

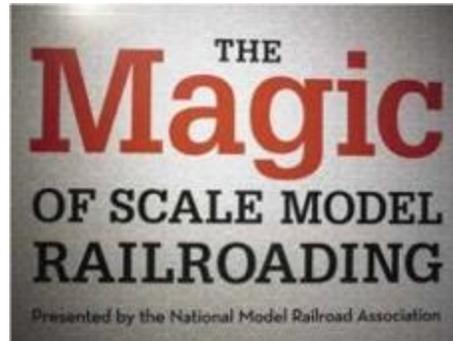


SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association

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The Sierra Division has made arrangements with the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento to offer a free admission day on Saturday, February 11 for all NMRA PCR members in good standing. For those of you who haven't visited the NMRA's "The Magic of Scale Model Railroading" exhibit at the museum, this is a great opportunity to see it. Former NMRA President and PCR member Charlie Getz played a key role in making this exhibit happen and he has agreed to be available to give a guided tour or two that day as well as answer questions that you might have about the exhibit.

For those not familiar with the museum, it is open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm and is located at 125 I Street Sacramento CA 95814 at the north end of Old Town Sacramento. The museum is designed to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Paid parking is located in a garage across the street and there are several restaurants located within easy walking distance. Car pooling or travel by train is strongly encouraged. The Sacramento Valley Railroad Station is located one block east of the museum and serves Sacramento Regional Transit Light Rail, Amtrak and Capitol Corridor trains.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this complementary admission offer, please RSVP via e-mail to [Sierra Division Superintendent Dave Putnam](mailto:Sierra%20Division%20Superintendent%20Dave%20Putnam) no later than February 8th. Please use "CSRM RSVP" in the subject line on your RSVP and include your full name and division name (if you know what it is) in the body of the e-mail. Park aides at the museum lobby admission desk will be provided with a list of names for those who've sent RSVPs. No complementary admission will be available to those who fail to RSVP.



Sierra Division Callboard

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frank@markovich.com

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Director, Sierra Division

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louiesqd@att.net

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Sierra Division business, questions, or
to volunteer to give a clinic, for mem-
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Material may be reprinted with permis-
sion.

Articles, photos, tips, or ideas are heart-
ily encouraged and will be enthusiastically
accepted! The preferred format
would be in Rich Text Format (RTF),
with photos as JPEGs, but we will ac-
cept any format (from a PC or Mac; MS
Word, Simple Text, typed, or handwrit-
ten). 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



A New Year Is Upon Us, and I now
find myself as the newly installed Superin-
tendent of the PCR Sierra Division. Prior
to anything else, I'd like to recognize Chip
Meriam for his past four years in this of-
fice. He helped us negotiate a path
through the COVID pandemic by provid-
ing us with as much contact and interaction
as possible during some very trying times.
He has left some big shoes for me to fill

here in the division superintendent's office. I'm pleased to note that Chip has gra-
ciously offered to continue his services as Editor of the quarterly Division newsletter,
the *Short Line*. If you would like to contribute material in the newsletter please con-
tact him at: chipmeriam@comcast.net. Also continuing on are David Fryman as
the Chief Clerk and Michael Eldridge as the Division Paymaster.

Now a little about myself: I was born and raised in Napa. Our family home was about 100 yards from the Southern Pacific's spur that ran through Napa Valley from Lombard (now known as American Canyon) to St. Helena. The Napa Valley Wine Train now runs on those same tracks, hauling sightseeing passengers rather than the freight that moved on the line back in the '60s and '70s when I was a kid.



**Dave Putnam -
Sierra Division Superintendent**



**Your new division superintendent's first time ever
seeing a steam locomotive during a visit to the San
Francisco Zoo in 1959. That's a vintage 1924 S-14
0-6-0 Lima built for Southern Pacific Railroad.**

After finishing my education at Napa
Valley College, for a career in television
engineering, I had a brief 3-year stopover
in Portland working at the ABC affiliate
KATU in the late '70s and early '80s.
Following my time in the great northwest,
I was hired at Los Angeles at KABC-TV
where I worked for 36 years. Following
my retirement, my wife and I moved

north and commenced building our dream retirement home in the Sierra foothills.

During my ramp up to retirement I rediscovered model railroading, following a 40-
year hiatus, during a random visit to a hobby shop while on vacation. I joined the
NMRA in 2007 and since then I've attended six national conventions, numerous re-
gional ones, as well as several local events. My NMRA membership has given me
opportunities to meet many like-minded people involved in the hobby, gain a lot of
knowledge and allowed me to visit and operate on several club and home layouts.

Continued on page 3

Superintendent” - from page 2

Now that our new home is finished, I plan to dedicate a good portion of my free time building my dream layout in our barn loft. Besides numerous chores that I perform around our property I also volunteer my services as a docent at the California State Railroad Museum along with working on the team that helps to maintain the NMRA’s “Magic of Scale Model Railroading” exhibit located on the third floor of the museum.

So much for my introduction. Here are some of the goals I would like to achieve during my term in office: I want to work to improve communication between the division and the membership. I hope to provide our members with opportunities to visit club and personal layouts that have not recently been on the tour list as well as those that haven’t been available at all in the past. The same goes for prototypical venues located in our division where we will be holding our in-person quarterly meetings.

Growing our membership is also on my to-do list along with increasing opportunities for active member involvement. We all need to put our best foot forward to attract and retain members. Your suggestions to help me accomplish the goals that I’ve listed above are encouraged. You can reach out to me at: dave@daveandlisa.net

I’m looking forward to several upcoming events in both our division and region as well as neighboring ones. Our first in-person meet in 2023 is scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 11 in Sacramento.

This coming year, our division is co-hosting the PCR’s annual convention “Rails by the River 2023” with the Feather River Rail Society. The convention will take place in Sacramento at the Courtyard by Marriott Cal Expo April 26-30. Sierra Division members Jim Collins and Chip Meriam are co-chairs for this convention. They along with the other members of the convention committee have been hard at work planning for what should be an event we can all be proud of.

For further details on convention registration and information on discounted hotel room rates, visit the [convention website](#)

The 2023 National NMRA Convention "[Texas Express](#)" hosted by Divisions 1 & 2 of the Lonestar Region will be taking place in Grapevine, Texas from August 20 thru 26.

Our neighbors to the south in the NMRA Pacific Southwest Region are already planning for the 2024 National Convention “SurfLiner” in Long Beach, California scheduled for August 4 thru 11, 2024.

With your help, I hope to foster and grow a positive experience for all our division’s members. This is a team effort and the more we all pitch in, the better it can be. Here’s to a happy and productive new year for all!



My first model railroad layout, circa 1964, featuring an HO scale Penn Line freight consist powered by an F7 Santa Fe locomotive in Warbonnet livery

Dave Peterson

From the Editor

We're Wrapping Up The Fourth Quarter of 2022 and it's been a eventful and successful year in many ways. Personally, I am pleased to be back here in the "From The Editor" column, having turned the Division Superintendent's position over to Dave Putnam.

Let me tell you, we're in capable hands! Dave has come out of the roundhouse under full steam. He has taken up an important leadership role in the planning of our April convention. He has "modernized" much of the way we communicate and promote ourselves. And he has stepped into the Superintendent's office as if he's been here all along. We're lucky to have Dave among us. You can learn more about Dave in his first "From the Superintendent" column beginning on page 2.

Some other items to note in this issue:

- We have a special day at the California State Railroad museum planned for February 11. See page 1 for the details.
- We will have a table at the Great Train Show at Cal Expo in January. See page 5
- Sadly, we lost one of our active members. Terry Schmidt passed away in November. See page 8 for a tribute.
- We took part in a successful International Rail Fair in October. You can learn more in the story beginning on page 10.
- Were nearing the end of the "Early Bird" registration period for the April convention. See page 24.

As I write this, It is four days before Christmas. With any luck, you will be reading this before that glorious day. The editorial staff here at the Short Line wish you a wonderful and Joyous Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.





The Great Train Show is coming to Cal Expo in Sacramento on January 28 & 29. The show hours are 10 am to 4 pm both days. This is one of the larger model railroad events of the year in our division. There will be many vendors selling locomotives, rolling stock, scenery supplies, books, magazines and other railroad related memorabilia. There will also be several modular layouts set up at the show. It's a great chance to chase away those winter blues and is a children and grandchildren friendly event.

The Sierra Division will have a table at the show where attendees can get information about the joining the NMRA as well the upcoming PCR convention "Rails By The River 2023" right up the street at the Cal Expo Courtyard By Marriott in April.

If you would like to help staff our table for a few hours either day of the show, please contact Dave Putnam via e-mail <dave@daveandlisa.net>. Your admission to the show will be free for the day that you volunteer to help out.

SIERRA DIVISION

Next Meeting: Feb 11
Sacramento

9:00 AM
OP Session at SMRHS
1990 Grand Avenue

2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Stanford Gallery
California State Railroad Museum

SEE MAPS ON NEXT PAGE

February Contest Categories:

Modeling: Steam, Traction, and Self-Propelled Cars

Photo: Trains In Action

Railroad Arts & Crafts

TIMETABLE

Feb 11, 2023
Sacramento, CA

May 13, 2023
To Be Determined

Aug 12, 2023
To Be Determined

Oct 14, 2023
To Be Determined



SHORT LINE

Dec 10 for the Jan Issue

Mar 10 for the Apr Issue

Jun 10 for the Jul Issue

Sep 10 for the Oct Issue



The 2023 PCR & FRRS/
WPRM Convention

Rails by the River

April 26 thru April 30, 2023

Courtyard by Marriott

1782 Tribute Road

Sacramento, CA 95815

Sierra Division continues to have online meets via ZOOM. Future online meets will be held the second Saturday of each month when an in-person meet is not scheduled.

UPCOMING ONLINE MEETS

(all beginning at 10:30 AM)

January 14, 2023

March 11, 2023

April 8, 2023

June 10, 2023

July 8, 2023

September 9, 2023

November 11, 2023

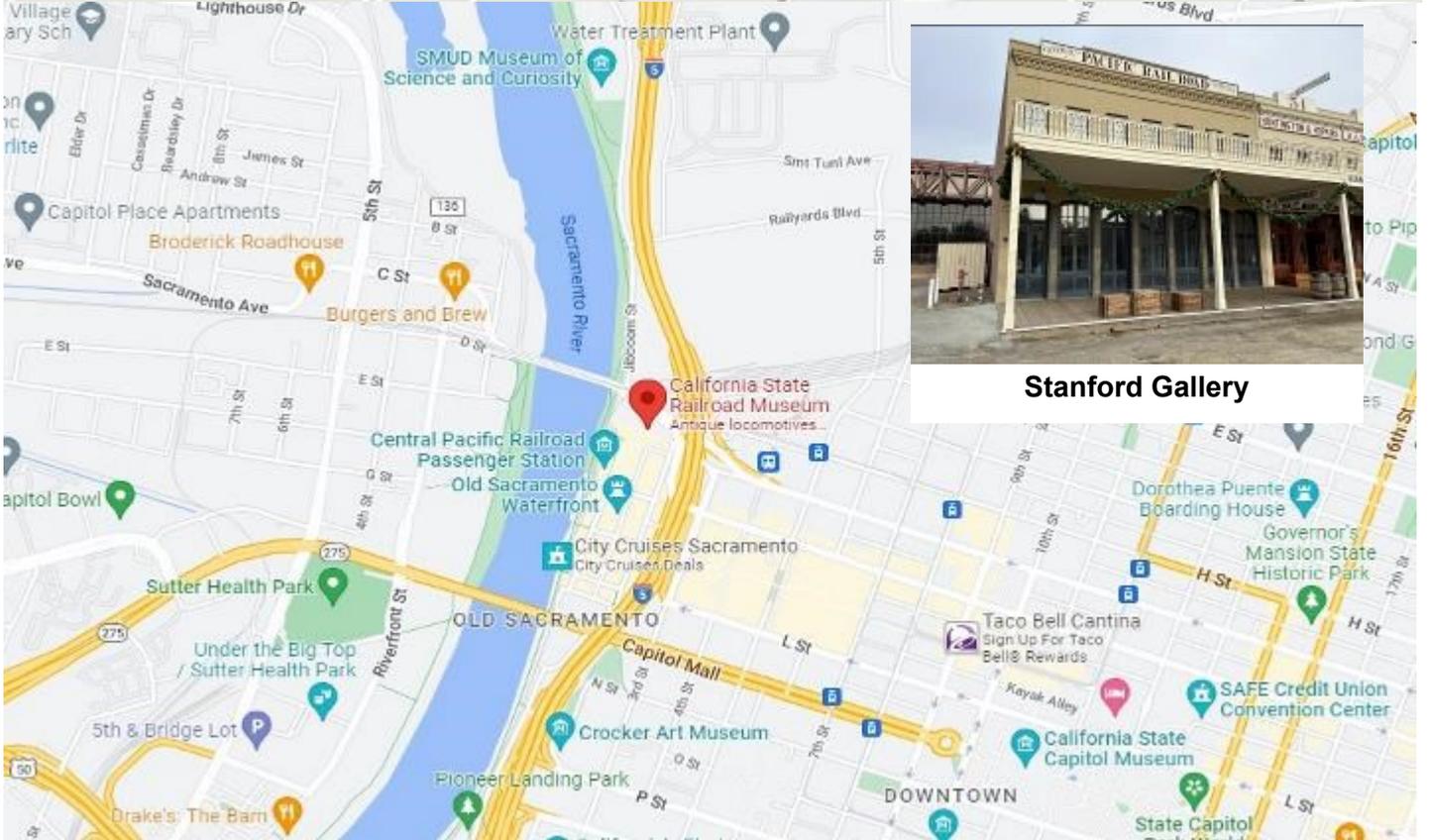
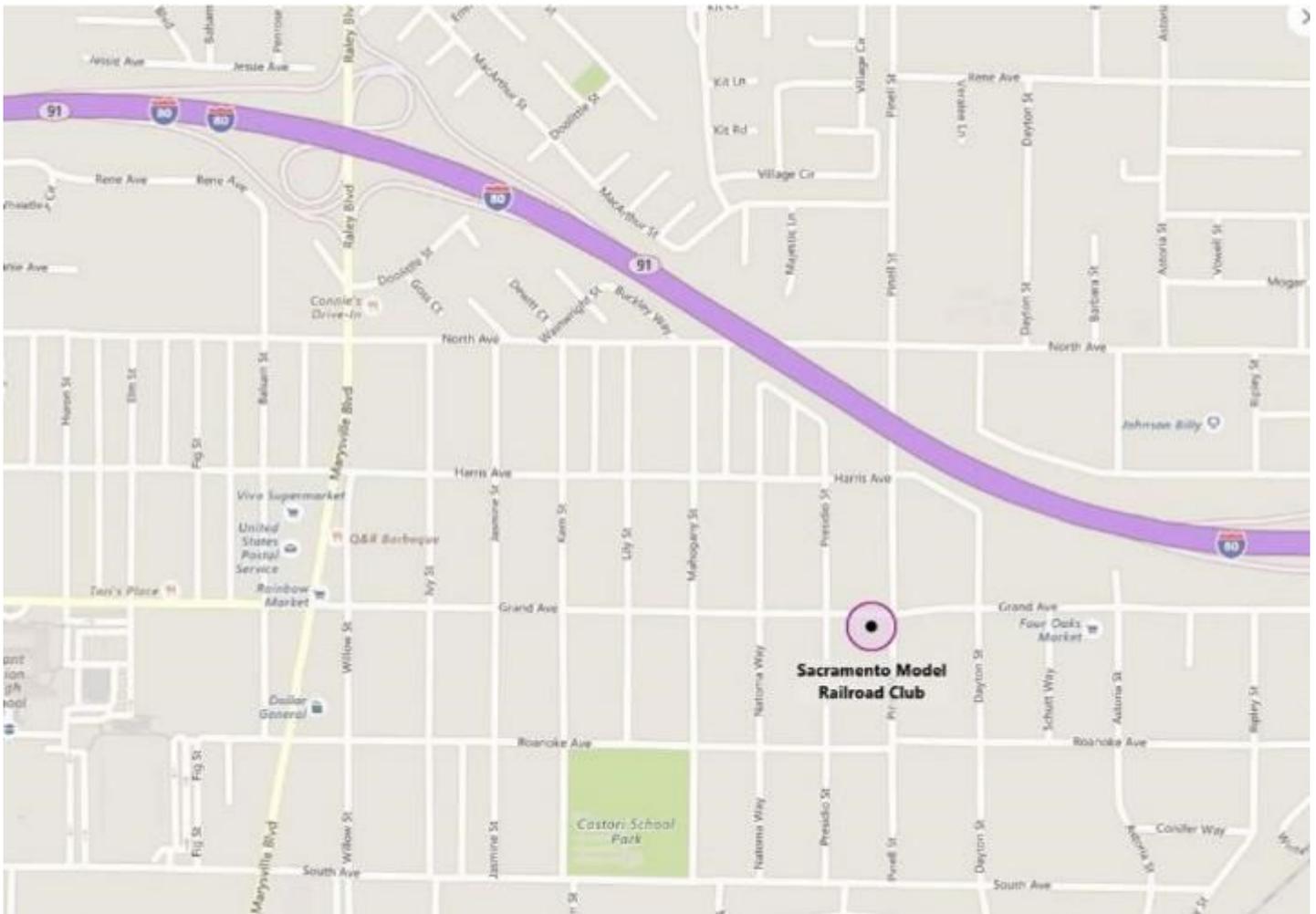
December 9, 2023



August 22 - 25, 2023 Texas Express 2023

Gaylord Texan Hotel, 1501 Gaylord Trail,
Grapevine, TX





LAST RUN

Terry Schmidt



Col (Ret) Terry Schmidt died 5 Nov 2022 of heart related issues, in California. Terry was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1943 to Howard William Schmidt and Beverley Marion (Wilke) Schmidt. He is survived by his wife, Denise (Welch) Schmidt, in Gold River, California, where they had lived for the past 33 years, and his nieces Dianna Gustafson and Carrie Scholtz, and his sister-in-law, Bonnie Schmidt, all of Wisconsin.

Terry graduated from the US Air Force Academy in 1966, flew C-130 aircraft in Vietnam, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Air Medal. Upon his return, he married Denise Welch in Midland, Texas.

He enjoyed a long and fulfilling military career, first flying C-130s, and later T-49s, accumulating more than 5,000 hours of flight time. He always said one of his most enjoyable postings was as an Exchange Officer to the Royal Australian Air Force, at RAAF Base Richmond, near Sydney, Australia. He went on to attend graduate school at the Air Force Institute of Technology, earning his Masters Degree in nuclear physics, and was appointed the Director of the McClellan Central Laboratory, Technical Operations Division, at McClellan AFB in Sacramento, which was tasked with monitoring the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and several classified programs.

He retired from active duty in Sacramento in 1994 and started his business as a computer programmer and consultant for small businesses. He devoted much of his free time to his longtime love of railroads and railroad history and was a Founding Director of the Placerville Sacramento Valley Railroad in Folsom, a non-profit organization for preserving railroad history by operating a heritage railroad for the public. He was also a longtime board member for the Sacramento Valley Historic Railway (SVHR) in Woodland, at times serving as a Conductor or Brakeman on its tourist railroad that ran between Woodland and Clarksburg and working many years to help restore the historic Woodland Train Depot, built in 1911.

He was very proud of his own model railroad, which was featured on German television and in several German magazines and DVDs. He also was a longtime member of the Carmichael Kiwanis Club, the National Model Railroad Association, and the Air Force Academy Association of Graduates.



(obituary contributed by Chris Van Thull)

Tidewater Southern MRC, Inc.

A nonprofit public benefit corp. EST. 5/6/19



Saturdays*
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Building and
Operating both HO
and N scale layouts
NMRA Member

WWW.TWSMRC.COM

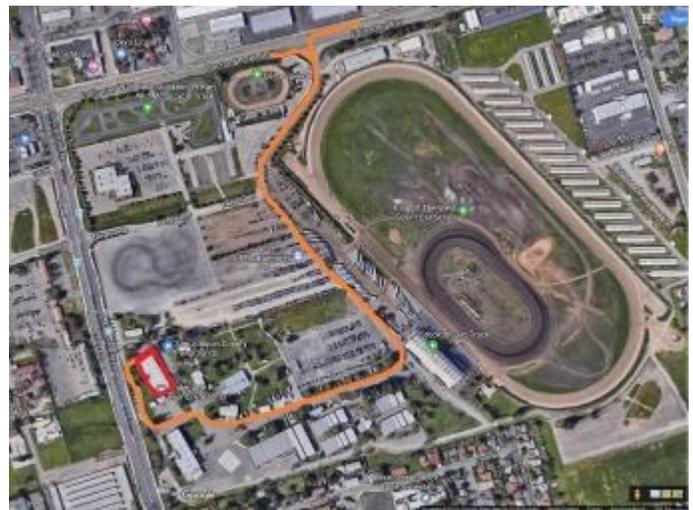
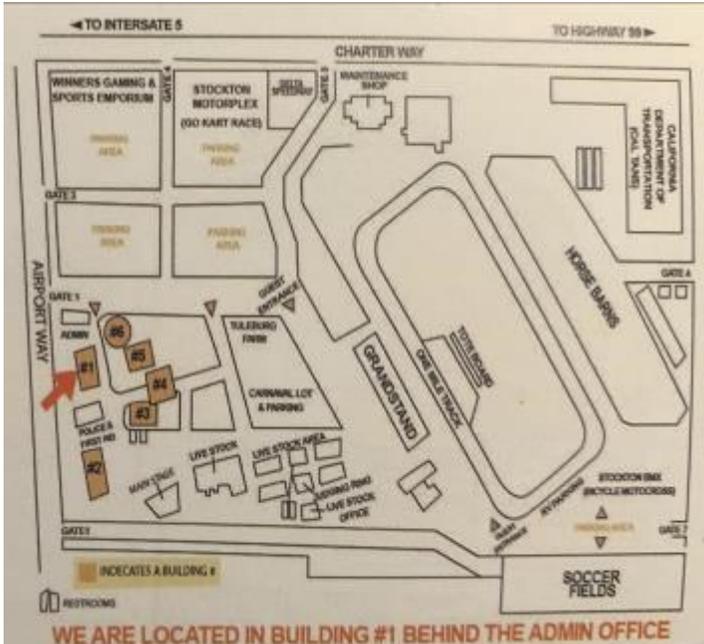
tidewatersrhs@gmail.com

The Tidewater Southern Model Railroad Club

San Joaquin County Fairgrounds

1658 Airport Way Stockton, CA 95206 Building 1

*Unless preempted by other events



October 22 and 23 , International Rail Fair at The Grounds in Roseville.

Sierra Division teamed up with the Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club, Sacramento Modular Railroaders, and European Train Enthusiasts to host the annual International Rail Fair. The last such event actually occurred in 2019, but was cancelled because of COVID mitigation measures in 2020 and 2021. We were all happy to “get back out” after such a lengthy hiatus.

Our part in the affair was to handle the entry gate, ticket sales, and an NMRA promotional exhibit with a Timesaver layout for rail fair goers to operate. The following are shots from the event. *(all photos: Jim Collins)*



The Wandering Railroad - G Scale - Housed in A Trailer



Tiny Z Scale - Quite A Bit Smaller Than The Wandering G Scale



A Future NMRA Member Hones Her Skills With The Timesaver Exhibit



Sacramento Modular Railroaders



Sacramento Valley Railway Society

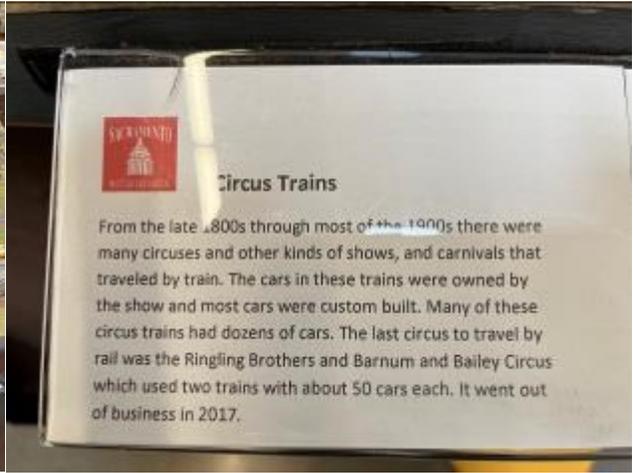
Continued on page 11



New this year was the Square Foot Challenge. The entries could be no larger than one square foot, and must have some railroad component. Here are five of the entries.

(all photos: Jim Collins)

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Dick Witzens And His Circus Train



**An S Scale Switching Puzzle
by Michael Eldridge**



**Robert Pethoud's
Fall Creek Branch**



**Under The Catenary -
European Train Enthusiasts**

(all photos: Chip Meriam)

November Meet Orland



Garden Railroad Driveway Décor
(photo: Michael Eldridge)



Gathering Outside the Train Room
(photo: Dave Putnam)



L-R: Chip Meriam, Mike Hamlin, Dave Putnam, Ed Powell
Observing Mike's New Lift-Up Gate
(photo: Lorri Meriam)

Orland, CA Was The Place To Be on Saturday, November 12. Mike Hamlin hosted the Sierra Division in-person meet in Orland on that day, and it was a fabulous event.

The first stop was Mike's home, featuring a G scale garden railroad in the center of his circular driveway, an HO scale layout in a separate outbuilding, and a furry, four-footed welcoming committee named "Frozen." As you can see in the layout photos on the next page, Mike is big into structures, town scenes, and lots of details. *(For more on Mike's layout, see the January 2020 edition of the **Short Line**.)*



Greeting Committee Chairman,
Frozen
(photo: Lorri Meriam)

Continued on page 14

November Meet Orland



photo: Michael Eldridge



photo: Dave Putnam

SHOTS FROM MIKE HAMLIN'S HO SCALE LAYOUT



photo: Chip Meriam



photo: Chip Meriam

Continued on page 15

November Meet Orland



The next stop was Mike’s neighbor, Juston Cheney. Juston is into trains in a big way (literally). There is a G scale railroad suspended from the ceiling of his family room. Juston custom built the cabinet-quality hangers and roadbed. He is also constructing an N scale model railroad in the basement,



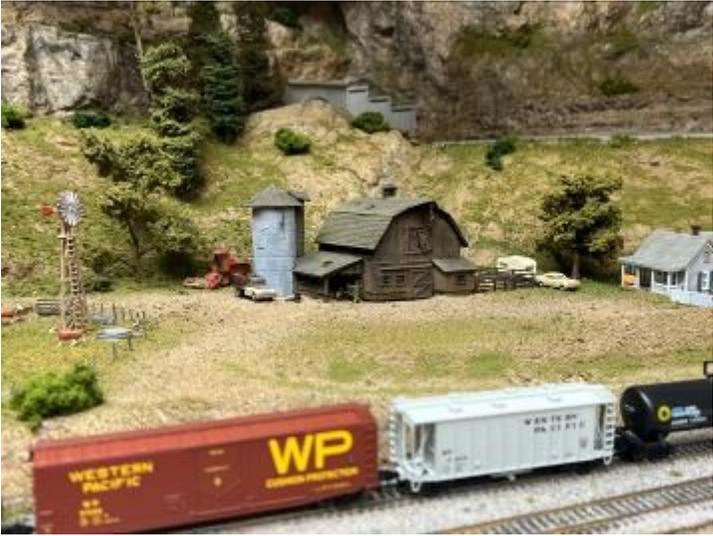
Trains Up Above
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



Family Room and Bar with a Railroad Theme
(photo: Dave Putnam)



N Scale Layout Under Construction
(photo: Dave Putnam)



N Scale Farm Scene
(photo: Lorri Meriam)

Continued on page 16

November Meet Orland



**Our Host, Juston Cheney (L), Discusses
The Merits of N Scale with Michael Ekdrige,
An S Scale Afficianado**
(photo: Lorri Meriam)

Juston's second (or third) hobby is restoration and operation of prototype track speeders. He has two in his shop (shown in photos) and another one stored for future restoration.



Restored Prototype Speeder - Ready for an Outing
(photo: Dave Putnam)



Another Full-Size Speeder Being Restored
(photo: Dave Putnam)

Continued on page 17

November Meet Orland



Layout Owner, Dusty Lefdal (left), Shares His Thoughts with Mike Hamlin (center) and Ed Powell (right).

(photo: Lorri Meriam)

Our third step was another N scale layout in Dusty Lefdal's basement. The layout is in various stages of construction, and he was happy to have us visit and offer advice.



Lot's of Scenery Construction Going On In This Shot

(photo: Dave Putnam)



Some Fascinating Rock Castings

(photo: Lorri Meriam)

Continued on page 18

November Meet Orland



Preserved SP Depot at the Glenn County Fair Grounds
(photo: Dave Putnam)



Orland - Newville - and Pacific Excursion Train
(photo: Dave Putnam)



Sierra Division Members Taking The Train To Lunch
(photo: Dave Putnam)

Our final stop was the Glenn County Fairgrounds, where we were treated to a train ride on the Orland, Newville, and Pacific narrow gauge excursion railroad. The ON&P is operational during the Glenn County Fair in May, as well as various other special events throughout the year. We departed from the passenger platform adjacent to the preserved Southern Pacific depot, rode around the fairgrounds, and came to a stop at a shaded picnic area where Mike Hamlin was busily preparing a tri-tip barbecue lunch for all of us.



Following lunch, we were able to tour the inside of the depot, where the agent's office and living quarters have been preserved just as they were when the depot was closed. The depot is a treasure-trove of artifacts from a by-gone era.

Later in the afternoon, we held our business meeting and contest inside the depot as well.

Special thanks to Mike Hamlin for making the arrangements and managing this fall meet. Well done, Mike!



Mike Hamlin Prepared a Tri-tip Barbecue Lunch While The Group Rode the Excursion Train Around the Fairgrounds
(photo: Lorri Meriam)

Continued on page 19

November Meet Orland



Early SP Bay Window Caboose
(photo: Dave Putnam)



Southern Pacific #2852 is a C-10 Class Consolidation (2-8-0) type locomotive, one of nineteen built by in the SP's Sacramento Shops in 1919. It worked in California, the last few years near Newark until retired in 1958. It was donated to the City of Orland in 1959 and went on display in the Glenn County Fairgrounds where it has remained ever since.

(photo: Dave Putnam)



Informal Dining Room
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



Kitchen & Butler's Pantry
(photo: Dave Putnam)

Continued on page 20

November Meet Orland



Living Room - NO TV!!!!
(photo: Michael Eldridge)

Kitchen & Butler's Pantry
(photo: Dave Putnam)



Agent's Desk
(photo: Michael Eldridge)



Agent's Office
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



Sleeping Quarters
(photo: Lorri Meriam)

Continued on page 21

November Meet Orland

SIERRA DIVISION MEETING



**Our New Superintendent, Dave Putnam, Presides
While Contest Chair Mike Hamlin Counts Votes**
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



A Mostly Awake Group
(photo: Lorri Meriam)



New Member, Manuel Sanchez-Palacios Introduces Himself
(photo: Lorri Meriam)

Continued on page 22

November Meet Orland

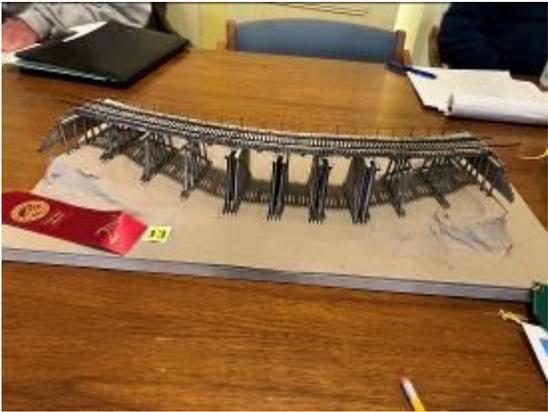
CONTEST WINNERS

MODELING CONTEST

**1st Place
Walt Schedler**



**2nd Place
Chip Meriam**



**3rd Place
Lou Anderson**



(all photos: Lorri Meriam)

Continued on page 23

November Meet Orland

CONTEST WINNERS

PHOTO CONTEST



**1st Place
Walt Schedler**



Time is running out to save money on your registration for "Rails By The River 2023". Early Bird fares both for in-person and virtual attendee registration will end in less than one month on January 15th.

NOTE: If you cannot attend the convention in person, please consider the virtual option. We will have lots of content available for our remote members! See the Rails By The River Website for details.

pcrnmra.org/conv2023/

Convention Registration



It's coming, it's coming....

The 2023 PCR & FRRS/WPRM Convention

Rails by the River

April 26 thru April 30, 2023

Courtyard by Marriott

1782 Tribute Road

Sacramento, CA 95815



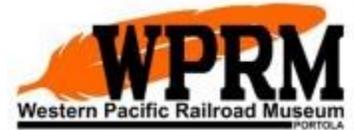
Features

- 36 Clinics
- Layout tours organized by Scott Inman
- Extra fare activities
- Separate, secure contest room

Convention wearables by Daylight Sales

Volunteers Needed

- Country Store Keeper
- Clinicians and presenters
- General Help During the Convention



Chip Meriam

Chip Meriam
2023 Convention Co-Chair



pcrnmra.org/conv2023/





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FB: Walt's Trains and Electronics
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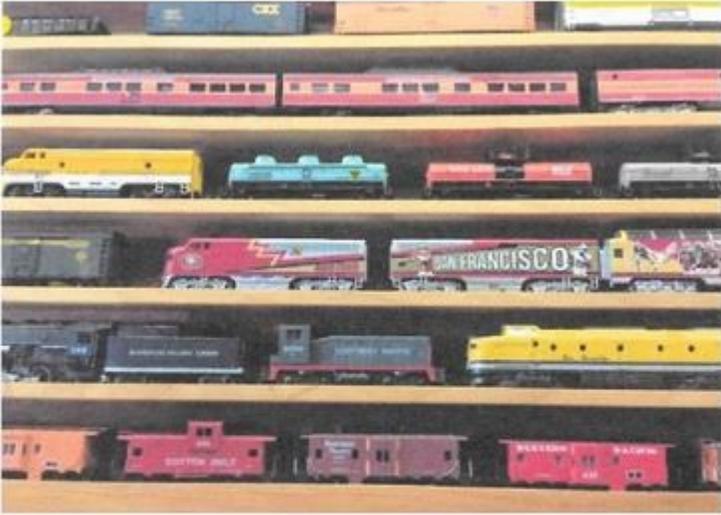
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Discount prices O, On30, HO, HOOn3, N scale equipment and supplies



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

If you would like for Sierra Division events to appear in your personal calendar, you can link to the calendar on the Sierra Division website. This will work if you use Google Calendar, Outlook, or Apple's Calendar app. Go to the Sierra Division website, <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra>, and click on Calendar. On the right you will see a link to a page that describes how to link to the Sierra Division calendar from your calendar. After that, when events are placed on the Sierra Division calendar they will automatically appear in your calendar also.

Questions or need help? meldridge2000@gmail.com



The Sierra Division, PCR-NMRA is making available to Sierra Division members a “kit” containing the necessary tools and instructions to complete the part 3 requirements of the NMRA Model Railroad Engineer – Civil Certificate. More information on the requirement is at: www.nmra.org/civil

The Kit:

The kit includes tools and templates sufficient to create the following (you only need to construct 3):

- HO Scale #5, Code 83 Right-hand turnout
- HO Scale #5, Code 83 Left-hand turnout
- HO Scale #5, Code 83 Single crossover
- HO Scale #5, Code 83 Double crossover
- HO Scale #5, Code 83 Crossing 14 degree

How the System Works:

- Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. All reservations will be for a calendar month. Requests must be sent to louiesqd@att.net.
- The kit will be shipped via UPS on the first day of the month. Arrival should be within 2-3 days.
- The member may use the kit for what should be, **about** three weeks.
- The member must ship the kit back, postage pre-paid by the 25th of the month. This will allow us time to check and clean the kit and still send it out again on the first of the month. Zip ties and address information will be included in the kit. Return the kit to:
Lou Anderson, 100 Buddy Drive, Woodland, CA 95776.

Reservations:

The rental fee and deposit must be received by the 15th of the preceding month.

The rental fee for the kit is \$25.00 by separate check. This will cover the cost of shipping the kit to the member, cleaning costs and additional packaging as needed.

A deposit in the amount of \$500.00 must be included by separate check. This check will **NOT** be deposited unless the kit is not returned. When the kit is returned, the check will be destroyed.

Mail both checks, made payable to the **Sierra Division**, to:

Lou Anderson, 100 Buddy Drive, Woodland, CA 95776.

Preparation/Supplies:

Be prepared. Have all supplies ready and on-hand in advance of the arrival of the kit. You will need:

Micro-Engineering Code 83 NON-weathered rail, have extra on hand.

Small diameter solder.

Soldering iron, min 35 watts.

Instructions and a DVD are including in the kit or you can go to <https://www.handlaidtrack.com/> for more information.

Responsibilities:

- The member is responsible for loss and all damage to the contents of the kit. If you break it, or damage it beyond further use, notify us immediately at louiesqd@att.net. Be prepared to include a check in the amounts listed above to cover the cost of replacement.
- Please notify us as soon as possible if you wish to cancel your reservation so that we can offer it to another member.

If you have questions, please direct them to Lou Anderson at louiesqd@att.net. or Chip Meriam at chipmeriam@comcast.net.



IMPORTANT !!!!

Around And About



December 10 - Butte County Fair Grounds Gridley, CA

Saturday the 10th of December must have been one of the wettest and windiest days of the year. Nonetheless we made the trip to the train show in Gridley, about 25 miles to our south.

Gridley is a very small community; especially when compared to Roseville. Regardless, we discovered nearly as much activity here (*upper left*) as we recently experienced at International Rail Fair in Roseville in October.

We found a few other commonalities, as well. Several of the vendors at the Gridley show were also in Roseville. The sawmill (*upper right*) is one of the vignettes on display in the Wandering Railroad, last seen in Roseville.

And, of course, our very own Sierra Division favorite, Walt Schedler.



We think NMRA would be well served if we were represented at the next Gridley train show. Do you agree?



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.

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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.

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Partnership Program

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