



SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association



The World's Greatest Hobby!

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The 2019 PCR Convention, sponsored by the Sierra Division, has now come and gone. After slightly less than a year of planning, preparation, and procurement, the four days from May 2 to May 5 flew by like a double-stack container train. Our convention committee and several Sierra Division volunteers joined with other volunteers and participants from all throughout the Pacific Coast Region and managed to have a wonderful model railroad experience. In collaboration with the Feather River Rail Society and several vendors, the attendance easily exceeded 200.

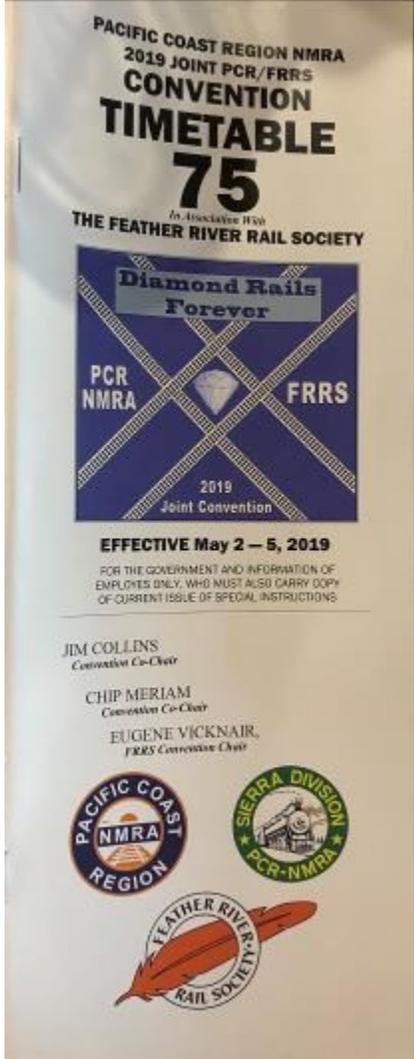
Following is a summary of the week at McClellan Conference Center told with photos. Contributing photographers are Lorri Meriam, Michael Eldridge, and your editor. *(Editors note: be sure to check out the July 2019 Branch Line for further coverage)*



Vendors and "Treasure" Hunters
(photo: Michael Eldridge)



Gary Ray Finds Something He Can't Live Without
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



All Convention Activities Were Listed In Timetable 75
(photo: Lorri Meriam)

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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 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

In Case You Didn't Notice, we just had a convention. Sierra Division hosted the 2019 Pacific Coast Region NMRA convention at McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento May 2nd through the 5th. If you were there, you know



what a great gathering it was. If you missed it, try to attend the next one which will be in Concord, CA April 30th through May 3rd, 2020. These conventions are really a lot of fun, they are a great opportunity to learn new skills and tricks, and they are a fabulous opportunity to participate in some top-notch fellowship with like-minded model railroaders. See pages 1 and 6 through 9 for a bit more on the 2019 convention. The editor of the PCR **Branch Line** invites us to also see the July issue for extended coverage. Of particular note are two special awards and their recipients, Klaus Keil and Jim Collins.

Meanwhile, our own editor of the **Short Line** has extended his apology for the small issue this time. He says the primary reason for this is there was no May meet due to the convention the same month. While our editor was in my office, he asked that I solicit articles and other content for inclusion in future issues. It seems he is always hungry for member input.

We are looking forward to upcoming meets in August and October. In August we will be meeting in the morning at the Fair Oaks public library from 10:00 until 12:00. Then we'll travel a short distance to Hagen Park in Rancho Cordova for a barbecue lunch prepared by our member, Dan Moody, followed by train rides on the outdoor Sacramento Valley Live Steamers railroad. Dan reports he will be serving mesquite grilled chicken, tri-tip, rolls, soft drink, and a choice of two sides: ranchbeans, green salad, fruit salad, potato salad, and macaroni salad. Dan also needs a good "head count" a week before so he can acquire just the right amount of grub. The cost will be \$14.50 per person, which is a bargain for such a complete meal. Families are welcome and encouraged to attend the lunch and afternoon activities.

In October the meet will be in Chico. The morning will begin with a visit to Mike Hamlin's layout in Orland, which is twenty minutes west of Chico. Then we'll travel to Chico for a visit with Loren Dunlap, a Western Pacific memorabilia collector and historian. We'll do Loren's visit in "shifts" of about ten people at a time. The remainder of the group will be visiting my home layout which is just up the street from Loren's place. The afternoon meet will be at Round Table Pizza where we can all get lunch as well.

For both August and October, please remember our Show And Tell. Bring something you want to share—even if it's a project in progress.

The contest details are on page 3.

See you in August!

Until then

High Green To All !



SIERRA DIVISION

Next Meeting: August 10
Fair Oaks

10:00 AM - Noon
Fair Oaks Public Library
11601 Fair Oaks Blvd.

12:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Hagen Park - Rancho Cordova
2197 Chase Drive
BBQ Lunch and Live Steamers

SEE MAPS BELOW

TIMETABLE

August 10, 2019
Fair Oaks
Rancho Cordova

October 12, 2019
Chico

February 8, 2020
Sacramento

May 9, 2020
To Be Scheduled

SHORT LINE

Sep 10 for the Oct Issue

Dec 10 for the Jan Issue

Mar 10 for the Apr Issue

June 10 for the July Issue



April 30 - May 3, 2020
Concord, CA

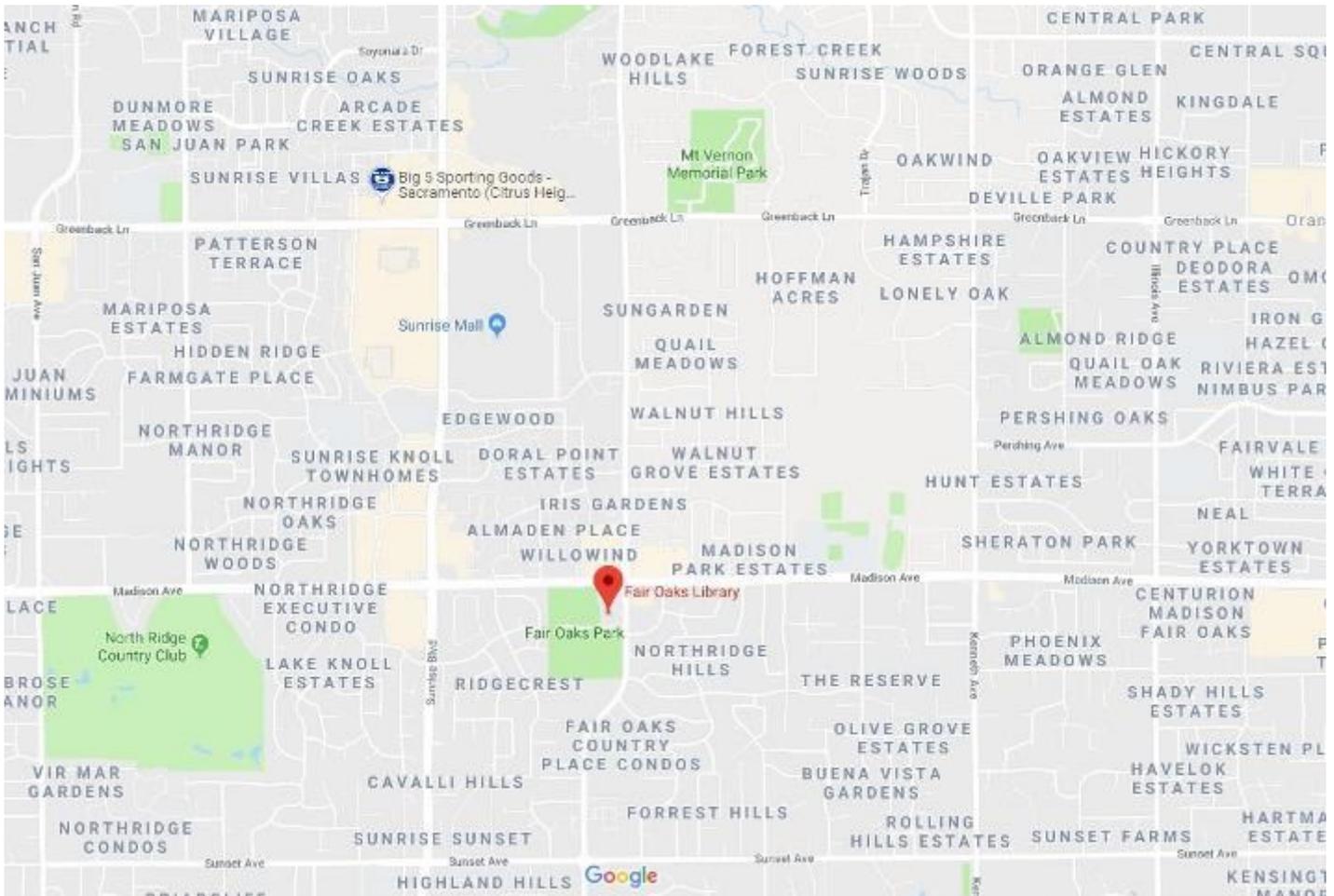
August Contest Categories:

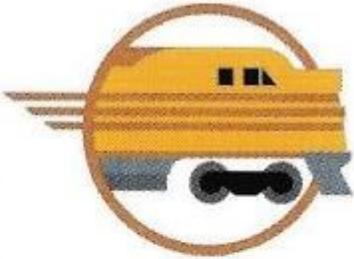
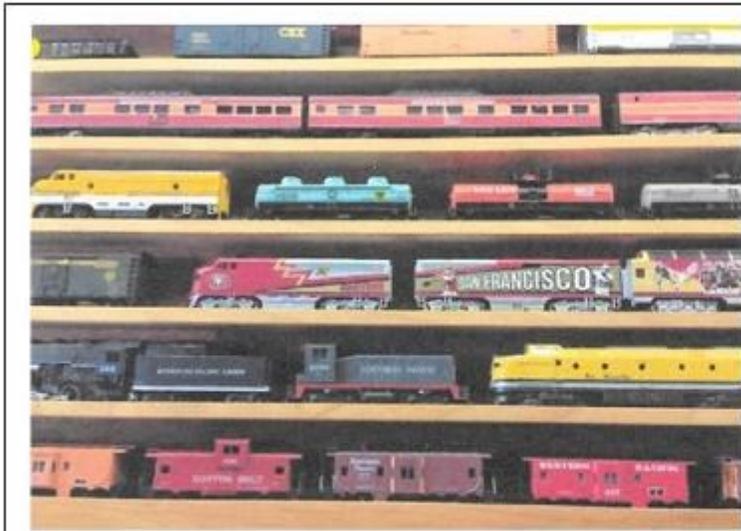
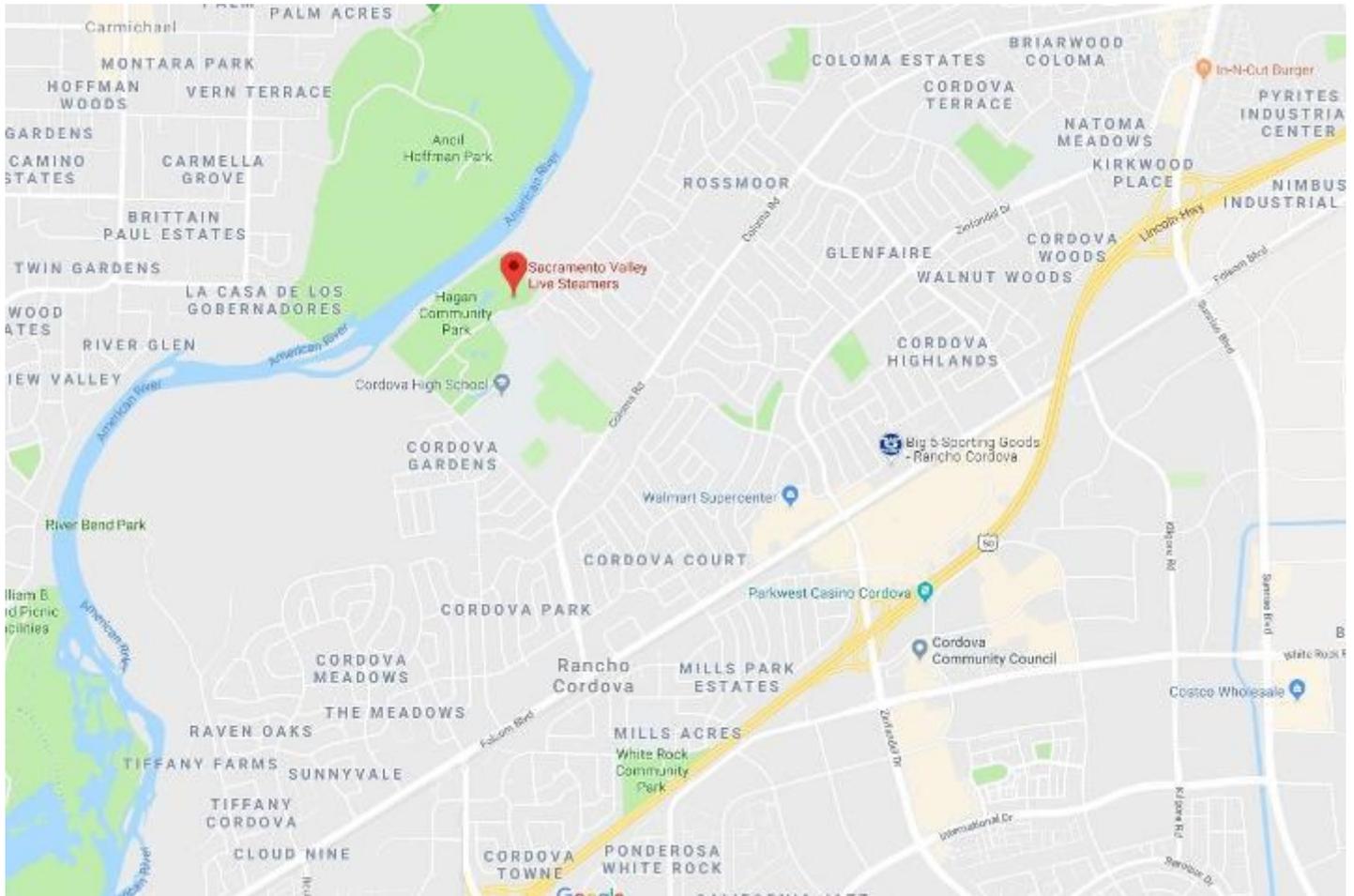
Modeling: Any Structure You Built In The Last 6 Months

Photo: Tracks & Structures

(limit of 3 photos - at least 5 X 7 but not over 8 X 12)

Railroad Arts & Crafts





PACKRATT TRAINS & TOYS
Matt Padgett

546 Kentucky Street - Gridley, CA 95948
530-797-9264 packratt1@gmail.com

Open Wednesday thru Friday 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM and Saturday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.

**Wow! Did you know there's a new
NMRA Member Benefit?**

It's the NMRA Partner Program!

**Model railroad manufacturers are partnering
with the NMRA to offer discounts to NMRA
members.**

**Current members log in to www.nmra.org .
At the Members Menu, go to the NMRA
Partnership Page to see who's on the list,
discounts offered, and how to order. New
Partners are coming on board every month,
so check back often.**

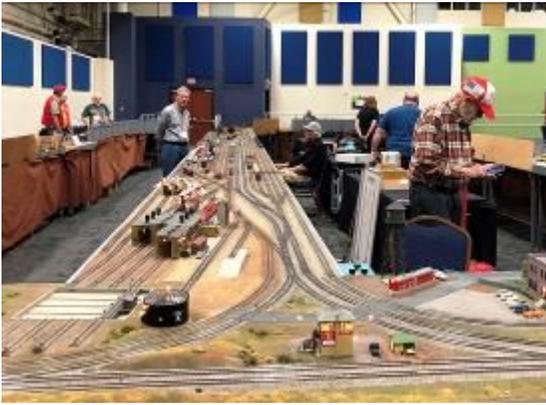
**If you're not yet a member, here's another
great reason to join and get more fun from
your hobby with a membership in the
world's largest model railroad organization.**

www.nmra.org

**A proud
Partner with**



"Convention" from page 1



Yard and Engine Terminal
Sacramento Modular Railroaders
(photo: Michael Eldridge)



Rounding The Bend
Sacramento Modular Railroaders
(photo: Chip Meriam)



Some Of The Photo Contest Entries
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



Some Of The Arts & Crafts Entries
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



Some Of The Structure Contest Entries
(photo: Michael Eldridge)



1 Square Foot Display - World War II - Italy
(photo: Lorri Meriam)

see "Convention" - page 7



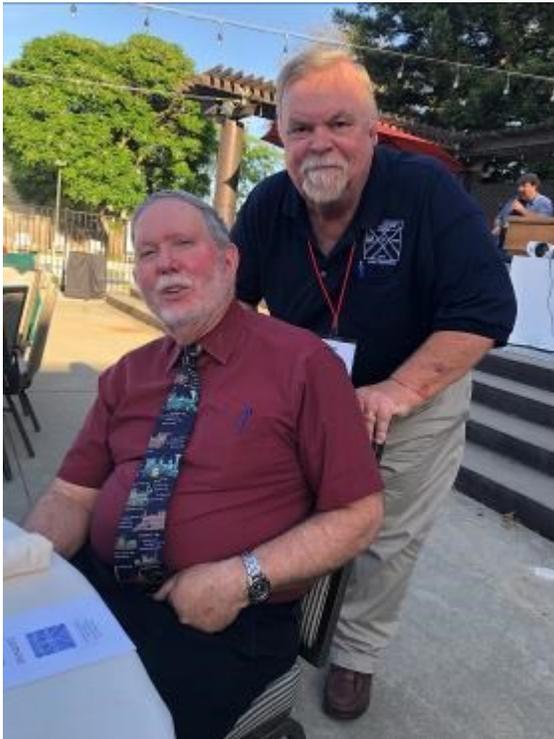
The Banquet Crowd
(photo: Chip Meriam)



Keynote Speaker, Charlie Getz, Former NMRA President
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



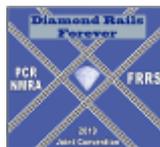
**Bill "Grumpy" Scott and Giuseppe Aymar
During the Contest Awards Presentation**
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



Jim Collins and Chip Meriam, Convention Co-Chairs
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



**Dave "Silver Streak" Bayless
At The End Of The Last Day**
(photo: Chip Meriam)



May Meet - McClellan, CA

The Story This Quarter Is Klaus Keil

The Sierra Division held no 2nd quarter meet because we were hosting the 2019 PCR Convention during the same week we would normally have our meet. Rather, we all enjoyed (and several of us worked at) the 2019 Diamond Rails Forever Convention at the McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento. Sierra Division Committee members were Jim Collins, Chip Meriam, Scott McAllister, Dan Moody, Dave Bayless, Steve Harvath, Scott Inmann, Brian Witt, Gary Ray, Mary Moore-Campagna, and Dave Putnam. We also had several volunteers from our division helping out. A special appreciative thank you to all who participated in the convention.

Our Division Director, Tom Van Horn, announced the Sierra Division's Member of The Year, Klaus Keil. Klaus is most deserving of this recognition because, despite having lost his home and his entire layout in the Camp Fire last November, he has continued to participate in division activities, has actively re-started his modeling, and even created and presented a well received clinic at the PCR convention in May. Throughout all of this, Klaus has maintained a very positive attitude and has been a complete joy to be around. At age 91, Klaus is a true inspiration and leadership example for us all.



Sierra Division Member Of The Year

Klaus Keil



Congratulations, Klaus.
This is truly a merited honor.

May Meet ct'd.



The Pacific Coast Region

President annually selects a particular region member who has served the region in an outstanding fashion, often beyond what would normally be expected from any volunteer. This year, the outgoing PCR President, Ed Merrin, selected our very own Jim Collins. Jim was our Division Superintendent for four years from 2015 through 2018. In October 2018 Jim's terms finally came to an end but that did not allow Jim a chance to relax. In fact, Jim was hard at work organizing the 2019 PCR Convention, Diamond Rails Forever, as its principal co-chairman.

It is Jim's work on the convention that President Merrin cited as his reason for selecting him for the award. You see, the host division was determined quite a bit later than it normally would be. Where the host division usually has up to

two years to do the planning, Sierra had fewer than twelve months in which to find a venue, organize a committee, begin publicity, line up speakers, solicit clinicians, etc. Remarkably, Jim and his committee were able to accomplish this and the result of their efforts was a first-class convention boasting attendance of 250 to 300. Sure, Jim had help, but he was clearly the established leader of the group. In many ways, Jim "rescued" the 2019 convention from disaster or, worse yet, non existence.

As Sierra Division members as well as Pacific Coast Region members, we all owe Jim a hearty "thank you" for a job well done.

Jim, at the risk of casting a jinx, we think you can relax now.

Pacific Coast Region 2019 President's Award

Jim Collins



CLEAR TO THE COAST, PCR's 2020 convention, will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord from April 30 through May 2, 2020.



Crowne Plaza Hotel

The Crowne Plaza was the site of the *Devil Mountain* convention in 2005 and the 1987 convention, *Milepost 87*.

The hotel room rate is \$134 plus applicable taxes. Once the room block opens in September 2019, rooms can be booked from as early as April 26, 2020 for occupancy as late as May 5, all at the convention rate.

Registration is now open on the convention website, www.pcrnmra.org/conv2020, or with the registration form in this issue of the *Short Line*. Early Bird registration is \$130, and First Timer is \$110. Non-rail and Youth registrations are \$40 but do not include the awards banquet. Day fares are available at \$40 per day and also do not include the banquet if purchased for Saturday. The Early Bird rate is good through November 30, 2019.

The convention will include all of the regular PCR convention features - contests, clinics, layout tours, ops sessions, a non-rail program and a prototype trip. New features are also planned. For those who attended the joint convention with PNR in Medford in 2012, you may recall the mini-clinic session on Friday evening with numerous short clinics running simultaneously in one large room. Mini-clinics will be offered in PCR for 2020, in addition to the over 40 regular clinic sessions scheduled. The Square Foot Challenge, a popular-vote modeling contest, is certain to attract lots of creative entries. To enter, create any form of railroad related modeling, display or diorama, in a space 12" x 12" that includes a section of track.



**Square Foot Diorama
At the 2019 Convention**

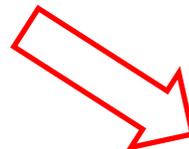
The 2020 convention is co-sponsored by the Western Railway Museum in Rio Vista. PCR will enjoy an exclusive tour on Friday when the Museum is closed to the public, including a BBQ lunch, shop tour and ride on one or more of WRM's preserved historic electric trolleys or other rail cars. Bus transportation is planned for what promises to be a great day.



WRM Museum Building

The convention will feature up to 40 clinics - so lots of clinicians are needed! Richard Brennan, Clinics chair, needs your help in filling clinic slots. Have you ever thought of giving a clinic but are uncomfortable in standing in front of an entire clinic room for an hour? Try the mini-clinics to get your feet wet with a small group for half the normal duration. Or do you have a great idea that doesn't have an hour's worth of content, here's the opportunity for that too. Of course Richard would also like to hear from you for a full clinic slot. Contact him at ctcclinics@pcrnmra.org.

**FIND A 2020 CONVENTION
REGISTRATION FORM ON THE
NEXT PAGE**





**CLEAR to the Coast 2020
PCR NMRA Convention**
Co-sponsor Western Railway Museum
Crowne Plaza Concord / Walnut Creek
45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, CA
April 30 – May 3, 2020
Registration Form

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Clear to the Coast 2020
c/o Lawrence Crowl
201 Horizon Ave
Mountain View, CA 94043-4718

E-mail: ctc2020registrar@pcrnmra.org
Website: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2020

Please Print

Visit the website to pay with PayPal or credit card

| | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Last Name | | First Name | | Name for Badge | | |
| Address | | | City | State | Zip Code + 4 | |
| Home Phone | E-mail Address | | | NMRA or WRM # | | |
| Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> PCR/NMRA <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail <input type="checkbox"/> WRM | | | | NMRA Region or Club Affiliation | | |
| Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times: _____ | | | | | | |
| I can help more. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | |
| Primary Scales and Interests <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | | | | | |
| ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form if more than one) | | | | | | |
| Last Name | | First Name | | Name for Badge | | |
| Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> PCR <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail <input type="checkbox"/> WRM | | E-Mail (if Different) | | NMRA or WRM # | | |
| Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times: _____ | | | | | | |
| I can help More. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | |
| Primary Scales and Interests <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | | | | | |
| FARES: <i>Please fill in Qty and Form will compute the total</i> | | | | Qty | Unit Cost | Total |
| Early Bird Registration Pkg. (Registration, banquet, & brkfast) (until 11/30/19; \$150 after) | | | | | 130.00 | |
| NMRA & WRM Registration ONLY (No banquet, no breakfast) | | | | | 80.00 | |
| First Timer Pkg. (PCR Members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions) | | | | | 110.00 | |
| Non-Rail or Spouse Registration (includes non-rail lunch, no banquet or breakfast) | | | | | 40.00 | |
| NMRA Awards Banquet only | | | | | 70.00 | |
| PCR Breakfast only | | | | | 40.00 | |
| Youth Registration (12-18 years or student) | | | | | 40.00 | |
| Day Fare (Banquet or breakfast not included) <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat | | | | | 40.00 | |
| MERCHANDISE: <i>Prices include 8.75% California sales tax where applicable.</i> | | | | | | |
| Convention Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL | | | | | 38.00 | |
| Convention Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL <input type="checkbox"/> 5XL | | | | | 42.00 | |
| Convention Car (Sacramento Northern, HO-scale, 40' Boxcar kit by Accurail) | | | | | 28.00 | |
| Additional Convention Cars (Must order one car above at full price) | | | | | 25.00 | |
| Join the NMRA | | 9 month Rail Pass (allowed one time only) | | | 20.00 | |
| | | Full NMRA membership | | | 75.00 | |
| Payment by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (Use website for credit card or PayPal) Make checks payable to: Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association | | | | | TOTAL | |
| No Refunds After March 30, 2020 (\$5.00 deducted from all refunds) | | | | | | |

Around And About



The Division Superintendent Visits the Western Railway Museum
(We're not sure which is more fitting for our super - Alcatraz or the bird poop.....)