



SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association



The
**World's
Greatest
Hobby!**

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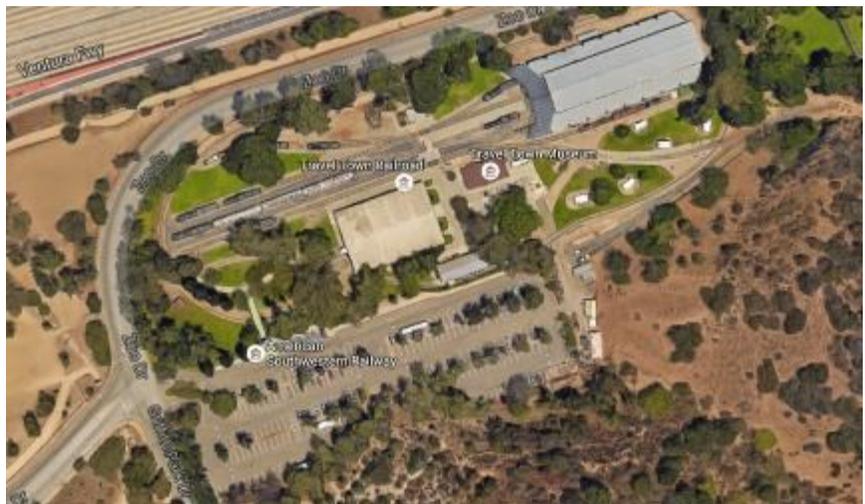


Travel Town Visit

Story and Photos by Jim Collins

I had to travel to Los Angeles last November for business. I concluded all my meetings and stayed at a hotel in Glendale for the night. The next day, before returning home, I was able to visit Travel Town Museum which is located in Griffith Park not far from the LA Zoo. Being a park, it's very pretty location.

I got there around 9:30 which is a half hour before the museum opens. The museum is bordered to the west and north by Zoo Drive and because the road is at a higher elevation than the museum, I was able to walk around the outside of the park and take a few pictures from above the fence.



**TRAVEL TOWN
MUSEUM**

**5200 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, CA**

**(323) 662 5874
www.traveltown.org**

see "Travel" - page 8

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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 handwritten). Send it to your editor by regular mail to **SHORT LINE**, 2260 Cherry Glenn Ct., Chico, CA 95926 or by email to :

From the Superintendent

When Is Your Modeling Time?

Spring is here! Hurray! Personally I can't stand winter so I'm always happy when warmer weather and daylight savings time arrive. Though I have plans, the cold and lousy weather here in the valley usually makes me want to hibernate which, for me, means not working on model railroads either. But once the sunshine and warm weather arrives, my energy and interest return and I start working on things again. Of course, last newsletter I wrote that I took a break to do "summer things" which brings up the real problem – there's always something to interfere with our hobby if we let it. I know many people tend to work more on their model railroad during the winter because they can't or don't work in the yard, etc. So how about you – do you tend to model more in the winter or during the warm months?

We were privileged to visit the Tidewater Southern Railway at the San Joaquin Fairgrounds for our February meet. I believe a good time was had by both the Sierra Division members who attended and the Tidewater Southern folks who hosted. They have a very nice layout in a building at the fairgrounds and have done a lot of work on it. It was fun to see familiar sights like the Modesto train station modeled. Here's a panoramic shot of the whole layout I took from their upstairs office. See more photos elsewhere in this newsletter.



After that, we took a lunch break and met for the afternoon at Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Modesto for the usual meeting, clinics, raffle, etc. Chuck Harmon gave a brief overview of the upcoming PCR Convention in Bakersfield and then gave a very interesting clinic on realistic operations and the car card system he uses for his home layout where he models the SP over Donner from Roseville to Truckee in spring of 1949. After that, Mike O'Dorney reprised his excellent clinic from last year's convention in Modesto, Pretty Good People, on painting figures.

C'd. on page 3

From the Superintendent, ctd.

Both clinics were excellent in all respects. We then held the model and photo contests (find results elsewhere in the newsletter) and then everyone's favorite, the raffle.

Which allows me to segue into what's coming up in our next meets. For our May meeting the SMRHS has graciously agreed to host us again on May 13 for a morning operating session on their excellent HO layout of the SP and WP (learn more at <http://www.smrhs.com/index.html>). We'll then enjoy their usual scrumptious BBQ lunch (\$5) before moving to the First Christian Church on Folsom for our meeting, clinic, contests, and raffle.

Speaking of the raffle, we have one gift that was donated some time ago. It's a very nice model of a BNSF Dash-9 (C44-9W) loco (see photo at right taken on a small diorama I built some time ago; more photos elsewhere in newsletter). It's an Athearn blue box and, to be honest, I don't even know if it works, but it looks brand new. After the meeting, the division leadership discussed what to do with this. We talked then and decided to "cogitate" about it for a while before making a decision. We then held a phone conference call and after some further discussion, decided that, after paying one of our members to upgrade it to DCC, we would present it to the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society (SMRHS) as a thank you gift for hosting us for an operating session every year (including this one). Hopefully we can get it upgraded before the May meet and present it to them then.



We will have one business item to discuss and vote on. At IRF, one of our responsibilities is to sweep one of the halls after the event. In the past, we've paid the Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society \$200 to do this for us. They have informed us that last year was the last time they can do so. So now we have three options for getting the clean-up done:

1. We do the cleaning ourselves. Takes several hours as long as you have at least 10 or so people
2. We leave it to the fairgrounds janitors. The charge for this is \$50/hr but there is no telling how many hours it will take them.

We pay Sacramento Modular Railroaders \$300 to clean our hall.

Plan to discuss and vote on this at the May meeting.

I'm already in work on what I hope will be something special in August. I am working with a representative to arrange tours and a meeting place for our meet in Virginia City, NV. I don't know for sure what the tour options will be but for sure they will include the V&T Railroad. Whichever tours are decided on, the division will subsidize 2/3s of the cost of member tickets. There will be a meeting in the afternoon at a location that is still TBA but will be one of the meeting places in Virginia City. More details will be sent out by email to all as they are confirmed. We will need a head count and will collect money in advance as part of that. This should be a great time for everyone and good opportunity for members to bring their families for a fun day.

One other quick thing. We voted at the February meeting to authorize Scott McAllister to purchase some more items for our raffles, which he did. However, I would like to suggest something. It's not uncommon for model railroaders to purchase items that at the time seem great but later on, for a variety of reasons, may not fit the period, railroad, or situation they are modeling. So rather than letting them collect dust

Ctd. on page 4

"From the Superintendent" - from page 3

in your garage or attic or trying to sell them on eBay or at a swap meet, please consider donating them to the Sierra Division for use in our raffles. A few people have already done this and it is greatly appreciated.

So here's to a great spring and summer for us all. Looking forward to seeing you in Sacramento in May and then Virginia City in August!



From the Editor

Answer to a Question—And Some Other Stuff

"So how about you – do you tend to model more in the winter or during the warm months?" Thus queried Jim Collins, our Division Superintendent, in his "From the Superintendent" column in this issue. Jim noted that he tends to be a more productive modeler once winter has come to an end and the weather turns warmer and more pleasant. In contemplating my response to Jim's question, I took a "mental inventory" of when I have accomplished the most. As it turns out, I get more done in the spring and summer than I do in the fall and winter. I'm not sure why, but that seems to have been my pattern over the past forty years or so. So there you have it, Jim. Thanks for asking!

At the February meet in Modesto, I inherited custody of two cases of the remaining PCR Convention Cars. I have not actually taken a count, but I believe we still have 48 of these cars. They are available (for now anyway) in four different road numbers and if the PCR Convention logo really bugs you, it can easily be removed. At just \$10.00 each, these are a tremendous bargain for such a quality model. To purchase, please contact Chip Meriam at chipmeriam@comcast.net or Jim Collins at jimcol@charter.net.



Since we're on the subject of rolling stock, our ad-hoc executive committee pooled wits and determined that a mint condition, blue-box, Athearn Dash-9 should probably not be a routine door prize but, rather, a gift of thanks to the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society. As Jim noted in his column, the Dash-9 is being converted to DCC and will be presented to SMRHS at the next possible opportunity; perhaps as early as our May 13 meet in Sacramento. SMRHS hosts the Sierra Division at least annually for a morning OP session and then serves us lunch afterward. I think you'll all agree, they are more than deserving of such a gesture.

The upcoming Sierra Division meet, May 12 in Sacramento, will feature another clinic by yours truly: **Tips on Preparing An Article for Publication**. There will be advice and guidance from the editors of The Short Line, The Branch Line, NMRA Magazine; and Jim Collins—a writer by trade. I hope you'll enjoy it.



SIERRA DIVISION

Next Meeting: May 13, 2017

Sacramento Model Railroad
Historical Society

1990 Grand Avenue—Sacramento

10:00 AM (subject to change)

First Christian Church

3901 Folsom Blvd.—Sacramento

1:00 PM (subject to change)

SEE MAPS BELOW

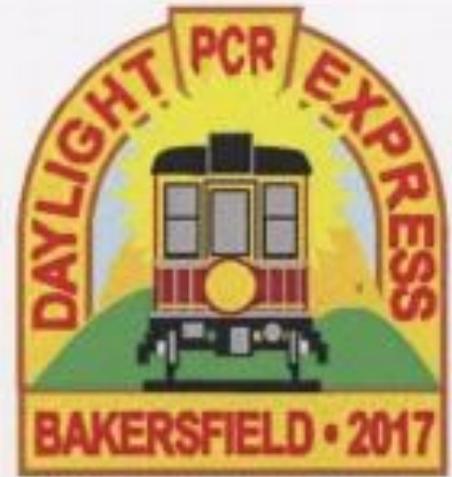
TIMETABLE

Apr 19-23
PCR-NMRA
Bakersfield

May 13—Sacramento

August 12
Virginia City

October 14 - Magalia



The Annual Convention for the Pacific Coast Region—NMRA is April 19-23, 2017 in Bakersfield. Plans are well under way for a fabulous array of exhibits and activities. Plan to attend. It will be well worth your time.

Registration form on page 7!

May Contest Categories:

**Modeling— Any structure you have built
During the past six month**

**Photography— Tracks and Structures
(limit of 3 photos—at least 5 X 7 but not
over 8 X 12)**



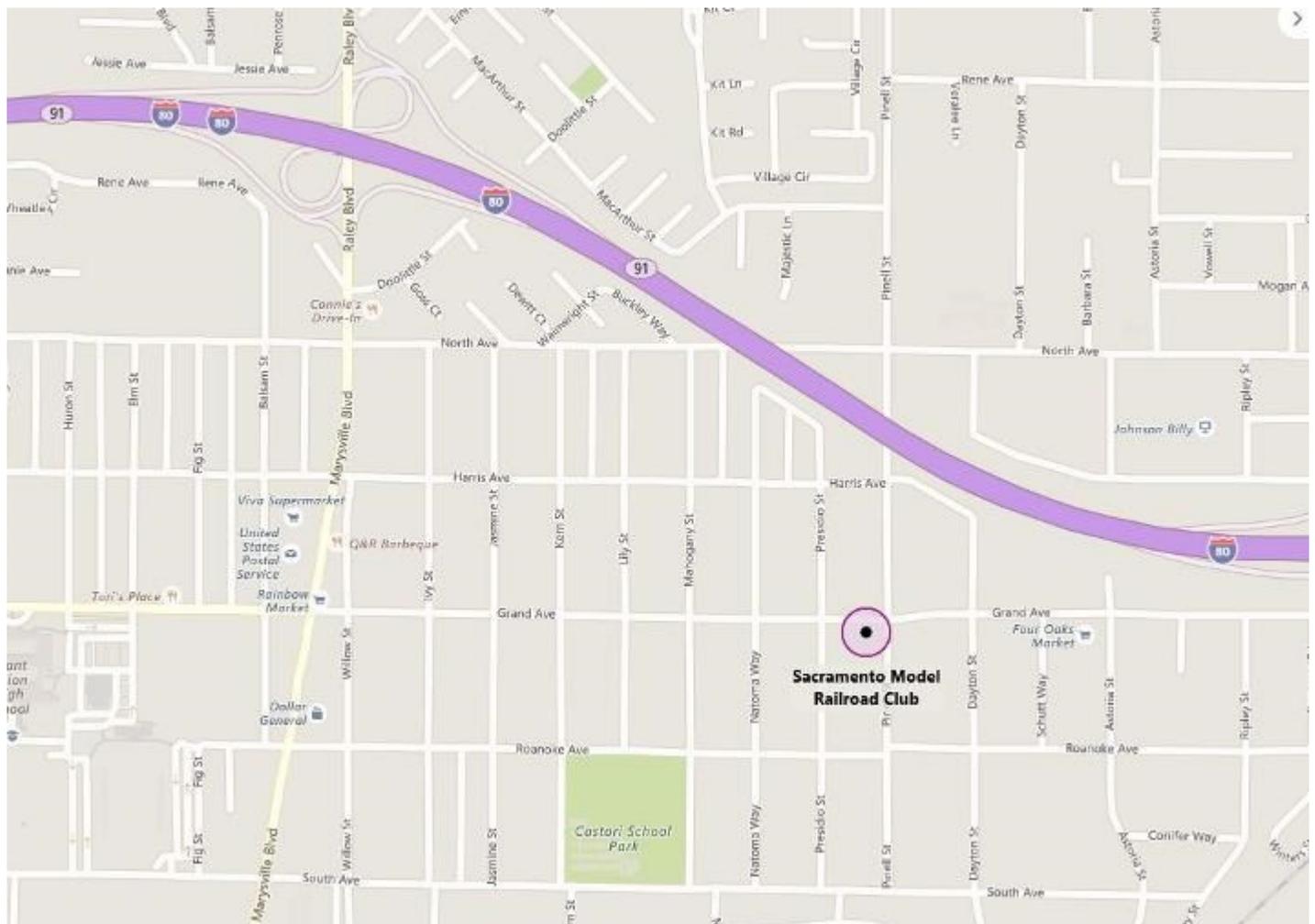
SHORT LINE

Sept. 10 for the Oct. Issue

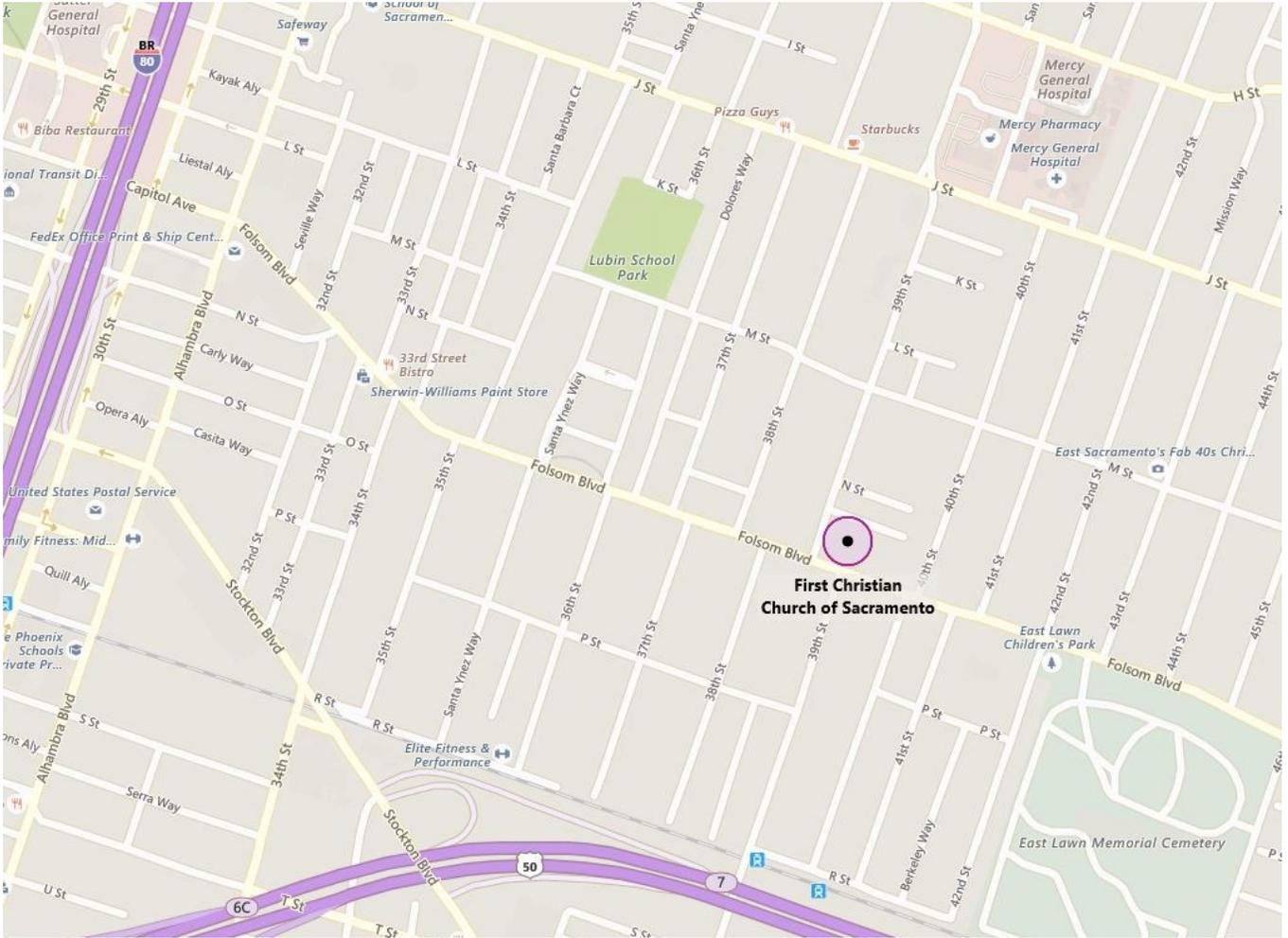
Dec. 10 for the Jan. Issue

Mar. 10 for the April Issue

June 10 for the July Issue



**Sacramento Model
Railroad Club**



"Editor" - from page 4

The August meet will be in historic Virginia City, Nevada. Our division superintendent is finishing up the final details for a meeting place, a rail excursion, and lodging choices. Hopefully we'll know more by the May meet in Sacramento.

The October meet will be in Paradise/Magalia. The morning meeting will be held at Mountain Mike's Pizza, followed by lunch and an operating session at Gary Ray's Gerber Sub in Magalia. The group at the right just gathered for an op session this past month. (L-R back: Al Wood, Phill Simpson, Klaus Keil, front: Gary Ray, Bill Stenzel) Gary reports that he has nine more switches to build and then he's done - for a total of 224!



The Gerber Sub Crew



There's still time to register for the PCR Convention in Bakersfield. See the registration form on the next page, or use one of the following references:

dx2017registrar@pcrnmra.org
www.pcrnmra.org/conv2017



A Glorious Easter to You All.....

"Travel" - from page 1

I noticed right away that, being outside, many of the locomotives and cars are much weathered.



Being a Western Pacific fan/modeler, my primary purpose was to see and photograph WP 26. It's actually in pretty good shape overall.



I took a ton of photos as I plan to super detail my Bachmann 2-8-0 to match (well, except I'll be modeling #27). If anyone would like a copy of all of them, contact me.

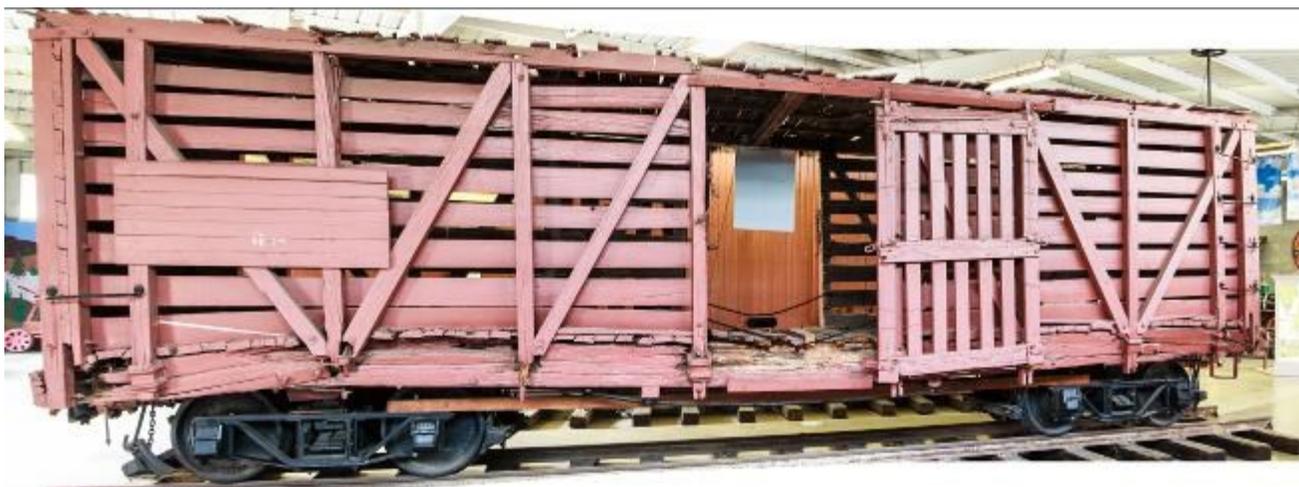


see "Travel" - page 9

There is one other WP car at the museum: caboose #754. Though not numbered/heralded for WP, it is one of the 50 cars built by Haskell ^ Barker in 1910 for the WP.



After getting numerous shots of these two WP items, I wandered around the museum and took photos of most of the other locos and cars. Their collection is extensive. You can see their full list here: <http://www.laparks.org/traveltown/museum-collection>



SP stock car #163



Oahu Railway & Land Company combine #36 and coach #1

The museum has a small train for rides that runs around its circumference. Great fun for the kids. Along the right of way, they have the waiting shelter for the Rio Vista Station of the Pacific Electric.





SP #3025 4-4-2 has steps so you can climb and see the cab and controls.



Pickering Lumber #2, a 3-truck Heisler



There are several old passenger cars. I didn't note the names/numbers but here's an interior shot of one. As you can see, they are gutted.



Camino-Placerville & Lake Tahoe #2, a 3-truck Shay.



UP #4439 0-6-0



AT&SF #664 2-8-0



SP outside-braced boxcar #30036



I also got permission to climb into the cab of WP 26 to take a few pictures. Couldn't take my tripod in there so I had to hand hold but I did get a few pics of the backhead and the top of the tender (pretty flat except for the oil hatch, lol).

While there were many more things to see and shoot, after nearly two hours there, I had to get on the road to head home. If I'm down there again, I plan to visit and see more. There really is a lot of equipment to see and I highly recommend a visit. If you're traveling with family, you could even combine with a visit to the zoo.

Editor's note: I visited Travel Town way back in 1975. I agree with Jim - if you're down that way, don't miss it!

February Meet - Stockton/Modesto

By Chip Meriam - *Photos as Noted*

February 4th found the Sierra Division gathered at Building 1 of the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, home to the Tidewater Southern Railway Historical Society, who hosted us for a layout tour in the morning. The "Society" operates a large HO scale layout depicting the Stockton-Modesto area and the surrounding foothills. The layout is open to the public during various events at the fairgrounds throughout the year. The next major open house event will be the San Joaquin County Asparagus Festival April 21 through 23.



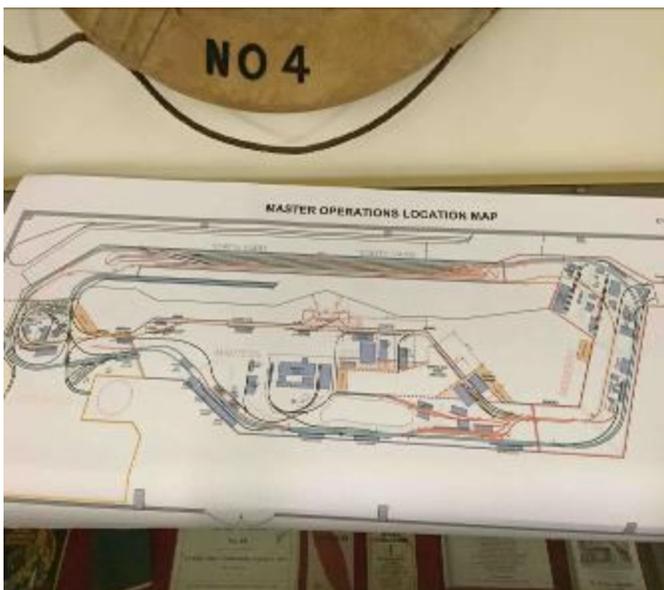
Layout Entrance—*Lorri Meriam*



Tidewater Southern Overview—*Jim Collins*



Downtown Modesto—*Jim Collins*



Track Plan—*Jim Collins*



Orange Grove Hobos—*Lorri Meriam*

February Meet (ct'd.)



Steel Bridge—*David Atwater*



David Atwater - *Chip Meram*



Ben Cantu & Tom Van Horn
Chip Meriam



David Atwater & Walt Schedler
Chip Meriam

We were entertained primarily by Del Hoffman, Ben Cantu, and David Atwater, who showed us around the layout and filled us in on the history of the group. According to Atwater, there are currently 18 active members – up from about 4 just a year ago.

February Meet (ct'd.)



Superintendent Collins Starts The Meeting
Chip Meriam

Following our Tidewater Southern visit, we made the short drive to Modesto where we occupied the basement of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church for a few hours after lunch. There were 25 in attendance including three guests. During our meeting we were treated to a workshop on Prototypical Waybills by Chuck Harmon and a workshop on painting scale figures by Mike O'Dorney.



Chuck Harmon on Waybills
Chip Meriam



Mike O'Dorney—Pretty Good People
Jim Collins



An Attentive Group
Chip Meriam

Find Back Issues of The Short Line at:
<http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra/index.html>

February Meet (ct'd.)

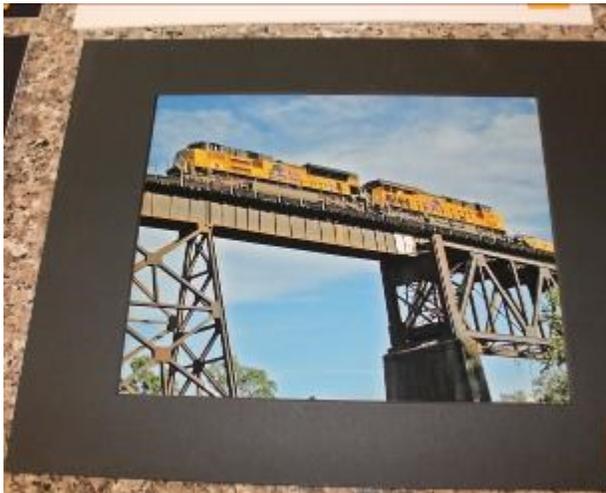
CONTEST WINNERS

The subject of the modeling contest was “Steam, Traction, and Self-Propelled Cars.” There was one entry and, thus, one winner - a super detailed Nickel Plate Berkshire by Walt Schedler.

The subject of the Photo Contest was “Trains in Action.” Of the seven entries, first place went to Tom Van Horn for his Union Pacific freight atop Lake Redding trestle in Redding, CA. Second place went to Walt Schedler’s Southern Pacific RDC (SP #10?) making a station stop. Third place also went to Walt Schedler for his Black Widow covered wagon #6304.



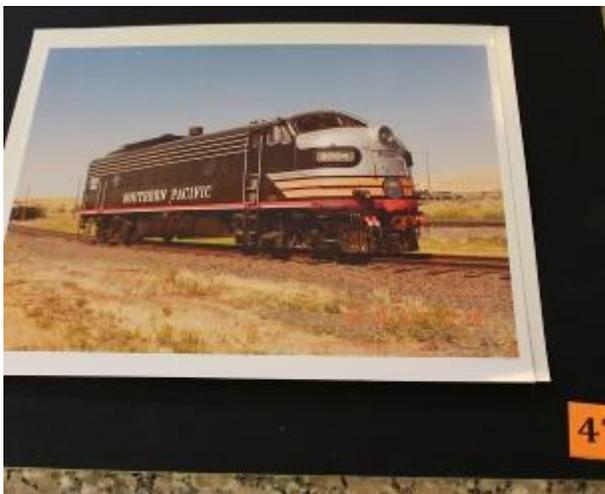
Walt Schedler’ Berkshire—*Chip Meriam*



Tom Van Horn’s Lake Redding Trestle
—*Chip Meriam*



Walt Schedler’ Station Stop—*Chip Meriam*



Walt Schedler’ Covered Wagon—*Chip Meriam*

The next Sierra Division meet is scheduled for May 13 in Sacramento with a morning Op. Session at the Sacramento Model Rail Road Historical Society and an afternoon meeting elsewhere. Times and locations are noted on page 5 in this issue of **The Short Line**. The contests shall be Modeling, “Any Structure You Have Built During The Last Six Months” and Photos, “Tracks and Structures”. For more information about the upcoming meet, or any other questions about the Sierra Division, please contact Chip Meriam:

chipmeriam@comcast.net