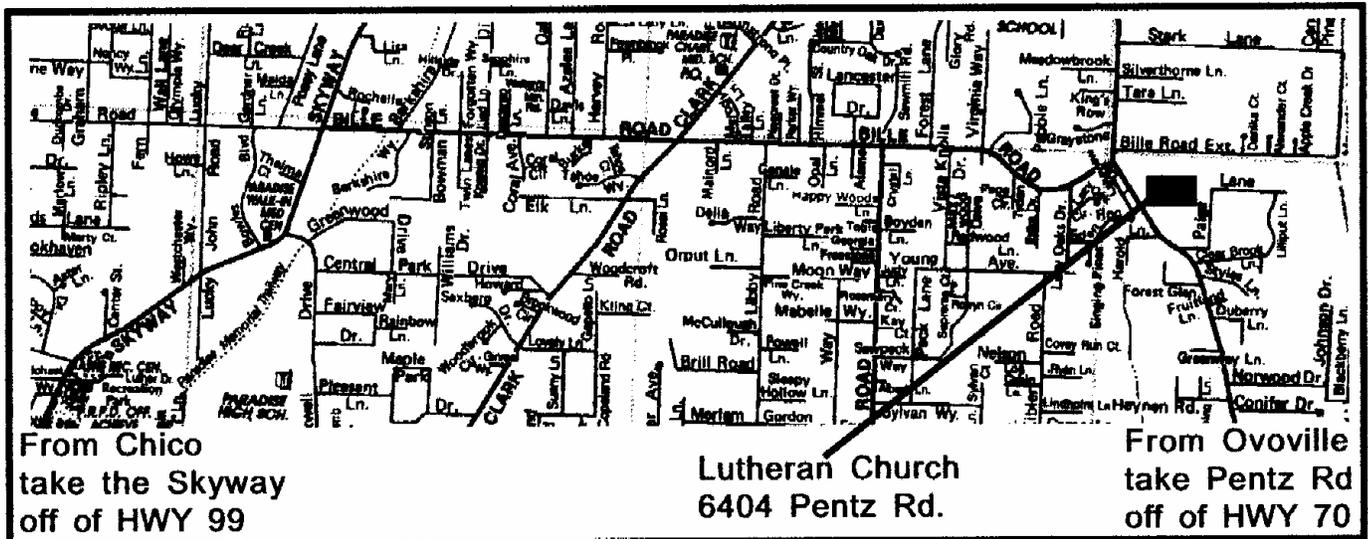
There are several other model railroading events coming up in the next few months.  
Daylight Division Meet Oct 27, 2007 in Fresno  
PCR Board Meeting Oct 27, 2007 in Fresno  
Worlds Greatest Hobby on Tour Jan 5 & 6, 2008 in Sacramento.  
Great Train Expo, Feb 2 & 3, 2008 at Cal Expo Sacramento

*Jim Long*

**Sierra Division Meeting**  
in Paradise Saturday October  
6, 1:00PM at the Lutheran  
Church 6404 Pentz Road.

Layout Tour after Meeting.





## SIERRA DIVISION MEETING, PARADISE

Our next Sierra Division Meet will be Saturday  
OCTOBER 6 at the LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
6404 Pentz Road in Paradise starting at 1:00 PM.

A Clinic on combining Model Airplanes and  
Model Trains is scheduled. There will be several layout  
tours after the meeting.

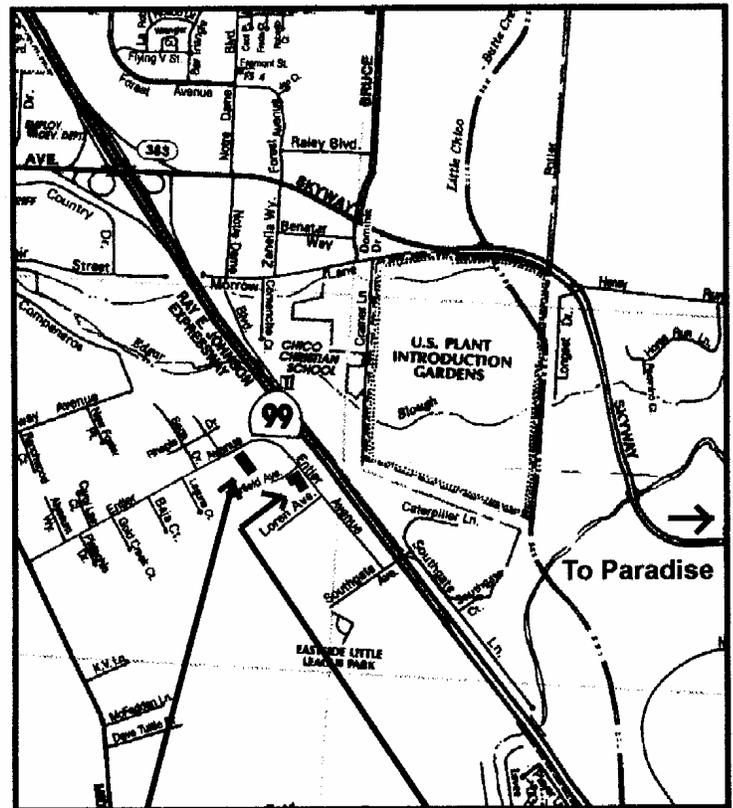
Directions to Lutheran Church:

From Highway 99 (in Chico) take the Skyway  
to Paradise, turn right at Bille Road, turn right  
at Pentz Road.

From Highway 70 take Pentz Road (the Pentz Road  
intersection is north of the  
Hwy 193 intersection).

Those coming from Highway 99 may wish  
to tour Northeastern Scale Models at 609  
Entler Ave #3. Tour will be from 10:00AM to 11:30AM.  
From Highway 99 (south of the Skyway) take Entler Ave  
at the Entler/Southgate intersection.

The old Sacramento Northern Depot is located  
at the corner of Entler Ave and Norfield Ave.  
It looks much as it did when at its original  
location along the SN in Chico.



Home of Northeastern  
Scale Models, 609 Entler  
Ave #3. Tour 10 AM til  
11:30.

Old Sacramento Northern  
Station, move here from  
down town Chico in the mid  
60's.

# THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY PROJECT

By Tom Ebert

Western Washington or the upper level of the GNRy is very different world from the Eastern, lower level. If you recall, the lower level contains a major yard and the adjacent City of Wenatchee. Further down the line there is Cashmere with team tracks and several small lineside industries; followed by Winton and the Portland Cement spur. There are many switching chores here and a hidden staging area representing Chelan whose trains will bring carloads of apples from Washington's vast northern apple orchards down to Wenatchee and Appleyard

In contrast, the upper level is composed of two industries; the rock/ballast quarry at Miller River and the huge Bloedel-Donovan Mill outside of Skykomish – and the termination point for the electric helper operation in the town of Skykomish below.



In addition to the modeling density contrasts, the scenery differs sharply West to East. If you have a copy of the wonderful book, Northwest Passage by Robert Leachman you've seen that eastern Washington is a naturally dry country as compared to the western part of the state. On my modeled Cascade Division the real action starts at Miller River just west of Sky. There, the Great Republic Mining Co., once a modest gold mine, turned GNRy ballast quarry, holds multiple lash ups of air dump cars for a near by fill project. From there we travel several modeling miles along the Skykomish River to the town of its namesake. If we are chasing a local and plan on staying on the western side of the Cascade tunnel they'll be no need to stop and exchange our head end equipment for a brace of powerful electrics. Otherwise, our journey ends

here and the helper crews take over and guide our train up and over the hill.

Outside the town of Skykomish in 1950, was the Bloedel – Donovan Lumber Company. No narrow gauge railroading here. Standard gauge 0-6-OT's ruled the day and moved millions of board feet of logs and lumber out of the Cascade mountains. If you stand in Skykomish today and look around, you'll see little evidence of the clear cutting that took place through the early part of the Twentieth Century, because your looking at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation trees. On this part of the journey there is little to see except mountains. Miles and miles of mainline running, and in 1950, with a brace of Y-1 electrics up front and another set of Z-1's in the middle, your witnessing a long freight pushing up the hill toward Scenic and the western face of the Cascade tunnel.

That's my vision of the modeled upper level GNRy 2<sup>nd</sup> Subdivision of the Cascade Division.

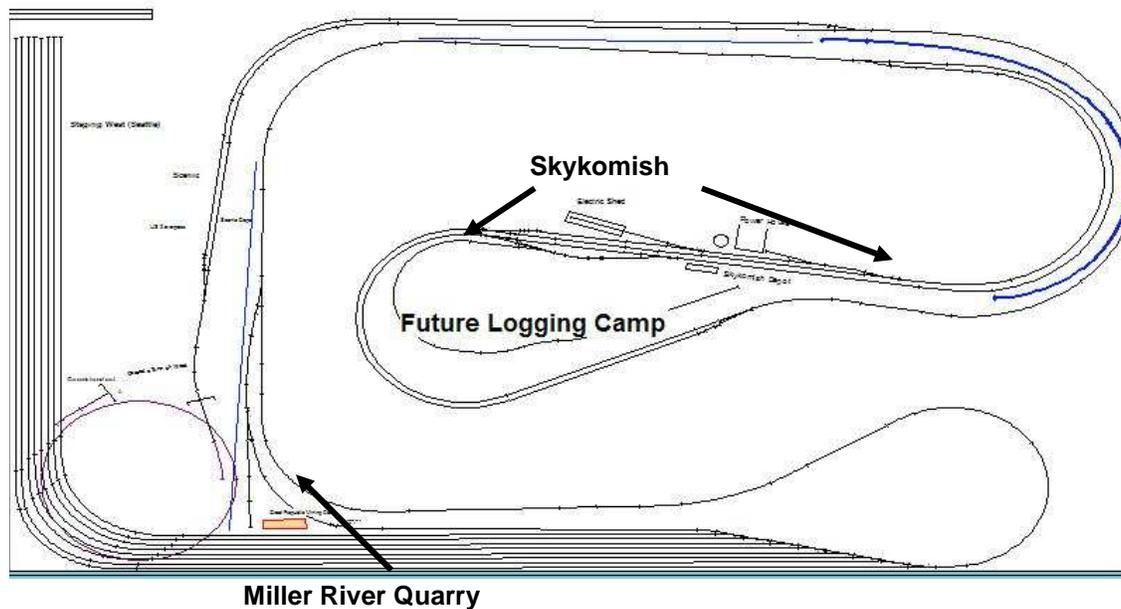
Out of Seattle staging, taking a run to the quarry near Miller River and then another to Skykomish; I used a peninsula or blob to model the Skykomish area. I've yet to define or design the logging trackage behind the town, I do know that mountains and big trees will provide the backdrop on top. The rest of upper level is mainline combined with passing tracks to allow for traffic flow.

Its visually appealing to me where the upper level recedes some amount from the lower level with a minimum amount of over shadowing. Or in the case where towns or industries lie on the upper level then they become the prominent features of the layout.

Always a compromise of course - so do I practice what I preach? The answer is yes – kind of. I put Skykomish over Cashmere and the logging area over the rest of the peninsula. The upper level will dominate the scene with big trees and logging operations. The operators below those scenes maybe distracted. A small saving grace was to maximize the separation in this area by close to 19".

# THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY PROJECT Page 2

Here is the upper level of the GNRy Project.



Basically a long mainline with several passing tracks. Only two industries and one town, the upper level exist for connections points to the Western side of the Cascade Tunnel, an opportunity to model a logging operation and most importantly to extend or double the length of my mainline. There are a lot of scenic opportunities here. I hope I'm up to the task!

Next time I'll like to show you a graph you can use to represent the distances between levels on a layout. Unfortunately I've run out of space. I appreciate the Shortline Editor letting me have 2 pages this issue!! See you next time!

## AUGUST SIERRA DIVISION MEETING & PICNIC RAILTOWN 1897, JACKSON



## 2008 WPRRHS Convention Sacramento

The Western Pacific RR Historical Society is holding its annual convention Friday April 11 and Saturday April 12, 2008 in Sacramento at the Clarion Mansion Inn, 701 16th St (across the street from the old Governor's Mansion. Details will be reported on the Western Pacific Historical Society website < <http://www.wprrhs.org/> >, as they become available.

If you have interesting historical or modeling information regarding the Western Pacific, Sacramento Northern, Tidewater Southern, Central California Traction or any of their associated companies please consider putting together a presentation for the convention. Contact me at < [wpcon2008@yahoo.com](mailto:wpcon2008@yahoo.com) >.

We want to encourage people to bring models to show off for the convention. This is a simple exhibition-no judging, no prizes. One of planned displays is what we are calling the "WP Interchange Train" (HO Scale). It will be led by, fittingly enough, the WP 2008 (a P20) with a WP caboose will bringing up the rear. In the middle will be whatever you bring. The rolling stock can be from the WP or anything that could have been on WP tracks through interchange. That's just our hook, if you have other WP related models, we want to. I'm working on the WP freight house that was at 3rd & R. I plan to bring it to show off (this is my way of beating off procrastination by having a deadline for completion.

I'd like to put together a couple of PowerPoint presentations but I need your help. The first deals with the South Sacramento Shops. This was an important facility for the WP and it would be shame to hold the convention in Sacramento without at least mentioning it. If you have pictures of the shops from any era, please contact me at < [wpcon2008@yahoo.com](mailto:wpcon2008@yahoo.com) >.

The other relates to the WP Interchange Train mentioned above. I'd like to call it "That car rode on WP rails???" If you have pictures of what could be considered a rare visitor to the WP please consider sharing it for the presentation- again contact me at < [wpcon2008@yahoo.com](mailto:wpcon2008@yahoo.com) >.

We are looking into having an informal pre-convention dinner at the Spaghetti Factory (which many of you know is the old WP passenger depot in Sacramento) on the Thursday before the convention, April 10. This might be followed by a layout tour. Also in the early planning stages as is a possible Sunday Brunch train on the Sacramento Dinner Train on the Sunday after the convention April 13. If you are interested in joining us for any of these things, let me know at < [wpcon2008@yahoo.com](mailto:wpcon2008@yahoo.com) >.

Keep looking at < <http://www.wprrhs.org/> > for details. **You do not have to be a member of the Society to join in the fun.**

*Tom Campbell*



Marysville August 29, 2007. If you have any information on this locomotive, contact the Editor.

### SIERRA MEMORIES

PCR Convention '08  
April 30-May 4, 2008  
Ramada University Inn and Conference Center, Fresno, California  
[www.pcrnmra.org/conv2008](http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2008)

**Featured Fares:**

- Sugar Pine Railroad Trip and Picnic
- Banquet with Guest Speaker
- Business Breakfast
- Layout Tours - Self and Group Guided Clinics

- Unique Commemorative Railcar
- Self-Guided Historic Tours
  - Sierras and Valley Historic Spots
- Modular Layouts Displays
- Manufacturer Exhibits/Swap Meet



**THE SHORT LINE**  
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## **INTERNATIONAL RAILFAIR 2007 IS COMING!**

It's getting to be that time of year when railfans from far and near converge on the city of Roseville for International Railfair. This year's event will be held on Saturday, November 10 and Sunday, November 11 at the fairgrounds in Roseville.

AS ONE OF THE CO-SPONSORS OF RAILFAIR, THE SIERRA DIVISION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH VARIOUS FUNCTIONS DURING THE EVENT. (Besides being an overall enjoyable event, Railfair is one of the Sierra Division's primary sources of income; so it's a great opportunity to support your division.) This year we will be handling the ticket booth (at the front gate) and the information table (in the back building where some of the vendors are located – the one with the stage). We will need coverage of these areas from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Each shift is two or three hours long, beginning with 10:00 a.m. – noon and going through to 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. And there's even an extra bonus: as if working to help out the Sierra Division and the hobby of railroading in general wouldn't be enough reward, EACH VOLUNTEER WILL RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION TO RAILFAIR AND A FREE DINNER TICKET to the banquet at the Moose Lodge on Saturday evening after the first day of Railfair!

If you would like additional information or would be interested in signing up for a volunteer shift, please contact me at < [marycmoore@campagna.com](mailto:marycmoore@campagna.com) > and let me know what area and time slot you would prefer (and, if you plan to attend the banquet, whether you prefer beef or chicken as an entrée). We look forward to seeing you there! *Mary More-Campagna*

### **2006 Convention Car Decals**

If you'd like any of decals used on the 2006 River City Express convention cars, let Dick Witzens know at 5856 Laguna Shore Way, Elk Grove, CA 95628, or < [witzrr@surewest.net](mailto:witzrr@surewest.net) >. These are the "chalk mark" decals that say "PCR 2006 NMRA River City Express" for the sides of the Western Pacific refrigerator convention car. Of course, they can go on any surface suitable for decaling. There are also a few of the orange (car side) and brown (car end) number decals available.

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Submissions to the Short Line: Photos, Prototype information, Modeling tips, News of coming events, etc are welcome. They may be submitted to Donald Schmitt, 1318 Johnson Ave, Marysville, CA 95901, < [duschmitt@comcast.net](mailto:duschmitt@comcast.net) >.