



SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association



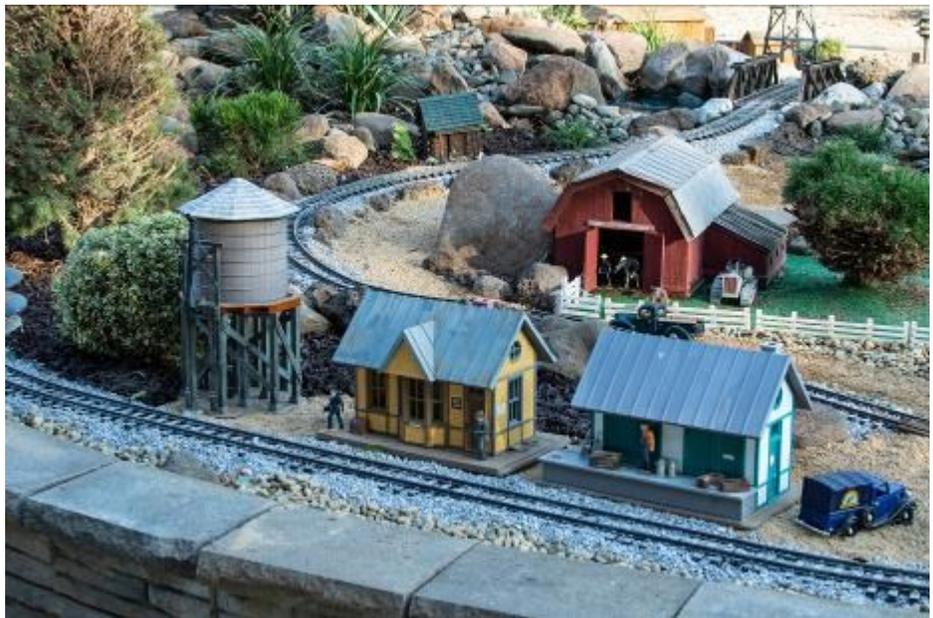
The
**World's
Greatest
Hobby!**

Inside This Issue

Mike Hamlin's Railroads	1
Call Board	2
From the Superintendent	2
Time Table	3
SMRHS Map	3
1st Christian Church Map	4
NMRA Partner Program	5
October Meet	6
Contest Winners	10
Convention Registration	11
International Rail Fair	15
Director Candidates	19
Minnesota Museum Visit	22
Around And About	26



Garden Railroad in Orland, CA
A Visit To Mike Hamlin's Railroads



See Story Beginning On Page 6

Both Photos: Jim Collins

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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 :

chipmeriam@comcast.net If e-mailing put EDITOR in the subject line.

From the Superintendent

Merry Christmas



I Believe We All feel a close connection between trains and Christmas. For many of us, the Christmas season marks the beginning of the inclusion of this marvelous hobby in our lives. For others, it may be the proverbial "Electric Train Around The Tree". For some it may be the fond memory of receiving a special gift that cemented our love of trains. Regardless of the reasons, there is no denying the close correlation.

Something I noticed long ago are the common colors. As with Christmas, I associate red and green with trains. There are green marker lights and red rear end markers. There are searchlight signals, semaphores, and switch stand lanterns that display red and green.

There is the green Christmas tree with red ribbons, red ornaments, and red and green lights. There is the green wreath with red bows.

Think about it. What colors could be more Christmassy and Railroady than **red** and **green**?

I'll be deliberately brief with my message for this issue. You will find information about our last meet, our upcoming meet, the upcoming Division Director Election, and a storehouse of other fun stuff in other sections.

Mostly, I want to wish each and every one of you a Joyous and Merry Christmas and, as always, High Green!



SIERRA DIVISION

Next Meeting: February 8
Sacramento

9:30 AM
OP Session at SMRHS
1990 Grand Avenue

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
First Christian Church
3901 Folsom Blvd,

SEE MAPS BELOW

February Contest Categories:

Modeling: Freight Cars

Photo: Prototype—Black & White

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

Railroad Arts & Crafts

TIMETABLE

February 8, 2020
Sacramento

April 30—May 3, 2020
PCR Convention
Concord, CA

May 9, 2020
To Be Scheduled

August 8, 2020
To Be Scheduled



SHORT LINE

Mar 10 for the Apr Issue

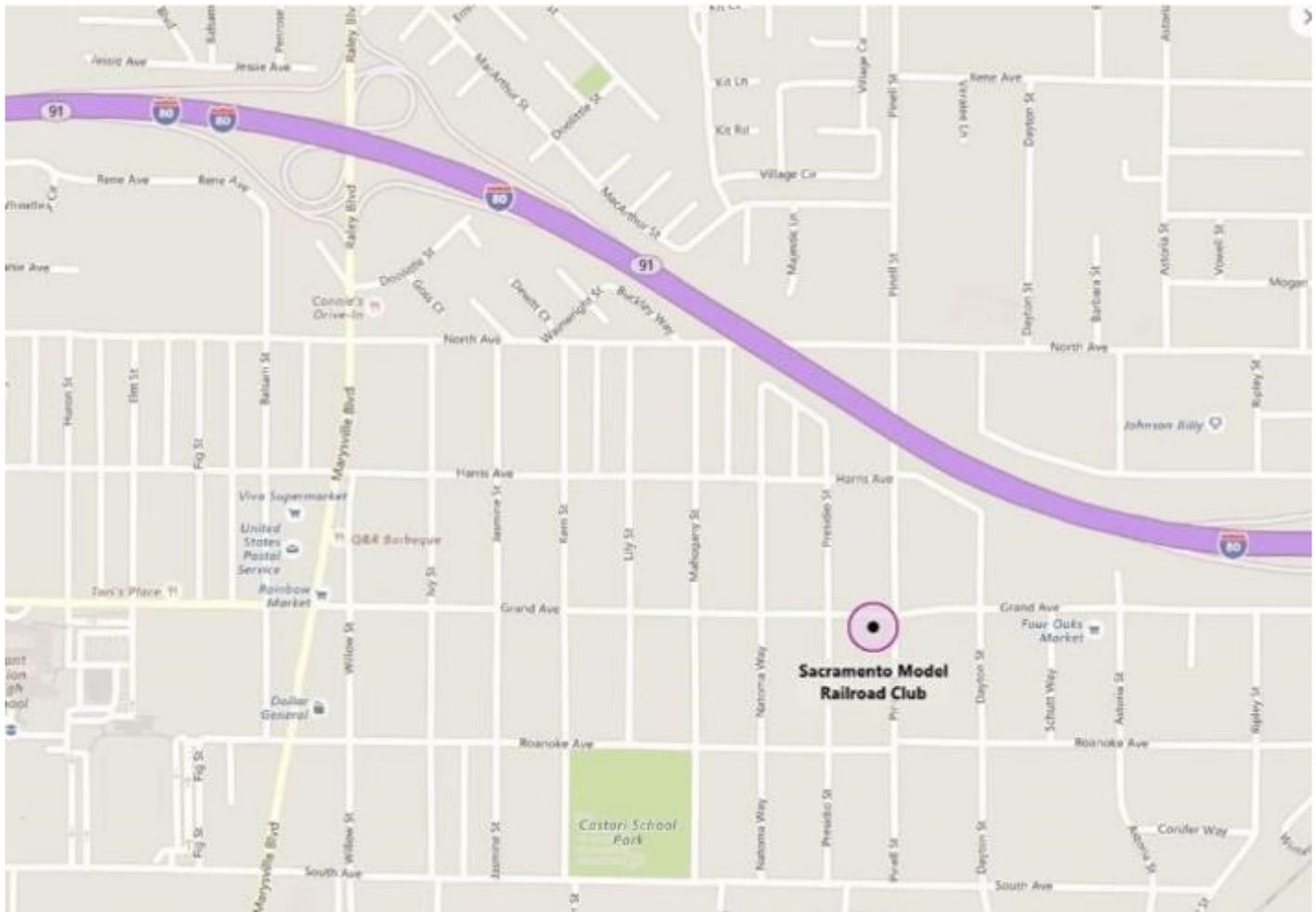
June 10 for the July Issue

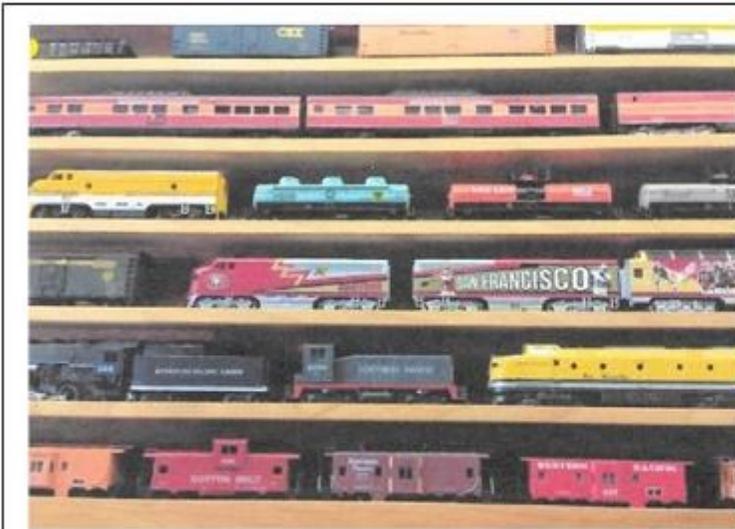
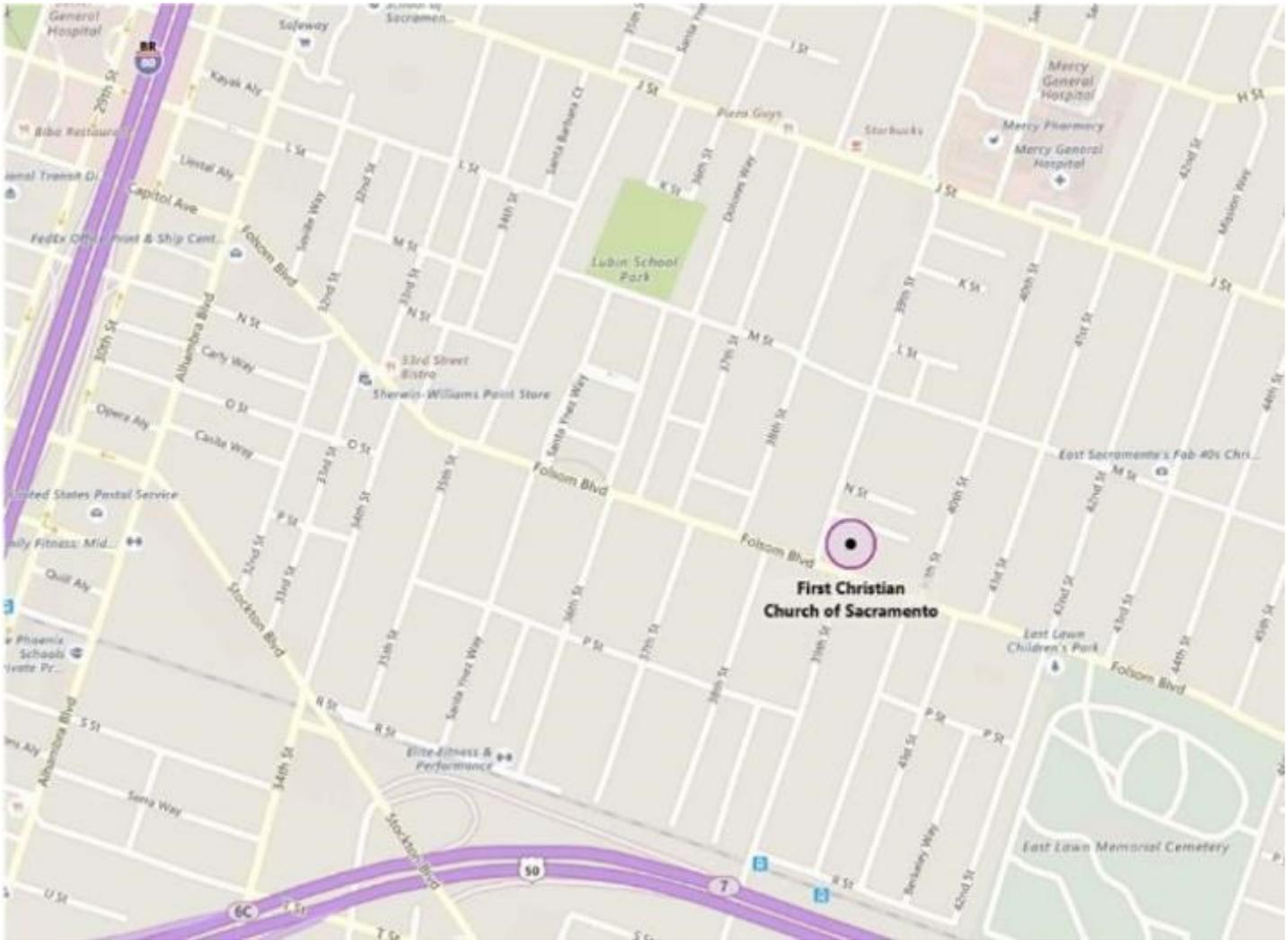
Sept 10 for the Oct Issue

Jan 10 for the Jan Issue



April 30 –May 3, 2020
Concord, CA
See registration form on page 11





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**



October Meet - Orland and Chico, CA

By Chip Meriam



Large Scale Action In Mike Hamlin's Driveway
Photo: Chip Meriam

Saturday October 12 Was A Busy Day for the members of the Sierra Division. We started the day with a three-part field trip. The first stop was Mike Hamlin's home in rural Orland where we gathered around a large scale railroad built up in a raised planter in the middle of Mike's circular driveway .



Raised Planter With Trains Growing In The Soil



Mike Hamlin's Small Town

Mike welcomed the group to his indoor HO scale layout. It is obvious that one of Mike's favorite aspects of the hobby is structure building.



Downtown Details



Mike's Small Town At Night

Mike brings his scenes to life with carefully selected and placed details. What's really impressive is Mike's use of building and street lighting for night scenes.

Turn to page 13, "*Hamlin*", for more photos of Mike's HO layout.

Photos by Jim Collins except as noted

October Meet - continued



The next stops were two homes in the same Chico neighborhood. Each was able to accommodate about half of us at a time. The layout visit was to Chip Meriam's WP&SP Somewhere In Northern California, a name loosely derived from the two railroads that served Chico. Now running through Chico is the Union Pacific on former Southern Pacific tracks. The Western Pacific's presence in Chico was through the Sacramento Northern, a WP subsidiary. The SN right-of-way is now a bike and pedestrian path.



Chip Meriam's WP&SP Somewhere in Northern CA

(l-r) Caroline Schedler, Dave Worley, Andrew King, Al Rowe, Chip Meriam, Jim Dieckman

Photo: Lorri Meriam



Dick Klammer Finds A Place to Rest
At Chip Meriam's Work Bench

Photo: Lorri Meriam



WP U Boat Trundles A Local
Past Lorrison Bulk Petroleum
at Lorrison On The WP&SP
Somewhere In Northern Cali-
formia

Photo: Jim Collins

October Meet - continued



The other stop in Chico was Loren Dunlap's Western Pacific memorabilia collection. In addition to being a collector, Loren is one of the local WP experts and historians. Loren offered his clinic, "Last Call To Dinner, WP's dining car service ware", at the PCR Diamond Rails Forever Convention in May 2019. And Loren gracefully agreed to put on a clinic for this Sierra Division meet, "How Do You Remember The WP?"

Pictured are a few scenes from Loren's collection.



All Photos: Loren Dunlap

October Meet - continued

SIERRA DIVISION MEETING

After the field trip stops had been made, everyone met at Roundtable Pizza for lunch and the afternoon meeting.

There was a brief business meeting where we heard from Division Director Tom Van Horn; Membership Chairman, Jim Collins; and International Rail Fair Committee Representative, Jim Dieckman.

Director Van Horn spoke of the upcoming PCR Board meeting, which will be his last. He expected some changes in the contest rules might be made - or, at least, discussed.

Chairman Collins presented new member, Sam Cook, with his NMRA track gauge. Sam joins us from Mountain Ranch, CA.

IRF Representative Dieckman reported on the changes at the Placer County Fair Grounds and the ultimate decision of the IRF committee to move the annual train show to a new location. The 2020 Rail Fair will be at the Scottish Rite facility in downtown Sacramento. It will also be a month earlier: October 10 & 11, 2020.

The business meeting concluded and the contest voting took place. The results are on the following pages. There was a small show & tell session with the highlight being Ed Powell's double deck modular design.

Once the Sierra Division business was finished, we were treated to a presentation by Loren Dunlap, a Western Pacific memorabilia collector and historian. Loren presented a slide show with over 200 images of various WP items. Loren's specialty is dining car service ware, but his eclectic collection of memorabilia and his knowledge of all of it surpass a single subject by many mile posts. Our tremendous thanks to Loren for investing his time with us - hosting us in the morning, and educating us in the afternoon.



Division Members Respond To A Question

Photo: Lorri Meriam



Loren Dunlap On The Finer Points of WP Memorabilia Collecting

Photo: Lorri Meriam

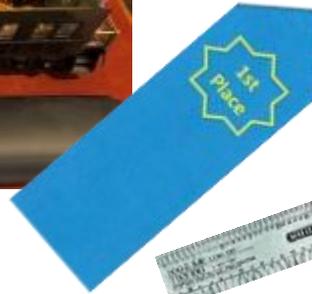
The next Sierra Division Meet will be February 8, 2020 in Sacramento. The Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society (SMRHS) will be hosting us for an OP session beginning at 9:30 AM. As in the past, there will be a lunch barbecue for a nominal price. The designated "griller" is usually Steve Folino, who does a wonderful job with dogs and burgers. The meet will be at the First Christian Church on Folsom Blvd.

October Meet - continued

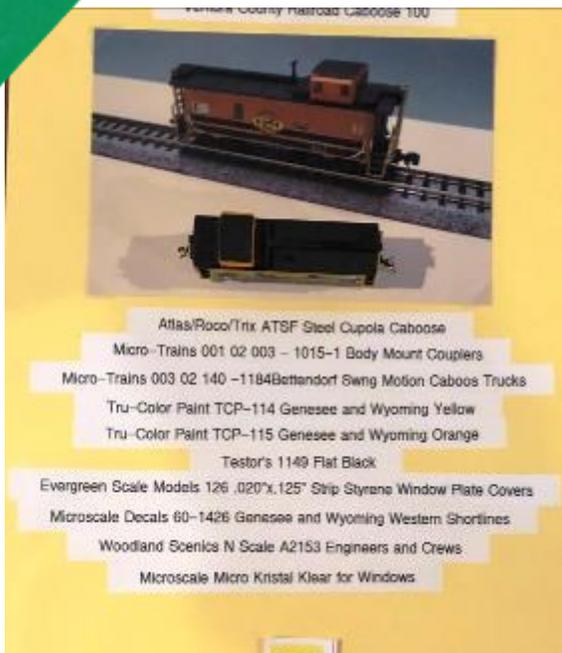
CONTEST WINNERS



First Place Model
Walt Schedler



Second Place Model
Jud Reeves



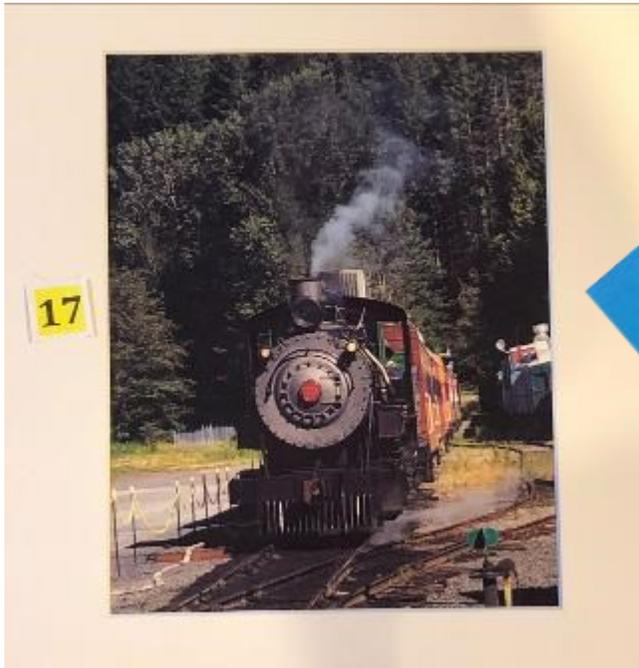
Third Place Model
Jud Reeves

All Photos: Lorri Meriam

"Continued on Page 11"

October Meet - continued

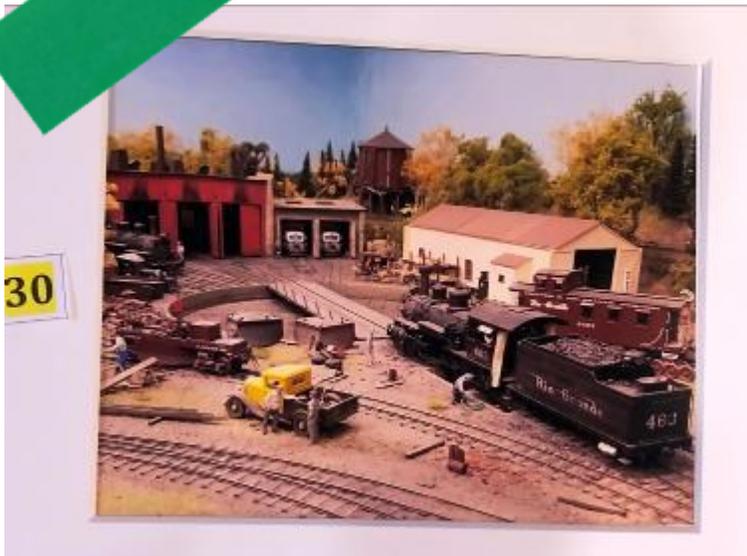
CONTEST WINNERS



First Place Photo
Joan Giacomelli



Second Place Photo
Walt Schedler



Third Place Photo
Tom Van Horn

All Photos: Lorri Meriam



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 Chris Palermo
230 Alberta Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

E-mail: ctc2020registrar@pcmmra.org
Website: www.pcnmra.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	
Model Ultra-Realistic Surf Clinic Materials Fee		5.00	
Western Railway Museum Tour		45.00	
SPCRR at Ardenwood Tour		14.00	
President's Reception		20.00	
Swap Meet Table (Convention registration required)		10.00	
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 <input type="checkbox"/> 6XL		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)		TOTAL	
Make checks payable to: Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association No Refunds After March 30, 2020 (\$5.00 deducted from all refunds)			



The Town of Artois



Artois Locomotive Shop



The Town of Woodland Village



Meyer Creek



Woodland Village Power and Water



Woodland Village Park



Brett's Bee Farm



Artois Feed Mill



Woodland Village Grace Community Church



Woodland Village Depot

November 9 & 10 was the weekend for International Rail Fair. As in past years, Rail Fair took Place at the Placer County Fair Grounds in Roseville. However, this was to be the last time at this location. It seems the management and leadership of the fair grounds has grandiose aspirations for the future that could not possibly accommodate anything as mundane as a two day model railroad show. So next year, International Rail Fair will take place in Downtown Sacramento at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Rail Fair will also be a month earlier than in the past. The scheduled date is October 10 & 11, 2020.

Not surprisingly, the Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club, which has been a resident at the Placer County Fairgrounds for many years, also has had to find a new home. The club is now at the Old Dry Creek School - 9707 Cook Riolo Rd, Building 3, Roseville.



The Sign In Front Of The Club House Announces The Relocation of the Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club



One Of The Last Public Displays Of The Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club's Western Sierra Lines



Sierra Division Member, David R. "Daver" Adams, Enters Rail Fair With A Special Treat In Hand. Our Division Super's Wife, Lorri Meriam, Made Daver His Favorite Lemon Cake



International Rail Fair's Last Visit To Jones Hall



Three Young Engineers Are "Saving Time" With Dave Hilmes While Their Dad Looks On. The Time Saver Was A Popular Attraction



Continued on page 17



A Truly Portable Model Railroad Brings New Meaning To The Term "Trailer Train"



Robert Pethoud Brought His Fall Creek Branch Switching Layout For Display and Play



The Sacramento Modular Club Was On Hand With A Full Blown Display



Continued on page 18



On The Brink Live Steamers Were Set Up On The Lawn Outside Johnson Hall



The Sacramento Garden Railway Society Always Has A Fun Offering

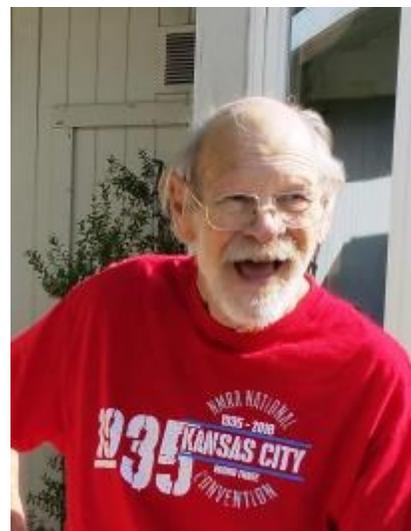
DIVISION DIRECTOR

First Of All we must acknowledge the splendid representation we have had on the Pacific Coast Region Board for the past four years. Tom Van Horn “volunteered” to be a nominee for the Division Director spot vacated by Mel Jones about this same time four years ago. Oddly enough, no one else was nominated.

Since then, Tom has represented the interests and inputs of the Sierra Division Membership faithfully and thoroughly. Tom has also been available at every Sierra Division meet to report on the activities of the PCR Board and solicit input from our division level.

At times it was not an easy task for Tom to get around due to some health issues which, thankfully, seem to be improving.

Thank you, Tom. You have done well and you deserve a chance to relax.



**Outgoing Director,
Tom Van Horn**

ELECTION OF OUR NEXT DIRECTOR

As in the past, Division Director elections for all four divisions are handled by the Pacific Coast Region. This year the PCR is being assisted in that endeavor by Immediate Past President, Ed Merrin. Ed has proposed that the election be held over a three-week period from February 3 until February 21. As before, the voting will be on line using ElectionBuddy. Those without an email on file will receive paper ballots in the mail. This year we have two candidates. Their statements follow:

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



Candidate Statement of Steven R. Folino for the position of Division Director.

Although I'm relatively new to the Sierra Division and the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA, I'm no stranger to scale model railroading or serving the needs of organization members.

My first layout was in 1966, a second-hand Lionel 0-27. This lasted 8 years until I moved away to college. After graduating from college, I embarked on Layout 2.0, a 4x8 HO scale layout in the corner of my one bedroom apartment. Well, as could be expected, after 2 years life got in the way. The layout had to go to make room for family. During the next 20 years, I was an armchair modeler. I didn't have a layout but continued to subscribe to the magazines and constructed the occasional craftsman kit to keep me connected to the hobby.

Fast forward to the year 2000, it was time to begin construction of version 3.0. The layout was to be a 9' x 9' "L" shaped layout in a corner of the garage. I got as far as completing the laying of the track when once again, life got in the way. Back to the armchair and some more craftsman kits, rolling stock construction and stockpiling "stuff" for version 4.0 - whenever that would come.

Forward more to 2017. I'm one year away from retirement and I promise myself that the time will be right to finally construct the layout that I've been planning for 17 years. I rejoin the NMRA, the PCR, the Sierra Division and the local Model Railroad "Club".

I'm now retired. Version 4.0 is 18 months underway. The trackwork is 75% completed. It's a 16' x 16' layout which, along with two workbenches, occupies the entire 2-car garage. I'm targeting completion in 2025. I'm not giving up this time. I promise.

So, what qualifies me to serve as Division Director?

As a small business owner, I was very active in both my professional and personal community. I served on several different boards over the past 15 years:

Natomas Chamber of Commerce: Board Member and Officer, 4 years

Kiwanis Club of Greater Sacramento: Officer, 7 years

Kiwanis Foundation of Greater Sacramento, Officer, 7 years

National Association of Purchasing Managers, Sacramento Valley Chapter, Officer, 3 years

Professional Photographers of California, Officer 3 years

Professional Photographers of Sacramento Valley, Officer, 7 years

Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society, Officer, starting second year.

As you can see, I have well over 30 years of combined experience in member organizations. Almost all as an officer.

I feel adequately qualified to serve the members of the Sierra Division as their representative to the Pacific Coast Region and look forward to serving in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted.

Steven R. Folino

**SECOND CANDIDATE STATEMENT ON
NEXT PAGE**

Candidate for PCR Director, Sierra Division

Jim Collins

While I have not been an NMRA member for as long as many of you, I have enjoyed serving Sierra Division in several positions. I joined NMRA the first time in 2003 but there was not much communication from anyone in the division, so I only lasted the one year.

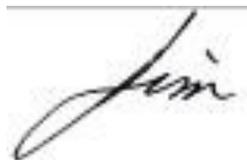
I joined again in 2013 and this time had a better experience. I became the Membership Chair and, after about a year, was privileged to be voted in as Superintendent. At the end of three years, I turned that job over to our current Super, Chip. After that, with Chip's excellent help, I took on the job of PCR Convention Chairman and ran that to a successful conclusion. I received the President's Award for my efforts.

After those jobs, I have stepped down and am currently the Membership Chairman again and I also manage the division's Facebook page. I have also represented the division at Rail Fair several times by manning the NMRA booth and by working with the other model railroad organization I belong to, the Sacramento Modular Railroaders. It has been a fair amount of work sometimes, but overall, it's been very enjoyable to help everyone in Sierra Division with this great hobby.

I'm a retired Navy Master Chief (25 years) with plenty of experience in good communications, working with people, and, during a couple stints as a Command Master Chief, representing them.

If you vote for me, I will do my very best to represent you and Sierra Division on the Board. Thank you.

Jim Collins



**Whether you receive your ballot via
Email from Election Buddy or in the US
Mail from PCR, be sure to cast your
vote!**





As Noted In The Last Issue of the *Short Line*, our division superintendent promised to share more information about the Minnesota Transportation Museum and more photos from his visit to the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul, MN. Here is his story:

Over the 2019 Labor Day Holiday, my wife and I travelled to the Twin Cities to visit our son, daughter, and grand children. One of the activities planned for our visit was a visit to the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul, home to the Minnesota Transportation Museum.

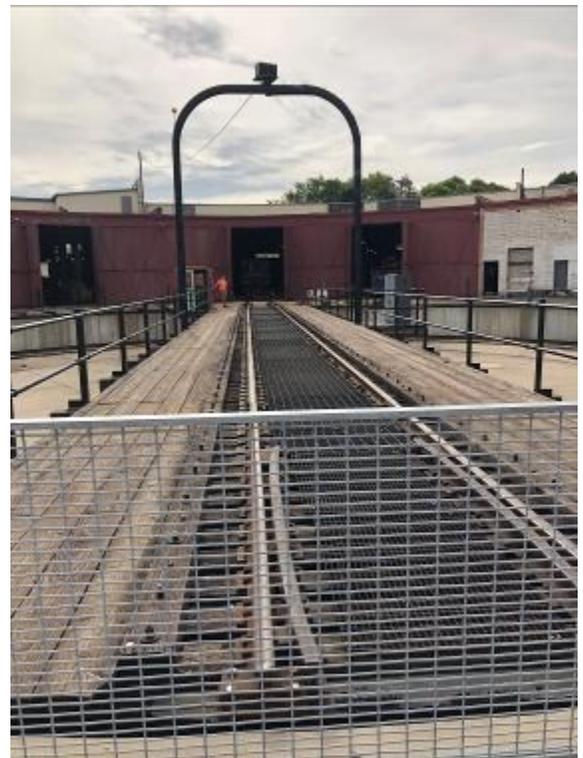
Built in 1907, the roundhouse was a steam engine maintenance facility for the Great Northern Railroad. It is situated just north of the Minnesota State Capitol in downtown St. Paul. In 1960 the Great Northern sold the roundhouse and it was subsequently remodeled and repurposed as a warehouse and industrial building. In the process, all tracks were removed along with the turntable.

In 1986, Minnesota Transportation Museum bought the property and restored it to an operating roundhouse. The museum opened in 1999 and the turntable was reinstalled in 2001. The roundhouse now also houses exhibits, archives, an AV theater, a meeting room, offices, and a gift shop.

Following are a few photos from our visit.



Museum Visitors See This Northern Pacific Caboose As They Park Their Vehicles In The Visitor Lot. Beyond The Trees Runs The BNSF Main Line.



The Turntable Was In Motion When I Snapped This Shot. The Roundhouse Is In The Background.



One Of The Favorite Exhibits Is A G Scale Layout



One Usually Associates Mississippi River Boats With The South, But The River Also Runs Between The Twin Cities. Thus The G Scale River Scene



Another Favorite Is The Diesel Locomotive Simulator



Every Good Railroad Museum Needs A Magnetic Flagman



Is It Blasphemous To Display A FRED Next To An Antique Interlocking Panel??



Our Youngest Grandson Found A Display He Really Liked



Our Oldest Grandson Had A Blast With The Locomotive Simulator



Even Our Teenage Granddaughter Found A Favorite Display



**NP 105, An NW2, Handled The Excursion Train
The Day Of Our Visit**



**Just In Case You Didn't Know, This Is
Snow Country**



A Visit To The Back Shops Revealed Another NW2 Undergoing Repairs To One Of It's Generators

If you find yourself in the Twin Cities area, be sure to plan a stop at the Jackson Street Roundhouse. It is located at 193 Pennsylvania Avenue E in St. Paul.

651 291 0074

<https://transportationmuseum.org/>



Here, A Northern Pacific Q-3 Light Pacific Is Undergoing A Complete Rebuild And Restoration. It Was On Display At St. Paul's Como Park Until MTM Began Restoration in 1986.

Around And About



An Interesting New Building has sprung up on the southeast corner of Cedar Street and W. 9th Street in Chico. What appeared to be a quadraplex as it was being framed, has turned out to be a two story single family dwelling (note the single meter). The lower level is a garage/shop and the living area is on the second level. There is no exterior stairway, so we think the doorway at the corner is an entry that leads to an interior stairwell.

What piqued our interest was the color scheme and the sign above the entry. There is no doubt this building was intentionally decorated in SP depot colors, What's more, just beyond the trees in the background runs the Union Pacific main line, formerly Southern Pacific!