

SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association



The
**World's
Greatest
Hobby!**

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International Railfair 2010

contributed by Mary Moore-Campagna

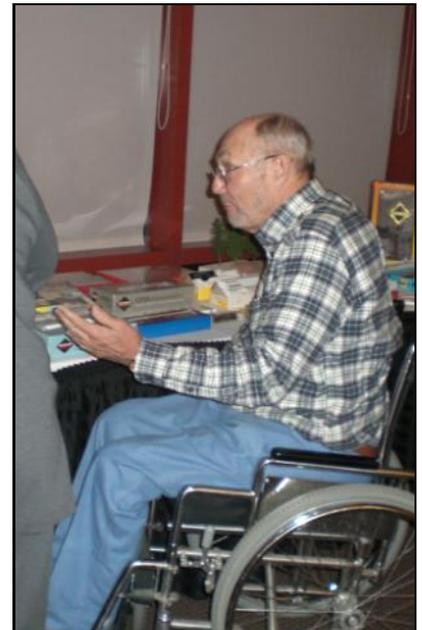
Once again the Sierra Division (and friends) participated in one of our signature events – International Railfair. Although the attendance count was down slightly from last year, everyone seemed to have a great time. (Those of us in the ticket booth saw lots of people walking out with their arms full of boxes and bags!) And for some reason, there seemed to be a lot more kids this year who were interested in the Timesaver. Every time

I went over to the Timesaver/ Information booth, there seemed to be a lot of active participation (which bodes well for trying to recruit new model railroaders!). The weather was cool and dry, which made it much more pleasant for people walking around the fairgrounds and in between the buildings to look at all the layouts and displays.

Railfair | Page 3



Sierra Division member Joe Melhorn takes tickets at Railfare.



Fellow member Ed Pultz checks out the raffle prizes.

Follow this link for a color PDF of this issue of the Short Line:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Sierra_Division_Short_Line

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bership problems,*

SHORT LINE

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SHORT LINE is published quarterly by the Sierra Division of the Pacific Coast Region of the National Association. Material may be reprinted with permission.

Articles, photos, tips, or ideas are heartily encouraged and will be enthusiastically accepted! The preferred format would be in Rich Text Format (RTF), with photos as JPEGs, but we will accept any format (from a PC or Mac; MS Word, Simple Text, typed, or hand-written). Send it to your editor by regular mail to **SHORT LINE**, 6601 Ray Family Lane, Magalia, CA 95954 or by email to gerber1926@gmail.com.

If e-mailing put EDITOR in the subject line.

From the Superintendent

I am very pleased to introduce you to Gary Ray, our new Short Line Editor. As you can see, this edition looks very different than the last few that I put out. Gary volunteered because of an appeal for some help in our last Short Line. His work looks great as you can see. **It will look even better if you give him some articles to include in the future.**

We still need several more people to volunteer to help in various ways.

There are several positions that are vacant. We are looking for:

Contest Chairperson - Organize Model Contests at Division Meets

Photo Contest Chairperson - Organize Photo Contest at Division Meets

Membership Promotion - Seek new members and contact members that don't renew

International Railfair - Represent Sierra Division at Railfair Business Meetings

International Railfair - Coordinator for IRF activities

Member Aid - Help members with NMRA questions or problems

Division Director - The Sierra Division Directors job will be open next year.

We will have nominations this fall. Mary is termed out so we have to find another volunteer. Please volunteer for these positions. If all the jobs are filled, no one has to do too much work and the division runs well.

We are also looking for people to present clinics at division meets. I would like to see clinics about photography, model construction and operations.

Our next Division Meet will be February 12 at the Rancho Cordova Library.

This is at 9845 Folsom Blvd. Sacramento. This is between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road. We will start at 1:30PM and will be finished by 4:30PM. We will have a clinic "A Day In The Life Of A Train Dispatcher" by **Steve Gust**. Steve is a retired dispatcher for Union Pacific.

We will have the **Weathered Car contest** that we announced last summer.

We passed out cars for \$5 last summer and if you bring the same car back weathered we will return your \$5. You can also bring any other car that you have that is weathered.

Our next Division Meets will be February 12, April 9, August 13 and Oct 8.

I would also like to sponsor a **prototype photo shoot** sometime this spring. We will meet and take pictures of trains and then share them at a division meet in the fall.

I would like to find a way to distribute the Short Line electronically. (See form on the back page—ed.) The printing and postage of the Short Line is the largest expense of the division.

Let's all try to sign up for the Sonoma Short Line PCR Convention on May 13 -15 and the X2011 NMRA National Convention on July 3 to 9, 2011.

Jim Long

From the Editor

You may have noticed that **SHORT LINE** has a new look. In the last issue there was a plea for help and I responded that I would be happy to be editor.

I hope to bring not only Sierra Division business messages to you, but also try to give modeling information you can use. I have written some of the content in this issue, but will need to rely on your input in the future. I want this to be **YOUR NEWSLETTER**. If you would like to write an article, share a tip or computer link to a favorite site with modeling ideas, or would like to open your layout to a visit, please send the information and photos to me by e-mail with the word **EDITOR** in the subject line (gerber1926@gmail.com). See the bottom of the **CALLBOARD** for an address for regular mail if you don't have email. **I can make **SHORT LINE** look pretty, but will be relying on your input for content. PLEASE SUBMIT SOMETHING!**

Now that you have read the important stuff, who am I? My name is Gary Ray. I've been a member of Sierra Division for a thirty years, but not very involved. Recent retirement from teaching and a new high-speed internet connection prompted me to volunteer to help. I'm also a member of the Layout Sig

and Op Sig. I have built a couple of small layouts for use with 4th grade students, started a large garage layout 20 years ago but abandoned it due to a very busy family life with two wonderful daughters. The youngest is now 18 and soon to be headed for college.

I confess to being a armchair modeler over the intervening years other than weekly operations on other friends' layouts. I'm currently building a 24' x 60' layout modeling the Gerber Sub-Division of Southern Pacific in 1926. The towns of **Gerber, Proberta, Red Bluff**, Cottonwood, Anderson, and Redding were developed from maps (LDE) of the period. So far, track is down in the bold towns. I'm working hard to install decoders and get something running on DCC.



Railfair FROM PAGE 1

Of course, none of this would happen without the many people who volunteer their time and effort to the event. Since Railfair is the Sierra Division's only fundraiser, we depend a great deal on its success; and I want to acknowledge all the people who volunteered for this year's Railfair (including some who were willing but for various reasons ended up not actually working that weekend): Freddi and Loy Baker, Gus Campagna, Judy and Larry Champlin, John Currie, Darrell Dennis, Dennis Drury, Gregg Duke, Jeremy Dummler, Harold Elmore, Ross Graham, Greg Hamway, Mel Jones, Stanley Keiser, Karen Kiefer, Dick Klammer, Dick Kreutzer, Pat LaTorres, Ronnie LaTorres, Jim and

Marilyn Long, Scott McAllister, Joe Melhorn, Paul Mendez, Steve Miller, Norman and Devin Morris, Bob Mountjoy, Jim Petro, Gary Ray, Chris Roberts, Al Rowe, Carolyn Schedler, Bill Swindell, Bob Warner,

Steve Wesolowski, Dick Witzens and Frank Zila (and some of their friends as well). Thank you all once again for your willingness to help – we couldn't do it without you!

We had a new location for the Vendors' Banquet this year: because the Moose Lodge wasn't available that weekend, the banquet was held at the Wood Creek Country Club in Roseville - special thanks to Scott McAllister for making the arrangements with the venue. Also, we want to thank the vendors for their many generous donations of raffle prizes, especially the Western Pacific Railroad Museum and Historical Society for our two grand prizes – gift certificates for their "Run-A-Locomotive" program.

Mark your calendars for next year's Railfair: November 12 – 13, 2011 at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville. We hope to see everyone there!

Great Web Sites

Model Railroad Hobbyist is a free monthly magazine published by Joe Fugate with excellent content.. The previous two years are also available.
<http://model-railroad-hobbist.com>

Kalmbach Publications now has a new magazine index online. It is free. The new index allows you to look at around 40 individual magazines (and books too) by issue - they even have the covers for many. The Table of contents is listed for each issue. The list

of publications is very complete. For instance, Railroad Model Craftsman goes all the way back to 1933, Rail Model Journal to 1983, Timber Times to 1993. It also lists around 300 books with the Table of Contents for each.

<http://trc.trains.com/en/Train%20Magazine%20Index.aspx>

The next issue of the Short Line will have an expanded list of useful web site. If you have one that would be of interest to members, please email the site and a short description to:



David Epling's Western Pacific R.R. Museum donated the grand prize— "Run-a-locomotive."



Ben Hale on his motorized cart wearing Railfair official's green vest. ~ All Railfare photos compliments of Mary Moore-Campagna



This CB&Q Chair Car from a La Belle kit has been converted from double windows to single.

PCR X car was one of several weathered cars shared at the last meet.

The Short Line editor apologizes for misplacing the names of these fine modelers.

More colored pictures are available if you access the electronic version of Short Line.

(SEE THE NEXT PAGE TO LEARN HOW)

ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE SHORT LINE

We have set up a Yahoo Group to distribute the Short Line electronically. If you sign up, you will be sent a notice when the Short Line comes out with the down-load link. This will be about 3 weeks before each Division Meet. You will sent a second notice about a week before the meet. This is the only reason for this members only list so you will not be getting a lot of e-mail from it. We are doing this to save the Sierra Division printing and postage and to allow you to view the content in color. *There are additional pictures that don't appear in the printed version and everything is in color.* If you would like to sign up there are two ways to do so:

1. Check the box on the back page of this issue and mail back.
2. Send an e-mail to at jimclong@sbcglobal.net and he will add you to the list.

Not ready to give up the paper edition of Short Line yet but would like to see the on-line edition. Go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Sierra_Division_Short_Line
And request to become a member. When approved, you can access current and past Short Lines.

SIERRA DIVISION	TIMETABLE	SHORT LINE DEADLINES
Next Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 12	2011 MEETINGS	March 5 for April issue
Place: Rancho Cordova Library 9845 Folsom Blvd. Sacramento	February 12	July 9 for the August issue
Time: 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM	April 9	Sept. 10 for the Aug. issue
	August 13	Jan. 7 for the Feb. issue
	October 8	

From N.M.R.A.

- Headquarters just completed an [analysis of our RailPass Program](#) to see how many RailPass members went on to become full NMRA members. The statistics show that, since January 1, 2009, a whopping 65% have "re-upped!" That's just about 2 out of every 3 RailPass members who've stayed with us. From the time the RailPass program started in 2005, about 48% have renewed... again a great statistic. A lot of the credit for that retention goes to everyone in our Regions and Divisions. You're making new members feel welcome, and you're showing them the benefits of NMRA membership. **So... THANKS!**
- Huge progress is being made with [Diamond Club scanning](#). Craig Sutherland, the man in charge of the project, reports that they have about 500 sets of diesel loco plans (average size: 24"x30"). In addition, he and Stephen Priest brought about 50 boxes of photographs (with about 700 photos each) back to Historical Archives Services (the company doing the scanning) from our Kalmbach Memorial Library. They mentioned that there are a lot of black and white steam loco shots, some early diesel shots, and a lot of photos that caused these seasoned pros to say "wow." Stephen called the collection "an unknown treasure." We're finding out that our archives are even more vast than we thought! So if you or your members haven't made a donation yet, please do so so we can get these railroad treasures on the web... and eventually into your hands.
- The [winter Board Meeting](#) is being held concurrently with the Budget and Operations meetings this year in Las Vegas at the Palace Station Hotel (about 5 miles from the airport). The Budget and Operations meetings, which are by invitation only, begin on Tuesday, February 22 at 9 a.m. The Board Meeting runs from 9 to 5 (or later) on Wednesday, February 23, and 9 to 5 (or later) on Thursday, February 24. All NMRA members are welcome to attend.
- As you probably read in the October of *NMRA Magazine*, the X2011 West NMRA Convention committee is making extensive use of [social media to promote their Sacramento convention](#). Over the next several months they'll be posting detailed information about layout and prototype tours, clinics, sights to see, and other pertinent facts. If you haven't visited them on Facebook or signed up to follow them on Twitter, this is the perfect time to get your feet wet and see what the "social media" buzz is all about! Both Facebook and Twitter are free.

SWITCH CONSTRUCTION

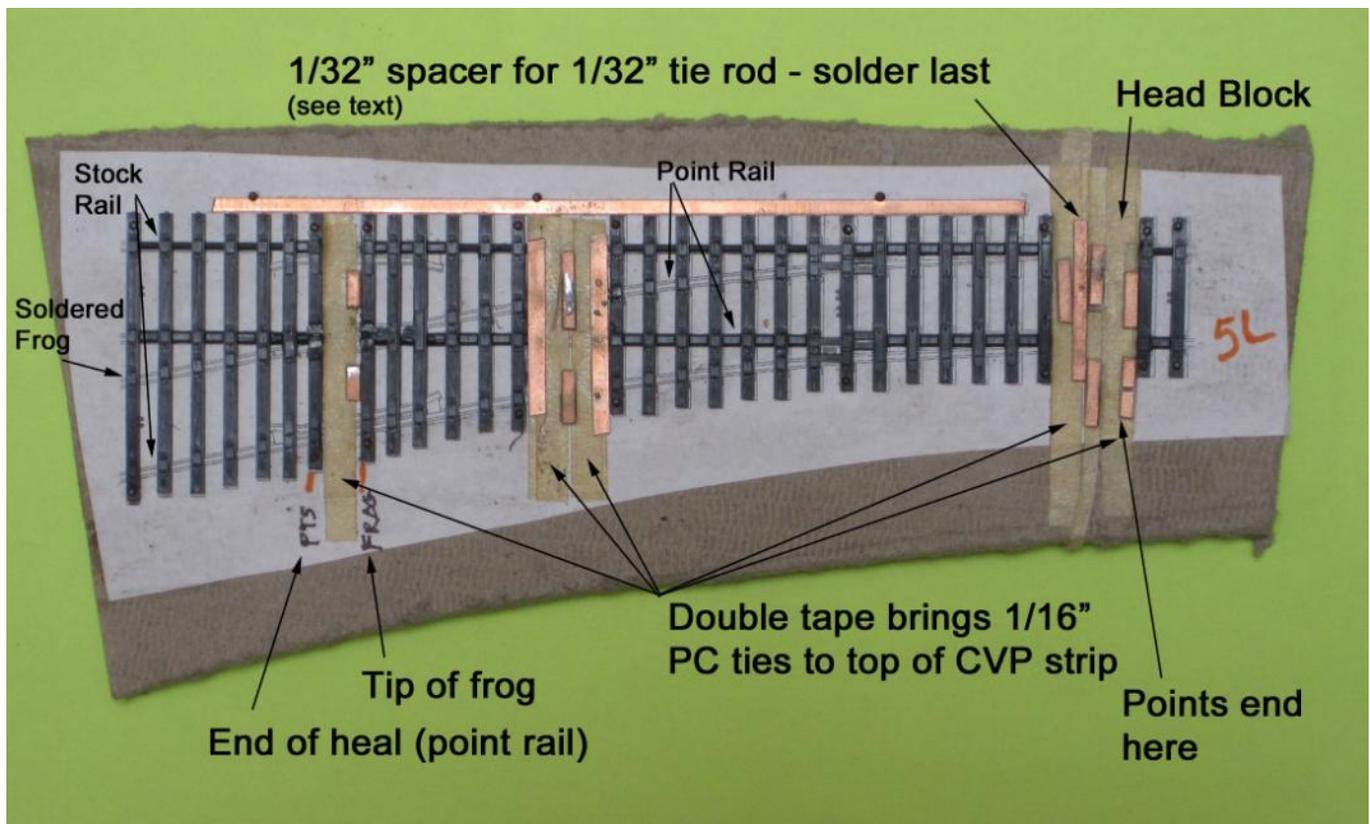
Presented at the October 9, 2010 Sierra Division Meeting by Gary Ray

More than 200 switches were needed for my version of the 1926 Southern Pacific Gerber Sub. I wanted something inexpensive, good looking, and that functions well. I have made and installed over 100 switches using Fast Tracks filing jigs (point and stock rail) and frog soldering jig. Central Valley switch tie strips are used as my switch soldering jig. Cost per switch not including initial Fast Tracks parts is less than \$5, factoring in jigs it is still less than \$6. I purchased the code 70/83 Point Form Filing Jigs for #6 and #8 switches (\$45 each, Frog Helper for soldering points \$35, Stock Aid \$65), but have been successful in making #5's using the #6 filing jig and also making code 55 switches using the same jigs. The Stock Aid is used for notching the stock rails and this could be done by hand or with a Dremel, but the other jigs make everything go rapidly and accurately. The Stock Aid purchase was good for me because I had so many switches to make. A DVD on using Fast Tracks is available from their site. I had made scratch-built switches 20 years ago and found it to be very time consuming and thought my skill lacking. With this method, I do sets of 20 and it takes less than 30 minutes per switch. If not mass producing, it takes me longer. I model SP so there is only one head block. Make your Central Valley jigs meet your prototype standards. A drawing of the switch was on their web site, but now it is under construction and the link does not work. Email them for what you need. I modified a method learned from Joe Fugate's site:

http://siskiyou-railfan.net/e107_plugins/forum/forum_viewtopic.php?5125.40

A 10% discount on Fast Tracks is available if you order from this web site (scroll down on site to see coupon):

<http://www.housatonicrr.com/>

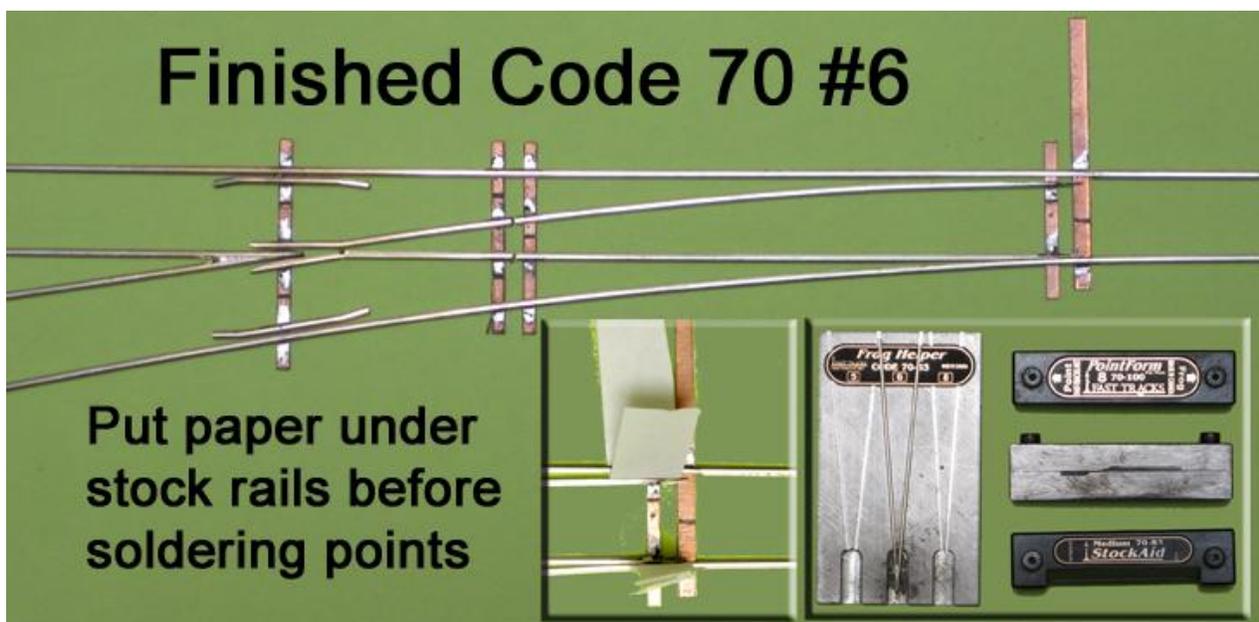


When the switch is completed, I use the old formula Barge cement (yellow tube) mixed with MEK to fasten down the rails to ties. The newer blue tube Barge cement would not work when mixed with MEK. It is my understanding that the old formula is available from shoe repair shops (provide your own container – it doesn't take much – I can do my whole layout with a single tube). The mixture, approximately 1 part Barge to 3 of MEK (should be liquid easy to brush on), is brushed on rail and then ties. It is contact cement that works well for this purpose. If track comes loose, just reactivate with MEK. Do not get it on the last few inches of the point rails or that tie area, otherwise the points will not move. I talked with Jeff Parker at Central Valley Model Works about the Barge problem and he said people were using the new Barge straight out of the tube; also some used Gorilla Glue, ACC, or just spiked the rails down on tie strips. I've been using the original Barge/MEK mix, fasten tie strips to rail, glue the tie strips down with adhesive caulk on Homasote, and then spike at both ends of the switch. I have used wooden ties but plastic could be used after drilling a hole for a spike – Jeff Parker suggested using #20 piano wire for a drill.

The double-sided PC ties for soldering were ordered from Fast Tracks in packs of 100 and are 1/16" thick. For the head block I used Clover House #273 S scale tie strips (1/16" thick) cut to length. This gave me the right width. For the tie rod, I decided to make it look like a tie and used Clover House #263 Low Contour (1/32") tie strips so there is some clearance. A cheap 30 watt iron from Radio Shack is used for soldering with rosin core solder. A solid silver solder from H&N Electronics was used to solder the tie rod for additional strength. I did use a liquid flux at every location because it further facilitated spread of solder.

A NMRA track gauge is your friend. Use it to check the gap and gauge of tracks at frog and points. If out of gauge when already soldered, just put track gauge between tracks at an angle, heat and twist gauge until proper distance is reached.

OTHER HINTS: A slight outward twist of the curved point rail helps that point mate. If any material is left on the opposite side of the filed point rail, remove with a file or Dremel. I use filing jigs as weights to hold rail in position when soldering. File gaps in PC ties before making switch and check each tie for shorts with a meter prior to using them. Solder stock rails first, premade frog next (frog points can be soldered from the top like the rest of the track), guard rails, then one point rail at a time. Remove switch from jig, put folded paper around each stock rail (to prevent soldering tie rod to stock rail), place stock rail in jig and silver solder points. Cut gaps in point rails with Dremel. DONE!



EXTRA 2011 WEST
X2011
2011 NMRA CONVENTION
SACRAMENTO, CA

Two of the layouts on tour for X2011:

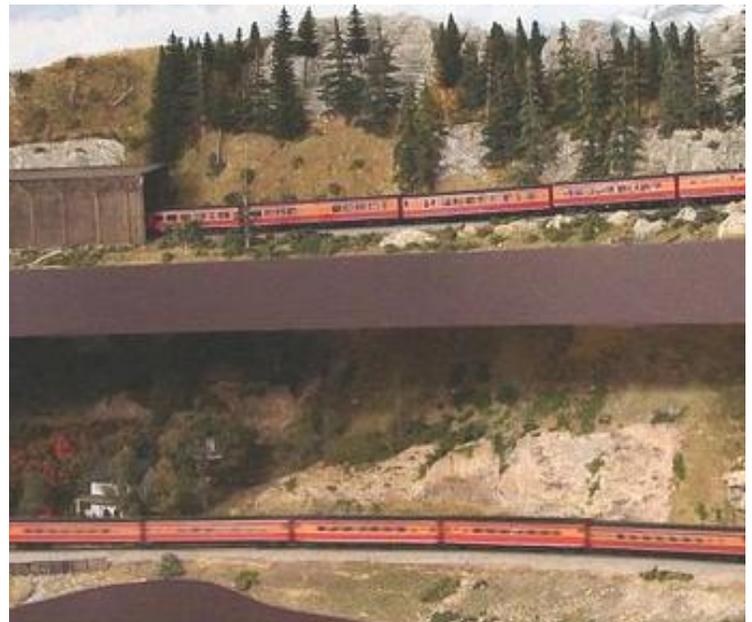
Left: Robert Hoffman's Santa Fe Herford Subdivision

Right: Dave Houston's Rocklin Subdivision

X2011 West, the NMRA National Convention 2011 Committee, has a Facebook site that looks back at the 2010 National Convention as well as posts about the upcoming National Convention in Sacramento. You do not have to be a member of Facebook to use the site. The web address is: <http://www.facebook.com/x2011west> (pictures below from this site)

Other Convention Committee Sites can be found at:
http://forum.atlasrr.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=63738
<http://www.youtube.com/x2011west>
<http://www.twitter.com/x2011west>

All the Sacramento 2011 NMRA Nationals registration information is at:
<http://x2011west.org>



SIERRA DIVISION AREA

HOBBY SHOWS & RAILFANNING EVENTS

January 29 & 30	Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend sponsored by PCR Layout Design & Operations Special Interest Groups, Biltmore hotel & Suites, 2151 Laurelwood Road, Santa Clara. Register at http://www.pcrnmra.org/sigs/rsvpform.html
February 19	Redwood Empire Division Meet, Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society, Napa Valley Exposition, 575 Third St., Napa, meeting starts at 1 p.m.
March 12	Winterrail Railroadiana Show and Sale, Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 33 W. Alpine Avenue, Stockton. Write for tickets: Vic Neves—Producer, P.O. Box 1627, San Leandro, CA 94577
May 13—15	Sonoma Short Lin PCR Convention, Santa Rosa, go to http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2011/
July 3—9	X2011 NMRA National Convention, Sacramento, go to http://x2011west.org

Staple here

MEMBER CONTACT LIST

Many of us live in isolated areas or just have trouble finding fellow modelers. In that vein, the Sierra Division would like to send out a member list to all those who agree to have this information shared. We need your written permission to give this information to other members. The list will be a separate e-mailing **only to contributing members and will not appear on-line, in the SHORT LINE, or be given to any other parties.**

It is hoped that all 330 members will grant permission and that this will help the Sierra Division become a more vibrant group. Maybe you could even contact someone near-by and come to the next division meeting together. The next issue will also have a **NEED HELP** column. Send the editor an email if you want to ask for help.

Also, **check the box** if you are willing to switch Short Line subscription from paper mailing to online PDF subscription that has *additional color pictures*.

Please fill out the back side of this form, fold in half, staple put a stamp on and mail.

STAMP

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6601 Ray Family Lane
Magalia, CA 95954-9733

I agree to have the following information sent by email to other SIERRA DIVISION members:

Name _____
(First) (Last)

Phone # (____) _____ - _____ City _____ State _____

e-mail _____

Signature _____ /Date _____

Switch my Short Line subscription from paper to online (check if desired)

(FOLD INWARD, STAPLE AT TOP, PLACE STAMP, AND MAIL)

Submissions to the Short Line: Photos, Prototype information, Modeling tips, News of coming events, etc are encouraged. They may be submitted to Gary Ray, 6601 Ray Family Lane, Magalia, CA 95954; email <gerber1926@gmail.com>.

SHORT LINE
Gary E. Ray, Editor
6601 Ray Family Lane
Magalia, CA 95954



ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE SHORT LINE ADDITIONAL CONTENT



October 9, 2010 Meeting in Sacramento. Dave Bayless (then and now) tells all about GEMCO yard.



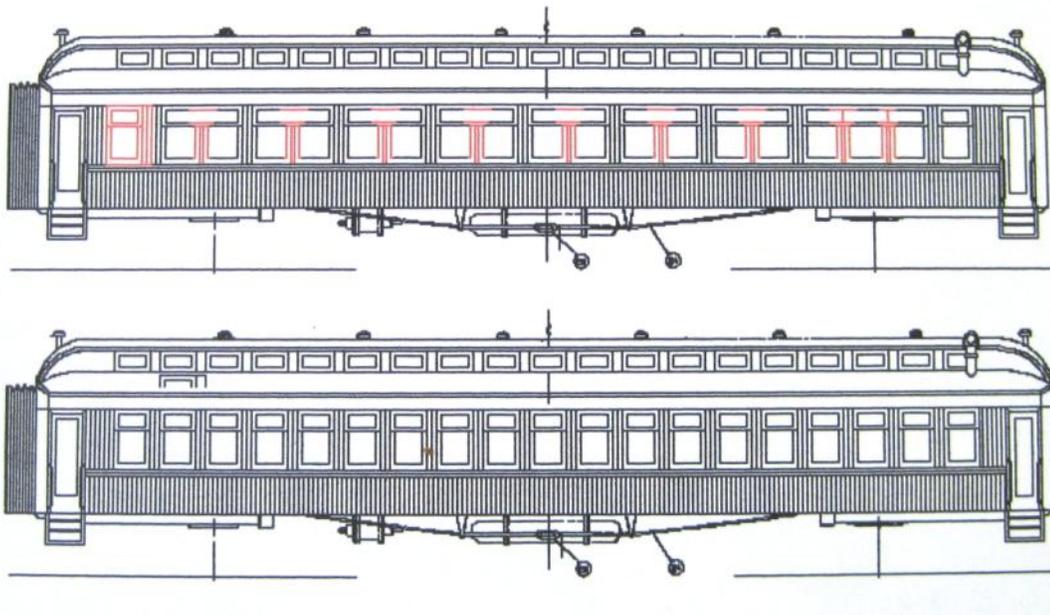
Weathered cars that were shared. Be sure to bring yours to the February 12 meet.





Railfair volunteer dinner is enjoyed by Karen Keifer and Ronnie and Pat LaTorres.

LaBelle CB&Q chair car conversion.



Sunrise Feed Mill Conversion





Ross Graham and Chris Roberts



Scott McAllister and his tablemates enjoy their meal.



Harold Elmore and Bob Mountjoy.

(below) Freddi and Loy Baker.





Bob Warner and Dick Kruetzer (below) Al Rowe and Judy and Larry Champlin.

