



SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association



The World's Greatest Hobby!

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QUEEN OF THE SHORT LINES

By Chip Meriam

GE 80 Ton Handles the Virginia City to Gold Hill Turn

Saturday, August 19 the Sierra Division met in Virginia City, NV for a ride aboard the Virginia & Truckee Rail Road. Tickets were ready for us to retrieve as early as 9:00AM, and train times were 10:30, 11:20 AND 12:30 - so there was plenty of time to ride the train, do a little exploring, and have lunch before the afternoon meet began at 2:00 PM.

The Virginia & Truckee was established in 1869, during the Comstock Lode era, to transport ore from the Virginia City area mines to the mills in Carson City—and to deliver lumber, supplies, and machinery from Carson City to the Virginia City mines. In 1872, a line was run to Reno to interchange with the Central Pacific. During the 1870s, the V&T saw 30 to 45 trains per day.

As mining activity declined in the 1880s, the railroad traffic dropped off. In 1906, a line was constructed from Carson City to Minden, following what is now the route of US 395. Traffic continued to decline until 1950 when operations ceased and the V&T was abandoned, the rails removed, and the rolling stock sold to Paramount Studios.

In 1970, Robert Gray of Sacramento began acquiring the former right-of-way property and in 1974 began the reconstruction of the railroad from Virginia City to Gold Hill. The first train to Gold Hill made the run in July 1976, just in time to celebrate the United States Bicentennial with the rest of the nation.

In 2005, the effort began in earnest to complete the V&T all the way to Carson City. And by 2009, trains were running from Virginia City to Carson City.

see "Queen" - fpage 6

Sierra Division Callboard

PCR business or questions:

PCR President

Ed Merrin
edmerrin@comcast.net
(707) 542 3620

Director, Sierra Division

Tom Van Horn
tomvca@aol.com
(209) 626 0352

Sierra Division business, questions, or
to volunteer to give a clinic, for mem-
bership problems,

Superintendent

Jim Collins
jimcol@charter.net
(209) 566-0935

To volunteer your layout for a tour or
"Timetable" entries:

Chief Clerk

Chip Meriam
chipmeriam@comcast.net
(530) 899 2609

Paymaster

Al Rowe
HOFUNAR@aol.com

SHORT LINE Editor

Chip Meriam
chipmeriam@comcast.net
(530) 899-2609

Contest Chairperson

Gary Ray
gerber1926@gmail.com
(530) 990-1276

Membership Chairperson

RJ Myers
(775) 772-7531

rj@a2dreno.com

For Golden Spike or NMRA

AP Certificate questions:

Achievement Program

Dave Bayless
(530) 887-8880

Webmaster

Gus Campagna
gus@campagna.com
(707) 664-8466

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 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

It seems we have had more than our fair share of 100-degree days this summer. I hope you all have been careful and have managed to survive the heat. As I noted last newsletter, I (and I certainly hope you) have central air so technically I can't use the heat as an excuse for not working on models or a Fast Track turnout or similar, but even though it's probably mostly psychological, 100+ degree days just make me feel lazy and not want to do much of anything – especially a large group of them in a row. But I did manage to get a few freight cars built and one turnout. I hope you were able to make progress on your various projects as well.



Downtown Virginia City - C Street

If you didn't make it to Virginia City, I believe you missed out on a great time in a wonderful, historic city. The work done by Katie Demuth to help us get the tickets for the tours, our guest speaker, and much other help, and Tina

Perkins setting up the

room for our meeting was exceptional and helped make the whole day highly enjoyable. I know the train ride on the V&T was fun and I really enjoyed the tour of the MacKay Mansion (a decorated, maybe even engraved, toilet? – don't see that anymore)) and the Fourth Ward School (learned a couple of new things about Mark Twain too). I'm sorry I didn't make it to The Way It Was Museum, hopefully some other folks did and will be able to tell us about it.



One Fancy Toilet

Our October meet is fast approaching. All items are not finalized but we plan to meet in the morning on Saturday, October 14, at the California State Railroad Museum (time TBA). We are working with our past Superintendent, Dick Witzens who is also a docent there, to set up some sort of tour. We are trying to get it to include the shops and also a presentation from the librarian on using the State Library. If you've been there, you know that it is not intuitive how to determine and request information from the archives. More info will be provided as we get things nailed down. (Thank you Chip Meriam for taking the lead on this!). In the afternoon we will meet at our usual Sacramento location – the First Christian Church on Folsom Blvd.

Longer range plans include our usual visit with the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society for an op session and BBQ lunch in February and a meet in the Chico/Paradise area where we will visit Gary Ray's layout to see all the progress he's made plus



Some Sierra Division Folks Ride The V&T

see "Super" page 3

From the Superintendent, ctd.

visit other layouts in the area in May. There will also be a meet in Modesto, probably in August, though no other plans have yet been made.



Sierra Division Switcher No. 36

I'm sorry. I totally forgot something for the meet in Virginia City. Our past superintendent, Dick Witzens, had in his possession some small diesel switchers that are lettered for Sierra Division. (Someone that knows way more about diesels than me can probably identify the correct type.) They were purchased and custom decorated some time back and were intended for loan to members to take to public operating sessions (such as Railfair) to advertise NMRA and Sierra Division. I have two of the three. I will bring to the next meeting to discuss starting up a similar program again.

I sincerely hope things have cooled down by October and even maybe have a little rain (stress "little"). See you at the museum!



The Northern Nevada Layout Tour will be Nov 3-4-5, 2017

There should be about ten or fifteen layouts open for tour in the Reno area. For an idea of what to expect, see the April 2015 Short Line, page 11.

Those interested may contact Jim Petro for information. Also, look for a downloadable booklet in the PCR calendar about Oct 15.

Jpetro328@gmail.com

775-852-5636

From the Editor

Note The Message from the Chief Clerk (page 5) regarding new Sierra Division members. If you live near any of these folks, why not take a few moments to contact them? This is the stuff from which friendships begin – and that may be the number one reason people belong to the NMRA - friendships with fellow modelers.

Our lead story this issue is a brief account of our field trip to Virginia City, NV to ride the Virginia and Truckee Railroad. If you were among our group for this event, we hope you'll enjoy this recap of our visit to a fascinating location. If you missed this trip, it is our wish that this article will pique your interest enough to persuade you to visit Virginia City, and the V&T someday

Check the schedules and notices on page 10. You'll see the "Enduring Rails" convention logo for the 2018 PCR gathering in Rohnert Park. I missed the convention in Bakersfield, but I did attend the previous convention in Modesto. I had a grand time, met a lot of great people, and presented a workshop – which I plan to do again in Rohnert Park this coming April. If you get a chance, ask me about it. You can find a convention registration form on page 17.

Also on page 10 you will find information about the International Rail Fair. This event, which takes place in Roseville at the Placer County Fairgrounds in November, is the Sierra Division's one-and-only fund raiser. Please be sure to volunteer. It's a lot of fun.

In "While the Glue Dries" you can see the results of my first "two square foot" project. I had a blast with this little exercise and I urge you to try something similar.

The "Tips of the ~~Trade~~ Hobby" column features a truly innovative idea that we discovered in Model Railroad Hobbyist. Our request for permission to reference the article resulted in overwhelming cooperation from the publisher, Joe Fugate. Many, many thanks Joe.

On page 19 you'll find a short account of an exciting discovery I made while on vacation in Oregon, and on page 20 there is an advertising flyer for Rail Fair. Why not print a few off and distribute them around town?

Finally, on page 21, there is a gallery of Virginia City photographs taken by Superintendent, Jim Collins. Look for additional photos on Facebook



Back in February 2015, my first article was published here in the **Short Line**. Gary Ray was gracious enough to welcome me to these pages. The article, "Tracking Down The Gremlins", featured an Excel spreadsheet for chronicling derailments and sorting them by location, offending rolling stock, attempted fixes, etc.

More recently, a plea for content came from Cinthia Priest, editor of **NMRA Magazine**. She noted that articles printed previously in Division or Regional newsletters would be welcome for consideration. Well, I took the bait and submitted the Gremlins piece. As it turns out, it was published in the national magazine's current edition. I'm surprised (and quite pleased) to state I've received over twenty five emails from fellow model railroaders nation wide. Most of the responses have come from east of the Mississippi, including one from the U.K. I've also heard from two modelers in Canada. It has been a lot of fun receiving and responding to these folks and keeping track of their locations. As I noted in the opening paragraph of this column, this is the stuff from which friendships begin, and I will testify that this friendship business has become a huge part of my enjoyment of this fabulous hobby. I hope you find this to be the same for you.

Report From the Chief Clerk

Sierra Division Membership Notes

Did you know that the Sierra Division comprises the largest geographical footprint in the Pacific Coast Region? The Sierra Division serves NMRA members residing in the California counties of Amador, Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba and all of the counties of Nevada except Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye. <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra/>

The most recent membership report received by the Division Clerk's Office indicates that there are currently 262 members in The Sierra Division. Of these 262 model railroaders, 30 are new to the division since January 2016. Let's all welcome each and every one of these folks:

Davis Mahoney	01/01/2016	Lodi, CA
Johnathan Gordon	01/01/2016	Modesto, CA
Connor Rock	03/01/2016	Anderson, CA
Peter Hills	03/01/2016	Applegate, CA
Darrell Cramphorn	04/01/2016	Manteca, CA
Bill Dillon	05/01/2016	El Dorado Hills, CA
Linton Von Beroldingen	05/01/2016	Davis, CA
Gabe Berg	05/01/2016	Chico, CA
Diane Raley	06/01/2016	Auburn, CA
Steven Folino	12/01/2016	Sacramento, CA
Steven Brooks	12/01/2016	Tracy, CA
Paul Beckstrom	12/01/2016	Elk Grove, CA
Alan Hutcek	01/01/2017	Redding, CA
Lawrence Dempsey	01/01/2017	Modesto, CA
Tiffany Barning	01/01/2017	Tracy, CA
Eric Barning	01/01/2017	Tracy, CA
Don Bailey	01/01/2017	Sacramento, CA
Roger Lammie	02/01/2017	Lodi, CA
Conrad Blaschczyk	04/01/2017	Stockton, CA
Stanley Smith	04/01/2017	Manteca, CA
Frank Arviza	04/01/2017	Lathrop, CA
Greg Land	05/01/2017	Big Oak Valley, CA
John Gowin	05/01/2017	Salida, CA
Allen Brown	05/01/2017	Stockton, CA
Allen Wood	06/01/2017	Chico, CA
David Sens	07/01/2017	Woodland, CA
James Jones	07/01/2017	Ceres, CA
Steven Cope	07/01/2017	Stockton, CA
John Hunt	08/01/2017	Oregon House, CA
Peter Hunt	08/01/2017	Oregon House, CA
Patrick Rogan	09/01/2017	Elk Grove, CA
Bill Redmond	10/01/2017	Carson City, NV
Mike Hamlin	10/01/2017	Orland, CA
David Epling	10/01/2017	Portola, CA

Welcome aboard. We're glad you're here!!

"Queen" - from page 1

Saturday morning we rode the train from Virginia City to Gold Hill and back, a distance of about 6.5 miles. The Gold Hill turn is a two-car train, one open air, handled by a former US Army GE 80 tonner (see opening photo). Our departure was preceded by the arrival of the train from Carson City, handled by #29, a Baldwin consolidation built in 1916.



#29 In From Carson City



The Head-End Crew Aboard #29

As we rolled out, we were greeted with a close up view of the Baldwin #29 and her crew observing our passing. We crept slowly out of town, crossing F Street at grade, and past Chollar Mine, the Virginia City Arena, and the Comstock Gold Mill. We passed the V&T shops, slid under State Route 431, and made our way down to Gold Hill. Along the way were several old mine sites and historical points of interest, all of which were the subject of a colorful narrative by our conductor. The trip was scenic, informative, and full of old west flavor. One couple we met commented that the rich history was the most impressive part of the trip.

see "Queen" - fpage 7



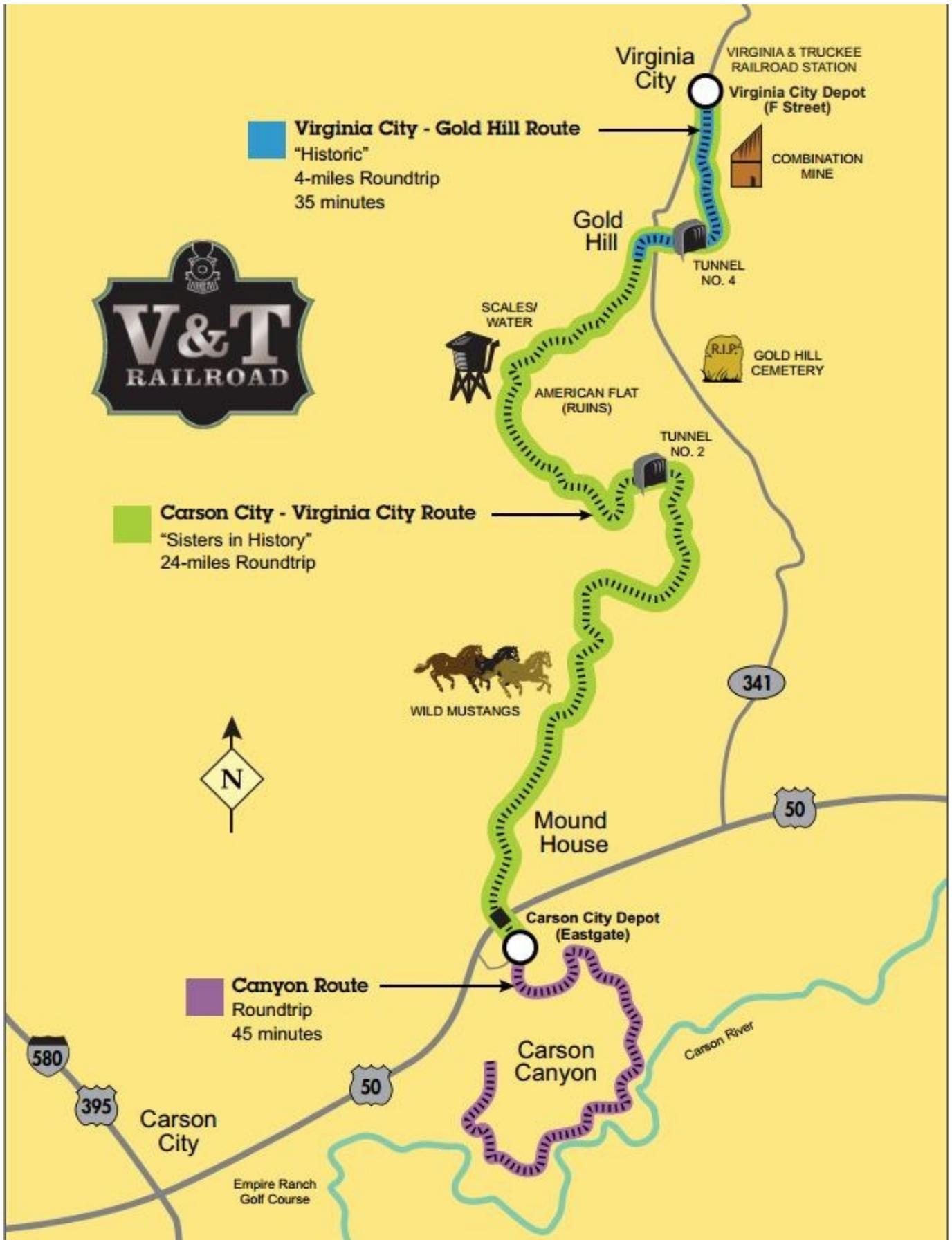
Our Conductor Provides an Historical Narrative



V&T Virginia City Shops



Gold Hill Depot



"Queen" - from page 8

After a brief stop at Gold Hill, we re-traced our route back to Virginia City, arriving with plenty of time to visit a little bit and get a bite to eat before the meet at the Delta Saloon.



Tom Van Horn Visits With The Short Line Editorial Staff



The Campagnas Bring Us Up To Date
On The 2018 PCR Convention.



A True Step Saver

Virginia City is, to say the least, rather hilly. We parked four blocks uphill from the railroad station. We were dreading the return trip afoot but, alas, Joan Giacomelli had "just the ticket". A simple phone call summons a golf cart shuttle to take you back up the hill. The fare is merely a donation of any amount you care to afford. Thanks Joan!



SIERRA DIVISION

Next Meeting: October 14
Sacramento

9:00 AM
California State Railroad Museum
Group Tour
AND
CSRM / Kalmbach Memorial Library

1:00 - Meeting and Contests
First Christian Church
3901 Folsom Blvd.

October Contest Categories:

Modeling: Freight Cars
Photo: Prototype - Black & White
(limit of 3 photos - at least 5 X 7 but not over 8 X 12)

TIMETABLE

October 14
Sacramento

November 11 - 12
International Rail Fair
Roseville

February 10, 2018
Sacramento

April 4 - 8, 2018
PCR Convention
Rohnert Park



SHORT LINE

Dec. 10 for the Jan. Issue

Mar. 10 for the April Issue

June 10 for the July Issue

Sept 10 for the Oct. Issue



APRIL 4—8, 2018

See registration form on page 17

41st International Rail Fair

November 11-12, 2017

Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All American City Blvd., Roseville, CA 95678

Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Adult admission \$10, kids under 12 free. Sunday family special \$15. Cash only.
Free parking both days.

Holiday Fun with operating model railroads, switching puzzle, skill-building clinics, vendors selling all scales and Thomas, books, scenery, tools, and snack bars. Kids get a Junior Engineer Badge for running the Kids' Layout.

For more info see www.internationalrailfair.com or ask Dan at stj_lc@yahoo.com



Volunteers Needed !!

RAIL FAIR NEEDS YOU to volunteer for a shift or two during the weekend of November 10 - 12.

PLEASE CONTACT MARY MOORE-CAMPAGNA AT:

mcmc@comcast.net

August Meet - Virginia City

By Chip Meriam

SIERRA DIVISION MEETING

The Sierra Division August 2017 meet took place at the historic Delta Saloon in Virginia City, NV. After spending the morning riding the Virginia and Truckee Rail Road and exploring the town, most of the membership gathered for lunch in the main dining room of the saloon. After lunch the group trekked up two flights of stairs to a ballroom in time to begin the meeting at 2:00 PM.



The Delta Saloon—Virginia City



A Good Turn Out for the Meet

The ballroom has to be one of the more elaborate meeting places Sierra Division has encountered. A membership and guest turn out of 31 enjoyed a beautifully decorated room with historic appointments including brothel-style wallpaper and white linen tablecloths.

The meeting began with a slide show presented by Tom Gray, CEO of the Virginia and Truckee Rail Road. Tom is the son of Bob Gray, who rebuilt the V&T beginning in 1970 (see page 1). The first portion of Tom's presentation recounted the history of the original V&T from its beginnings in 1869 during the Comstock Lode era in Nevada, through its eventual demise in 1950. The second portion of the presentation chronicled the remarkable "rebirth" and rebuilding of the modern day V&T between Virginia City and Carson City.



Tom Gray, CEO of the Virginia & Truckee

August Meet (ct'd.)

SIERRA DIVISION MEETING



Jim Dieckman On Rail Fair



Tom Van Horn on Regional News



Mary Moore-Campagna Soliciting Volunteers

Following Tom Gray's slide show, Jim Dieckman spoke of the major remodel about to take place at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville, the venue of the annual International Rail Fair. Jim explained that some of the remodel might be under way during the 2017 Rail Fair, but how it might affect the event was uncertain. However, Jim noted, by 2018 there should be a 13,000 square foot exhibit hall available—which should provide a lot more space for vendors and model railroad layout displays. Jim reported that the 2017 Rail Fair will be held the second weekend in November.

Our favorite "space cadet", Mary Moore-Campagna, is coordinating the corps of volunteers for Rail Fair. She circulated a sign-up sheet at the meeting and stressed the need for everyone to take a shift or two. You will find more information on the International Rail Fair and on volunteering on page 10.

Next, the group heard from Tom Van Horn, Division Director, who noted that the next regional board meeting would take place a week after our next scheduled meet in October. Tom also informed everyone of a new model railroad club in the Turlock area. Apparently the club started as a toy train enthusiasts club but now has more of a focus on scale modeling—mostly HO and N scales.

Gary Ray, contest chair, announced the winners of the modeling and photo contests. You can see the results on the following pages.

August Meet (ct'd.)

CONTEST WINNERS

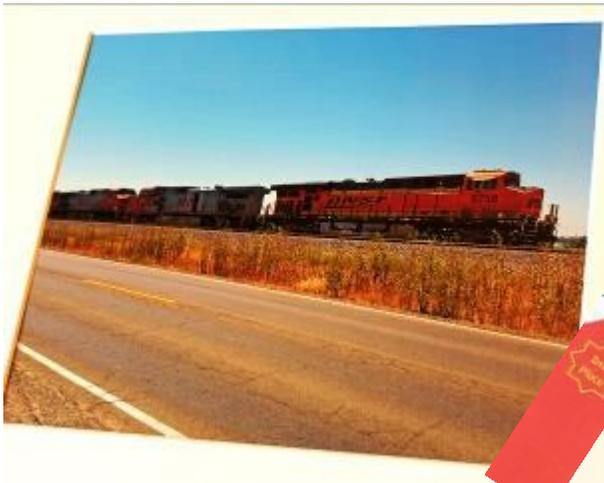


1st Place - Tom Van Horn



PHOTOGRAPHY

ANY PHOTO TAKEN DURING THE LAST
TWELVE MONTHS



2nd Place - Tom Van Horn



3rd Place - Walt Schedler



August Meet (ct'd.)

CONTEST WINNERS



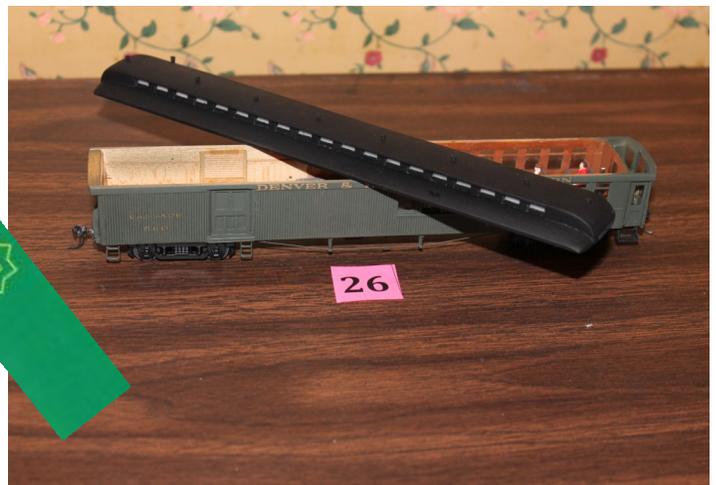
1st Place - Walt Schedler

MODELING

CABOOSE AND PASSENGER CARS



2nd Place - Al Wood



3rd Place - Jim Petro



By Chip Meriam

In the July Short Line I shared a project I am undertaking in a semi-organized attempt to bring my “somewhere in Northern California” layout to a reasonable degree of completion. You may recall that this project is actually a collection of several (26 to be exact) smaller projects no more than two square feet in size. The first of these 26 projects is the swing gate that provides access to the inside of the layout. I promised that I would share my progress on the swing gate in this October 2017 issue. I am happy to report that the swing gate project has been successfully completed and I was even able to make a start on the adjacent two-square-foot project during the occasions when I needed something to do “while the glue dried.”



Swing Gate, Pre-Scene



Swing Gate, Scene Mostly Done



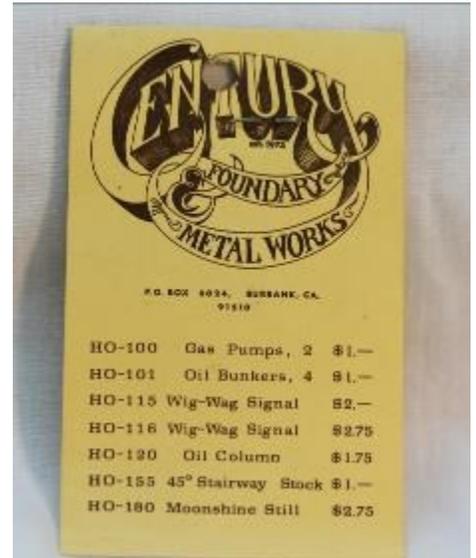
A Few Added Details



Adjacent Section Under Way

see “Glue” - page 19

In one of the photos of the finished swing gate you will see a line-side relay box on a pole. I had planned to use this little detail elsewhere on the layout but I chose to use it here, fully expecting to be able to replace it easily - so the original location would not suffer from lack of the same detail item. The packaging in which the relay box came had long ago been discarded, but I do have some other, similar details in their original envelopes with Century Foundry logos. It turns out that I bought these details from Whistle Stop Trains in Sacramento. Whistle Stop Trains (not to be confused with The Original Whistle Stop in Pasadena) was the forerunner to Bruce's Trains - now out of business. Bruce bought out Whistle Stop in about 1995, but I believe I purchased these parts in the late '70s or early '80s. Regardless, I've had them awhile. While waiting for the glue to dry on another occasion, I ran a quick internet search for Century Foundry Model Railroad and brought up no results, or so I thought. One of the "hits" was Showcase Miniatures out of Muskegee, Alabama. I checked the Showcase website and discovered that one of their categories under HO Scale is "HO Scale Century Foundry Accessories". Sure enough - there I found the relay box on a pole! Apparently Showcase Miniatures bought the Century Foundry line in 2004. It is true ladies and gentlemen: you can find **ANYTHING** on the internet.



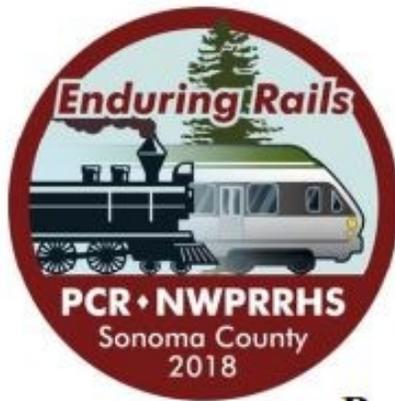
Back in August 2016, I offered a presentation on using spent coffee pods and their contents for scenery and various other things. I'm delighted to report that I am not the only "nut" to find a way to re-purpose these little guys. This was proudly displayed by a member of my staff here at the Assessor's Office:



The petals of these white roses are made from discarded K-Cups®.

The cups are shaped into rose petals and assembled into a flower with hot glue.

My staff member reports that she uses the spent coffee grounds as a soil nutrient in her garden.



PCR/NMRA

ENDURING RAILS

PCR Convention
April 4-8, 2018

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
Sonoma Wine Country
One Double Tree Drive
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Enduring Rails 2018
c/o Gus Campagna
1915 William Drive
Penngrove, CA 94951-9524

E-mail:
mailto:er2018registrar@pcrnmra.org
Website: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2018

Registration Form

Hosted by **Redwood Empire Division PCR & the
Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society**

Please Print

Last Name	First Name	Name for Badge	
Address		City	State & Zip
Home Phone	E-mail address	NMRA #	
Registration Type (Please check one) Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail/Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> PCR First Timer <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/>		NMRA Region (If other than PCR) _____ NWPRHS Member Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
I am available to volunteer at the convention on <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday <input type="checkbox"/>			
Primary Scale Interests	<input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
Railroad you model			

Non-Rail's Name for Badge:

FARES: Please fill in Quantity and Total	Quantity	Unit Cost	TOTAL
Full Registration includes Awards banquet and Membership breakfast		118.00	
First Timer Registration (PCR members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions)		98.00	
Non-Rail Registration (Includes Lunch)		98.00	
Youth Registration (12-18 years old)		68.00	
Sturgeons Mill Tour (Steam powered saw mill)		40.00	
Korbel Wine Tasting Tour (includes Bus Transportation)		25.00	
SMART Maintenance Facility Tour		20.00	
Convention Car HO NWP Double Sheathed Boxcar Kit 1@\$25; 2@\$48; 4@\$92; 6@\$126			
Grey Convention Polo Shirt ** <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL <input type="checkbox"/> 5XL <input type="checkbox"/> W or <input type="checkbox"/> W/O pocket		\$30.00	
Are you interested in the Napa Valley Wine Train? Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch <input type="checkbox"/>			
Payment by: Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> (use the website to pay with PayPal/Credit Cards) Make checks payable to: PACIFIC COAST REGION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION		TOTAL	

4-16-17

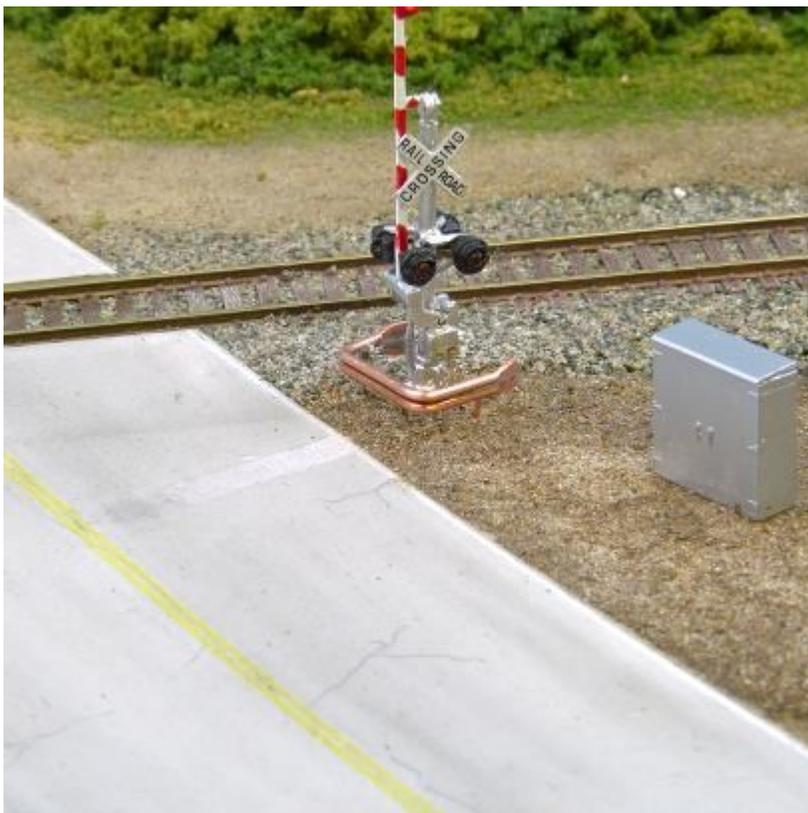
****Order shirts before March 2, 2018**

Tips of the Trade Hobby

Every So Often we stumble upon a clever solution to what should be a simple problem - but is really not as simple as it seems. As an example, we offer the ubiquitous formed sheet metal guard rails found along roadways all across the country. While there may very well be commercially produced models of these roadside details, a fellow named Mike Holly has come up with an ingenious method by which to produce them on his work bench.

For N scale, Mike uses two lengths of 18 gauge, solid copper wire to form the guard rail. He straightens the wires, clamps them together side-by-side, and runs a bead of solder between them. The resulting shape mimics the contour of highway guard rails. Mike flattens the ends in a vice to represent the flared ends. A further step in Mike's example was to bend the wires to shape—in this case to be used as a crash barrier to protect a crossing gate.

Mike finished the modeled crash barrier with flat gray paint.



Mike Holly's Crash Barrier Before Final Painting
Photo Courtesy of Joe Fugate, [Model Railroad Hobbyist](#)

We decided to try Mike's method to produce an HO scale guard rail. We used 12 gauge wire to represent a light duty guard rail, but 8 gauge would be more appropriate for use along a main highway. Other than the larger wire, we followed Mike's method exactly.



Our HO Scale Version Using Mike Holly's Method

We found this article in the June 2017 issue of [Model Railroad Hobbyist](#). You can go here to read that issue:

<http://mrhmag.com/magazine/mrh-2017-06>

Or here to find Mike's article:

<http://mrhmag.com/magazine/mrh2017-06/crash-barriers>

Our sincere thanks to Joe Fugate, Publisher of [Model Railroad Hobbyist](#), for allowing us to reference this article and providing links for access. Joe also sent us the picture shown above.

Send us YOUR tips! chipmeriam@comcast.net



1950's Budd RDC In Service in 2017
(photo—Lorri Meriam)

Still Young at 65

Chip Meriam

As some of you may know, I make an annual trip to Portland, Oregon to attend the Portland Brewer's Festival. The festival is always held during the last full weekend of July, so this year I was in Portland instead of in Orlando, Florida for the NMRA National Convention. Sadly, I missed the Portland NMRA convention a few years ago because the Festival and the Convention did not occur during the same time.

When I make my annual sojourn to Oregon, I stay with a life-long friend in Tualatin, which is southwest of Portland by about fifteen miles. In the earlier years, we drove to the nearest MAX Light Rail transit center and boarded the train for downtown Portland. More recently, however, we have been able to take advantage of the WES commuter trains that actually stop in Tualatin on their route from Wilsonville

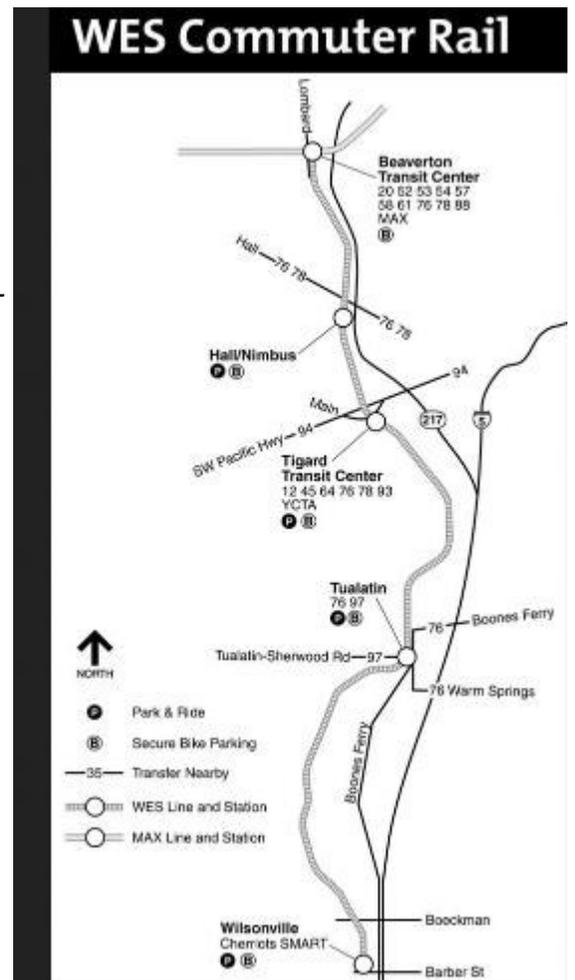


to Beaverton (see map insert). WES (Westside Express Service) runs on a portion of the Portland and Western line from Eugene to Astoria as shown below. Service began in February 2009 using diesel powered Aero railcars built by Colorado Railcar. In 2011, WES put two Budd Rail Diesel Cars (RDC) into service. The two were built originally in 1952 and 1953, respectively, for the New Haven Railroad. They later ran on the Alaska Railroad.



Although I have been riding WES trains since 2009, I had yet to encounter the Budd RDCs. You can imagine my surprise when I saw these 65-year-old units approaching the platform. Once aboard the train I queried the conductor as to the origins of the RDCs. He explained that they had been acquired from the Alaska Railroad to serve as backups to the Aero cars. What's more, he continued, there are two more coming from Texas to serve as backups to the backups. Simply amazing.....still young at 65!

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Out & About in Virginia City

Photos by Jim Collins



Virginia & Truckee Engine and Cars



Pushing The Train Upon Departure



Our Engineer

Out & About in Virginia City

continued



Exiting First Tunnel



Old Gallows (note the skeleton)



Building Near Gold Hill

Out & About in Virginia City

continued



Gold Hill Station



Gold Hill Hotel & Saloon



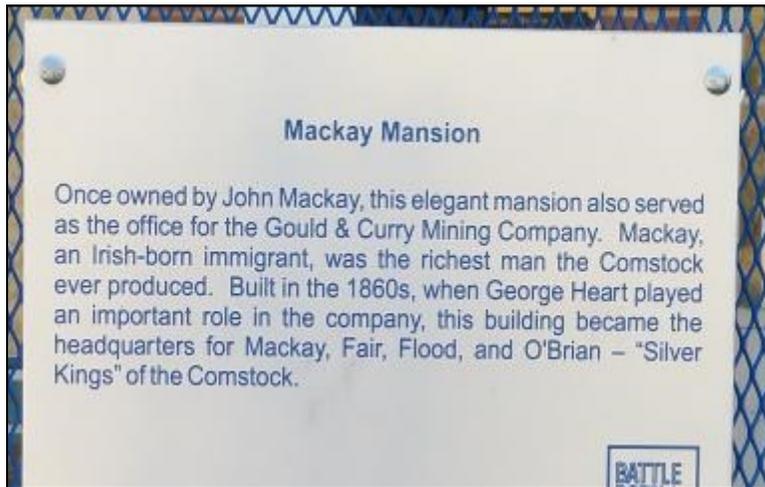
Virginia City Yard Water Tower



Returning To Virginia City

Out & About in Virginia City

continued



Sign At Mackay Mansion



Famous People At Mackay Mansion



Mackay Mansion Dining Room

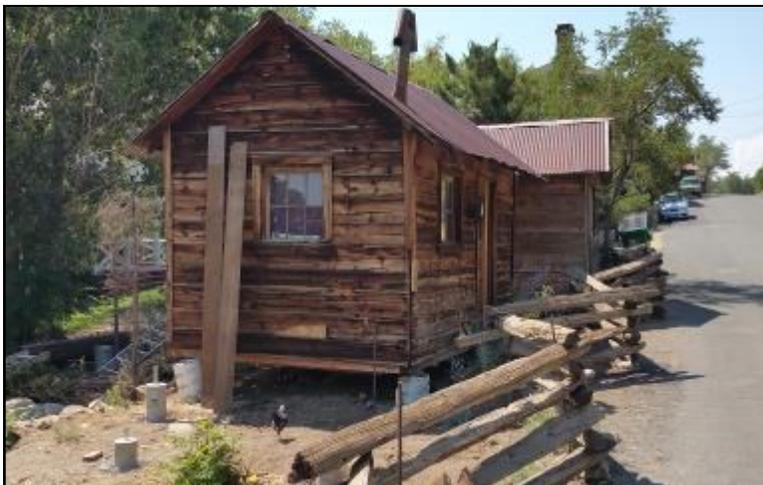
Out & About in Virginia City continued



Macjays Mansion—Child's Room



High Living In The 1800s



Building Near Mackay Mansion (note chickens)

Out & About in Virginia City

continued



Mining Display at Fourth Ward School



Fourth Ward School Room



St. Mary's Church



Joan Giacomelli & Tom Van Horn Waiting For The Train