

Jan-Feb-Mar 2025



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



Daylight Limited PACIFIC COAST REGION CONVENTION

MARCH
27-30
2025



SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

.Join us for the Daylight Limited!

There is still time to register for the PCR's annual convention, the Daylight Limited March 27-30, 2025.

The convention will offer 3 full days of clinics. Clinics will be offered in the morning and evening with the afternoons free for layout tours, excursions and other events.

With the goal of including as many people

as possible, we are offering a hybrid event which means there is an in person option as well as a virtual option to attend.

We have put together a fun slate of activities all for a great price on the beautiful California central coast.



photo: Faraway Worlds

Continued on page 7

PCR Call Board

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The Branch Line
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Inquiries regarding membership application, renewal, or change of address should be directed to the NMRA, P.O. Box 1328 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328.

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Branch Line

Deadlines for 2024/25

APR-MAY-JUN 2025 issue

Articles due by
March 10, 2025

JUL-AUG-SEP 2025 issue

Articles due by
June 10, 2025

OCT-NOV-DEC 2025 issue

Articles due by
September 10, 2025

JAN-FEB-MAR 2026 issue

Articles due by
December 10, 2025

Please direct questions to the
 PCR Publications Manager,
 Gus Campagna at
campgus@earthlink.net
 Or phone (707) 664-8466

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From The President



By Frank Markovich, MMR
President

Highlights:

- 1.) Several Model Train events are coming up
 - January 31, 2025 - February 2, 2025 - PCR Layout Design & Operations Weekend Meet. California State Railroad Museum, Sacramento, CA and online via Zoom
 - February 8-9, 2025 - Great Train Show San Jose - Need Volunteers for the NMRA table
 - February 15, 2025 - Coast Winter/North Bay Meet at the Golden State Model Railroad Museum in Richmond. Clinics in the AM, layout tours in the afternoon. See the Square Foot Challenge below.
 - February 22-23, 2024 - Great Train Show/Worlds Greatest Hobby Show - Sacramento, CA - Cal Expo - Need Volunteers for the NMRA table
 - March 27-30, 2025 - 2025 PCR Convention - (also virtual) Hosted by Daylight Division - San Louis Obispo, CA
 - West Side Reunion May 3, 2025 Tuolumne Ca Black Oak Hotel
 - Sierra Seminar May 4, 2025 Tuolumne Ca Black Oak Hotel

2.) Dues should not increase this next year. Membership is dropping slightly – .

- Some discussions between the trade groups and the NMRA on the annual trade show.
- Membership reports from the national will be updated now and much better.

3.) My term will end at the PCR convention 2025. There will be an election for new President and Vice-President. Chip Meriam will be running for President, and Phil Edholm will be running for Vice-President. If anyone else is interested in President or Vice President, please let Dave Connery know as soon as possible.

4.) Things are looking good for the convention this year. Currently the Cuesta Amtrak trips are as follows: Thursday is full, and Friday is almost sold out. If interested, please book ASAP. Lots going on. I really like San Luis Obispo and I am really looking forward to going to the convention.

5.) I will be calling a board meeting in early January that will just be a discussion.



Square Foot Challenge at Coast Winter Meet in February

Time to start modeling. For the Coast Winter/North Bay Meet at the GSMRR club in Richmond, we will have a Square Foot Challenge. The rules of the challenge are to build a model on a 12x12 inch base. The model can be in any scale and based on any prototype or whimsical inspiration. Jesse Walden will be managing the contest. We will have two winners, one selected by a panel of Coast MMRs and one selected by popular vote. Models from this contest can also be entered at the PCR convention. These are examples of past entries:



From The
Vice President

With a new year, we
have a few changes:



Chip Meriam, Vice-
President and *Branch Line*
Editor

First, Jack Burgess, MMR[®], long-time contributor to the *Branch Line*, has retired as PCR Achievement Program Manager, a position he has held since at least as far back as 2001 and probably further.

Replacing Jack is really an impossible task, but Earl Girbovan, MMR[®] will be giving his best effort to fill Jack's shoes. Earl has been the PCR Contest Manager since we emerged from the period of COVID19



Jack Burgess



Earl Girbovan



mitigation restrictions.

Joining the stable of contributing authors for the *Branch Line*, is Paul Deis. As an accomplished, award-winning modeler, Paul will be stepping in as the PCR Contest Manager.



Paul Deis



As you can see from the photos accompanying their portraits, all of these gentlemen are superbly talented hobbyists.

Thanks, Jack, for the many years of service to the PCR. You are well deserving of a rest.

Thanks, Earl, for your work as the Contest Manager, and good luck with your new position as AP Manager.

Thanks, Paul, for investing a portion of your volunteer time to keep things running smoothly in the contest room.

Recently I read, and re-read, the "Perspective" column in *Railroad Model Craftsman*, December 2024, by Lance Mindheim. He made some excellent observations about the size of model railroads. I suggest you get a copy and read it. Here's what Mindheim's article left me thinking:

Consider the continuum of model railroad size. Is a small layout less interesting than a club-sized empire?

If you have visitors, are they all impressed only by the amount of mainline track you've laid?

How about the modeling expertise? The weathering and realism? The feel of a place in miniature?

I have a small layout in my garage. I've had people come to visit. I feel inferior – to a great degree. Should I?

Probably not. I have, possibly, been an inspiration to some folks who have yet to build a layout – or are just getting started in the hobby. Sure there are other, more accomplished model railroaders who may look down on my work and think it's miniscule and meaningless. Perhaps they have every right to. But there are countless others who might see what I've done and be inspired to embark on a rail adventure, in miniature, that will serve them well for the rest of their life.



October 2024 PCR Board of Directors Meeting



Cydney George-Abatecola
PCR Secretary

Our Board of Directors Mid-Year Meeting was held in October. All voting and non-voting members were present as well as 4 guests. We

- accepted the treasurer's report
- got updates from our 4 divisions
- approved the proposal for the 2026 convention in Rohnert Park, CA
- were updated on the 2025 Daylight Limited Convention
- started a discussion on how regional conventions may look in the future
- discussed participating in scholarships again
- were reminded of the Medicare insurance benefit that pays for NMRA membership and to remind our members of this
- were updated on Rail Pass membership level - it is still offered, we continue to pay for part of it, discussed ideas for converting more of those to full members and for attracting new members
- were updated on Fresno State's model RR competition. It will continue for another year.

Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held at the Daylight Limited convention In San Luis Obispo March 2025. Minutes for meetings are accessible online on our website <https://www.pcrnmra.net/> under the Meetings & Docs tab.



IMPORTANT !!!!

Have you changed your address or other membership information?

Notify Headquarters

Email: nmrahq@nmra.org

Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am—4pm ET)

Daylight Limited PACIFIC COAST REGION CONVENTION

MARCH
27-30
2025



SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

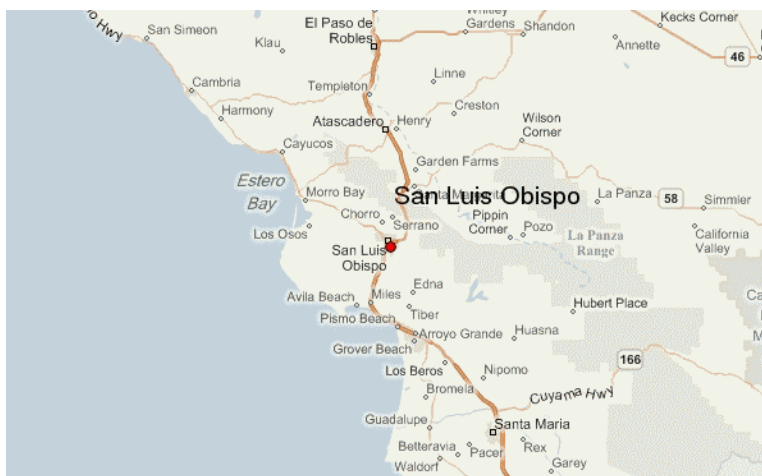
Join us for the Daylight Limited!

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The convention will offer 3 full days of clinics. Clinics will be offered in the morning and evening with the afternoons free for layout tours, excursions and other events. With the goal of including as many people as possible, we are offering a hybrid event which means there is an in person option as well a virtual option to attend. We have put together a fun slate of activities all for a great price on the beautiful California central coast.



photo: Faraway Worlds



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Clinics

In addition to clinics on modeling, layout design, operations, using technology for modeling and operations we are also offering the popular Modeling With The Masters® series with Clark Kooning and Peter Youngblood. These, typically, are only available at national conventions and we are excited to bring this series to our regional convention. We will be offering:

- Sign & Lettering - HO
- Better Telephone Pole Realism - HO
- Intro to Building Laser Kits - N, HO, S, O
- Scratchbuilding a Freight Car Shed - HO
- Scratchbuilding a Small Puddle Jumper Bridge - N & HO
- Plus, Michael Eldridge will be offering a Make & Take on building a small office or store - N, HO, S, O



Register soon before these slots fill up!

A promotional graphic for the "Modeling with the Masters" clinics. It features the nmro.org logo in the top left. The main text reads "MODELING with the MASTERS" in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, it says "Take your Modeling to the Next Level!" and "5 Clinics Offered" in orange text. A photo of Clark Kooning, MMR, is shown in a blue-bordered box. At the bottom, there is a blue button with the text "Clark Kooning, MMR". In the bottom left corner, there is a smaller version of the Daylight Limited Pacific Coast Region Convention logo and the website "www.pcr2025.org".

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photo: NMRA.org videos collection

Daylight Limited
**PACIFIC COAST REGION
CONVENTION**
MARCH
27-30
2025

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.



Dave Falkenburg presenting his weathering clinic

Continued on page 10

Layout Tours

We are excited to bring a variety of layout tour opportunities to the convention. Outdoor garden scale, museums, clubs, and private layouts will be open. Our layout tours will be open in the afternoons and be self-guided with detailed info on the tours available at the convention.



SLO Railroad Museum layout



Model & photo: Paul Deis

Continued on page 11

Excursions

With afternoons free, perhaps you will enjoy one of the excursions we are offering. On Friday we have a guided Amtrak trip over Cuesta. Our first trip sold out so register for this one soon.



The Bittercreek & Western Railroad and Norgrove Railway will be open for train rides and Norgrove's shops will be open for tours as well.



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2025
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

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The shops and yard will be open for a tour at the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. This is a chance to visit the shops and yard of this shortline and see up close how a railroad operates.



We also have some great locations to visit when your schedule allows like the Pacific Coast RR at Santa Margarita Ranch, the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, and you are free to shop the famous central coast model railroad hobby shop, Central Coast Trains!



Pacific Coast Railroad



Central Coast Trains



SLO Railroad Museum

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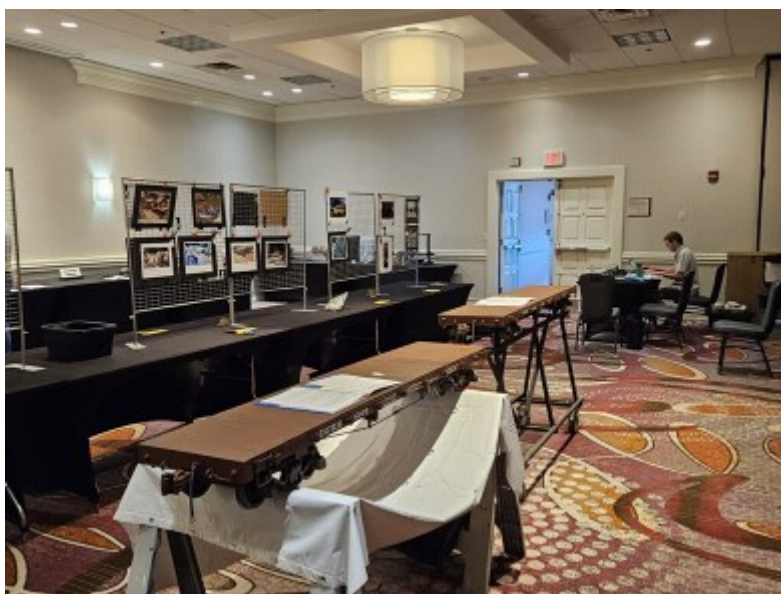
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Contest Room

Consider bringing one of your latest modeling projects to the contest room. While the event is called a contest, many consider it a way to share their modeling with others. Looking at contest models and talking with the modeler is a great way for newer modelers to learn tips and techniques. It is also an opportunity for you to get some feedback from other modelers and to improve your own modeling. If you score well you will be on your way to an AP certificate. There are lots of categories that, besides model railroad equipment, also includes photos, modules, square foot diorama and arts & crafts. There is also a switching contest and fun awards.



Speeder Shed and Tool House by Dave Bayless



Contest Room at 2024 "Tech Line" PCR Convention



Continued on page 14

Friendship

The old adage is true...we come for the trains but stay for the friends. Conventions are great opportunities to meet up with existing friends and meet new ones. Lots of time has been built in to both the in person and the virtual schedule for meeting up with those friends.



John Abatecola & his new friends, the Duncan Family

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SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.



Welcome Reception at Tech Line 2024

Continued on page 15

Virtual Convention

If you can't attend the convention this year in person, join us virtually! The virtual version of the convention offers 10+hours/day of virtual content. Our afternoons will offer extra content like layout tours, contest room tours, extra clinics that include an Intro to Ops For Operators clinic with lots of Q&A time built in. Join our virtual community for an online event that feels as close to being there as we can make it. To check out the virtual schedule and clinics, visit the website at www.pcr2025.org. Use discount code "PCR2025" when you register to get **\$10 off the virtual ticket price**. There are a limited number of discount tickets available.



Fran Foley and part of the virtual team: John Abatecola & Cydney George-Abatecola



Lisa Gorrell & Cydney George-Abatecola

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An Awesome Hotel

For those that will attend in person, the San Luis Obispo Embassy Suites is an all-suites hotel that offers free parking, free breakfast, free wifi and a free cocktail hour. Rates for a 4 night stay for the convention average \$159/night - a great deal for California's central coast!



Full Fare

We are offering a great deal...a full fare ticket that includes the Sunday breakfast and a FREE companion fare. 2 for the price of one, can't beat that!

Full Fare (\$160.00)

Includes clinics, layout tours and Sunday breakfast ticket.

ADD A FULL FARE COMPANION FOR FREE! The Companion Fare includes clinics, layout tours and Sunday breakfast ticket. Complete information below for companion fare

The full fare ticket **price goes up to \$175 on January 1st** so register now!

For more information on in person and virtual event schedules, clinics, the contests, registration and more, **visit our website** www.pcr2025.org. See you in March!



TANK CARS FOR SALE



Add this superb, one of a kind, historical tank car to your collection. The Northern Utah Division of the NMRA is selling a series of HO scale Utah Oil Company (UTOCO) tank cars manufactured by InterMountain Railway. The cars feature a build date of 8/45 and a test date of 9/28/51.

Originally intended to be the convention cars for the 2019 NMRA convention in Salt Lake City, supply chain issues prevented the cars from arriving on time. Offered in six road numbers, the cars have metal wheelsets and Kadee couplers. Priced at \$45.00 each with free shipping, you can get your very own historical tank car before this limited edition is sold out, go to either:

www.northernutahnmra.org/club-car

or

<http://northern-utah-division-nmra.square.site/>



PCR Membership Tracker

<u>Division</u>	<u>#Members</u>
Coast	338
Sierra	234
Redwood	103
Daylight	84
	813
	TOTAL

PCR Membership Gauge

November 30, 2014—991
 November 30, 2023—778
 December 31, 2023—769
 January 31, 2024—755
 February 29, 2024—776
 March 30, 2024—790
 April 30, 2024—814
 May 31, 2024—818
 June 30, 2024—822
 July 31, 2024—817
 August 31, 2024—813
 September 30, 2024—801
 October 31, 2024—794
 November 30, 2024—759

Welcome Aboard ! PCR's Newest Members

Member	City, Sate	Date Joined
Coast		
Tom Emig	Alameda CA	10/22/2024
Bob Uhrhammer	Albany CA	11/06/2024
Greg Christie	San Jose CA	11/21/2024
Michael Krohn	Fremont CA	11/26/2024
Redwood Empire		
Stephen Hohman	Hydesville CA	9/12/2024
Dirk Zimmermann	Sonoma CA	10/1/2024
Sierra		
Tou Thao	Stockton CA	11/06/2024
Jason Hartnell	Cool CA	11/26/2024

In Memoriam

<u>Member</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Daylight		
Milton Sans Soucie	Bakersfield CA	9/1/2008
Coast		
Robert Woodworth <i>Lifetime Member</i>	Sunnyvale CA	1/1/1972
Sierra		
Klaus Keil	Chico CA	10/1/2015

Have you joined the NMRA Interchange? It's the newest tool to help you connect with other members, gain knowledge and learn to modeling techniques. The Interchange is hosted on the Discord application which is available for Windows, Apple OS, Android and Apple devices. See instructions below for signing up.

Joining the NMRA Interchange

Speed Muller

IT Manager, NMRA

Have you joined the Interchange yet? If not, follow these steps to get connected!

1. Go to nmra.org/nmra-interchange
2. It will ask you to log in to the NMRA website if you're not already logged in. If you are not registered with the NMRA website yet, now's the time to do it. Click the "Need a username? Register now" button, and get set up. Use the email address on file in the NMRA membership system (probably the one where you got this eBulletin). The system will email you a link to set your password.
3. Now you should be in the [NMRA Interchange](#) page. If not, click this link.
4. Click on [Member Info](#) in the top right corner and scroll down get your exact Member ID. You'll need that later.
5. Read through the page and then follow the "Interchange Server Invite" link at the bottom. This is a special link just for you and will look something like <https://discord.gg/xxxxxxx>
6. You will be taken to Discord (the platform that hosts the NMRA Interchange) where you will be prompted to sign in, if you already have an account there, or prompted to register, if not. If you need instructions for creating an account or logging into Discord they can be found [here](#).
7. Once you accept the NMRA Interchange Invite, and you are logged in, you will land in **#the-lobby** with a message on what to do next.
8. We suggest that you read and agree to the **#rules** first. Just click on **#rules** and then click on "thumbs up". Then click on **#the-lobby** again to do the most important step.
9. Discord and the NMRA need to check with each other, in order to verify that you are a current NMRA member with an email on file. You start the process with the **/onboard** command. Now, this is very sensitive to the type of device you are using, so just type the first few letters **/onb** at the bottom where you see a + sign in a circle. It will complete the command for you in a pop-up just above that. Click on the **/onboard** command. Add your membership number (6 characters followed by a space and then two more characters) just as you noted in step 4. Example: `/onboard input: 123456 0A`
10. Discord and the NMRA computers will have a chat, and then you will receive an email containing a **/clearance** command. That's your entry ticket. Copy and paste the whole line into **#the-lobby** (at the + sign again). Example: `/clearance input: 654321`
11. You're in! You will not have to do any of this again. If anything derails, you'll get a message telling you what to do next, and we also have Moderators in the Interchange standing by to help.
12. If all went well, you'll now see more than 350 channels (those # things). We suggest you start by going to **#introduce-yourself** and then scroll up to **#the-workbench** to see what others have done and shared! Then find your Region and Division and say "hello" there. And then start participating and enjoy!





Chip Meriam – Candidate for PCR President

By some standards, I am a newcomer to the Pacific Coast Region. Although I have been an active NMRA member for thirty-two years, I did little more than read the *NMRA Bulletin*, *Scale Rails*, and *NMRA Magazine*—and pay my annual dues.

But in 2015 I crawled out of my lone-wolf den and embarked upon a rewarding period of active participation beginning with assuming the editorship of the Sierra Division newsletter, the *Short Line*. Three years later I found myself stepping in as editor of the PCR *Branch Line* as well. Since then, I've been the Sierra Division Secretary, Sierra Division Superintendent, PCR Secretary, PCR Vice-President, and co-chair of two PCR conventions. Along the way I've met many, many wonderful people: fellow model railroaders, like-minded volunteers, and valuable mentors. In the process, I've learned a lot about the Pacific Coast Region and what it has to offer.

Now, I feel I can offer something in return. I enjoyed a long career, in a leadership position, that involved working with diverse groups. I am acutely aware of the unique talents and abilities of individuals working in concert—and working solo. Here is an opportunity to contribute something of myself to the Pacific Coast Region members, and the fascinating hobby we all enjoy. I ask for your support in this endeavor.



Phil Edholm – Candidate for PCR Vice President

I am running for the PCR Vice-President role to help grow the PCR and foster better relations between the Divisions. Since 2018 I have been the Superintendent of the Coast Division and the Coast Director since 2022. In the Coast I have helped establish new programs and virtual activities that kept contact through Covid and now provide interactions for all of our members, regardless of location. I helped the PCR develop the recruiting program that has resulted in almost 100 new members joining through the RailPass program. I was the Co-Chair of the 2024 PCR tech Line Convention in Silicon Valley that had a significant increase in attendees and was profitable. For the Coast I have established databases of open houses and led using on-line tools to improve our activities.

I hope to continue to help the PCR move forward and create new programs and activities that will attract new members.



The official election of the PCR officers will be held in mid-February. The election will be facilitated by the use of the online election utility, "electionbuddy" and managed by former PCR President, Ed Merrin.

Please be sure to vote.

The Contest Room

By Paul Deis



Editor's Note: Earl Girbovan has stepped aside as manager of the PCR Contests and Paul Deis has stepped in. Herewith, Paul's first message as Contest Manager.

Well, it is a new year and there are some new things happening in the world of NMRA Contests. First, some local changes. Jack Burgess MMR is retiring from being our PCR Achievement Program Manager. Earl Girbovan, MMR will be stepping up to fill Jack's shoes. I will be filling Earl's position of PCR Contest Manager. Many thanks to Jack and Earl for all they have done to help us improve our modeling.

At the national level, Ray Pershing has relieved Frank Koch as the National Achievement Program Manager.

The NMRA has held contests for many years at National and Regional Conventions as well as many Divisional Meets. The Judged Model Contest is typically considered the prime event. However, excellent Photo, Pass, Arts & Crafts and Module Contests are often also included. To better represent all the entries the Model Contest has been renamed "A Celebration of Models, Photos and Crafts. Entries will be evaluated (judged) by fellow NMRA members.

There are some other changes being worked on for the contest and achievement programs. More information will be shared as they are approved at National. It will take a while to move everything to the new terminology.

Back to our local region. Preparations are being made to welcome you to San Luis Obispo for our Regional Convention, March 27-30, 2025. The Celebration room will be ready to receive your entries in the following categories:

Models

- Steam Locomotives
- Diesel and Other Locomotives
- Passenger Car
- Freight Car
- Caboose
- Maintenance of Way
- Structures
- Displays
- Traction and Self-Propelled Cars

Modules

- Switching Contest
- Photo Contest
- Arts and Crafts
- Square Foot Challenge
- Favorite Train

For more information on the contest please review the Contests Section of the PCR website <https://www.pcrnmra.net/contests/>

Volunteers and Contest Judges Needed!

Volunteers are needed to judge and staff the Contest Room. No experience needed. For Judging, we will train you and pair you with an experienced Model Contest judge. Judging earns two-time units towards the AP Association Volunteer Certificate. Contact the Contests Chair, Paul Deis, to assist with this very important function.

If you have questions about submitting your entries or how to fill out the required paperwork, reach out to me or any of the divisional or regional Achievement or Contest managers. We are all listed on the Call Board in this issue.

I look forward to sharing this wonderful part of our hobby with everyone.

Until I see you, keep-em on the rails,

Paul Deis

Achievement Program



Achievement Program

By Earl Girbovan, MMR®

Editor's Note: Jack Burgess has stepped aside as manager of the PCR Achievement Program and Earl Girbovan has stepped in. Herewith, Earl's first message as AP Manager.

The Achievement Program is alive and well in the PCR!

We have two new MMRs in the region. Congratulations to Dave Croschere becoming MMR 772 and Tony Thompson becoming MMR 777.



Dave Croschere Receives MMR #772



Tony Thompson Receives MMR #777

We also had four Certificates awarded this month:

Dennis Drury: Association Volunteer

Dave Adams: Master Builder Cars, and Master Builder Structures

Earl Girbovan: Author



Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

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Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann



The fall operating season was active, with many PCR Operators attending Desert Ops in the Phoenix area in October and a La Mesa 3-day Tehachapi Pass Timetable and Train Order (TT&TO) meet at the La Mesa Club in San Diego's Balboa Park. Both were excellent meets! Also the Dallas Area put on a meet like our own BayRails and I hear it was well done (the same folks who put together the excellent Operations Program for last year's NMRA Texas Express).

We have a very busy SIG program coming up this spring. First we have the annual PCR Layout Design & Operations Weekend in Sacramento at the CSRM January 31-February 2. The event starts with a tour of CSRM focusing on the NMRA's "Magic of Model Railroading" exhibit hosted by Charlie Getz on Friday the 31st followed by a no host dinner at a venue to be announced. Saturday is "Clinic Day" with clinics, panels and a design challenge, followed by evening layout tours and Sunday Op Sessions will be held Sunday. The Saturday program will be available virtually for those who can't attend in person. Registration is open now, visit <http://bayldops.com/2025/index.html> for event details and buy tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-pcr-layout-design-operations-weekend-tickets-1089271362969?aff=oddtcreator> (or just go to the BAYLDOPS home page above and click the "buy ticket" link.

We will be holding BayRails, our every-other-year invitational ops meet in the Bay Area (with bonus sessions in the Sacramento and Central Valley areas) March 22-24 2025 with a twist: OPSIG members may request an invitation at <http://bayrails.com/prereg.php> as may attendees of the PCR Daylight Express Convention <https://www.pcr2025.org/>. We will be holding bonus session before and after BayRails including some to the South on Tuesday the 25th which will leave you 2 hour's drive from San Luis Obispo so you can pick up some drive-in Op Sessions for PCR on Wednesday. Altogether you can Operate and participate in Convention Activities for 9 straight days (or take a break on Tuesday and Wednesday and enjoy the Central Coast!)

The La Mesa Club is holding open 2-day TT&TO sessions in April and May in San Diego.

NMRA will be holding its annual convention "STATION No. VI", in Novi, MI July 14-19 (note it starts on Monday – NOT Sunday) and the major SIGs are planning to put on their usual programs of Design, Operation, Electronics, and "Birds of a Feather" groups. Hotel space is limited, so make plans now: <https://nmra2025.com/registration/>

I am happy to announce that LDSIG has been able to return to regular "Layout Design Journal" (LDJ) production with LDJ72 and LDJ73 has just arrived. Editor Byron Henderson feels we can keep to a 3 magazine schedule for the foreseeable future!

Cydney George-Abatecola has posted a "Women in Model Railroading SIG" report elsewhere in the Branchline.

As always if you are interested in these programs and don't know where to start (especially operations) please contact me at sneumann@pacbell.net

Seth Neumann



Women In Model Railroading



Cydney George-Abetacola

WOMEN IN MODEL RAILROADING

You can find our members at most events in the PCR. You can find me and others at the upcoming Layout Design & Operations Weekend Jan 31 - Feb 2, 2025 and the Daylight Limited PCR convention at the end of March in San Luis Obispo. Can't attend those in person? Join our virtual events. Women in Model Railroading will be sponsoring one of the days of the virtual Daylight Limited convention in March. I would love to meet you and see how we can support you as a woman in the hobby.



Cydney George-Abetacola and new member Cheryl Rankin at the Evanston N scale event.



PCR Layout Design & Operations Weekend

Jan 31 - Feb 2, 2025

A Hybrid Event in Sacramento, CA

**Early Bird
Discount until
Dec 31st!**



- Virtual event option!
- Friday Tour & Dinner
- Saturday Clinic Day
- Clinics
- A design challenge
- Switching challenges
- T&TO challenge
- Layout Tours
- FREE layout design consults
- Sunday Operations



www.bayldops.com

Join us for a great weekend of local tours, layout tours, clinics, layout design and operations. We are offering an in person event in Sacramento as well as a virtual event. This is one of the best events for newer operators to get some operations experience. More information and Early Bird ticket pricing at bayldops.com. Questions? Contact Cydney: cgeorge1314@gmail.com





The Answers Are Out There By Robert Pethoud A Portable Cannery: Part 3

At last, the kit portion of the cannery for my portable one-turnout layout is looking presentable—see the photo of the façade. In addition to the promised loading dock and awning, I've added a rooftop water tank, some interior detail, and a sign identifying the structure as one of the scores of canneries belonging to the California Packing Corporation (CalPak) in the late 1940s.

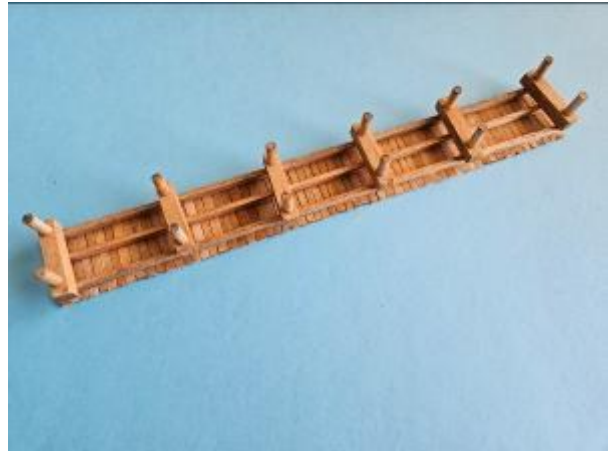


Continued on page 27

Loading Dock

The 52 HO scale feet length (7.25 actual inches) of the dock makes it possible to spot two 40-foot freight cars for loading or unloading and it's not necessary to line up the boxcar door with the cannery door. Lengths of 1/8-inch dowel topped by 3/16" square basswood support HO scale 6"x12" stringers and a deck made from Starbucks stir sticks.

I began by cutting the stir sticks into pieces measuring 1/8"x 1" and staining them with my usual brown leather dye and India ink stains mixed into bottles of isopropyl alcohol. While these were drying, I cut the support pieces from dowel and basswood strips and stained them similarly. Carpenters' glue put the assembly together, and I followed this up with sanding both sides of the deck to end with (nearly) perfectly straight sides. Check out the photo of the underside of the loading dock.



Awning

In addition to keeping rain off the loading dock, an awning adds visual interest to this cannery's main wall. I attached a length of Campbell corrugated metal to a piece of 0.010" thick styrene with Walthers Goo. The awning's underside was brush-painted with black acrylic craft paint, while the top face was spray painted with red oxide primer from a rattle can. After this was dry, PanPastels and Bragdon Enterprises' weathering chinks in various rust hues were applied to represent heavily rusted metal.

Three pieces of stiff wire were attached to the underside of the awning and extend about an inch into the building. The photo of the interior of the cannery wall shows how the wires are secured with wood blocks and set screws to attach the awning to the building while permitting it to remain removable.



ITLA Details

The last two additions to the cannery are ITLA kits, the HO Loading Dock Interior Kit and the HO Roof Water Tank Kit (HO4154WT). The interior kit was built according to the instructions, and I need to say no more about it, but the water tank—in my opinion—needed some help and I will tell you all about that in my next installment

As always, you may reach me with comments and/or questions at pethoud@comcast.net



BRASS CASTINGS FROM 3D CAD MODELS

By Tom Knapp, MMR#101

Just as photo-etching and laser-cutting did, 3D printing has added to the “toolbox” of production methods suited to low-volume parts creation. This is especially important to “niche-modeling”, or non-mainstream models which would not be attractive to big manufacturers who rely on high volume to justify R&D and production costs for mass produced models (such as Nn3 which is my modeling scale/gauge).

One of the main sources of custom 3D-printing for the past few years was Shapeways which would print and ship you models printed from your uploaded 3D CAD files. The model designer could also make their design available to other modelers for purchase through Shapeways, opening up access for many modelers to models not normally commercially available.

Among the variety of plastic, resin and other materials offered by Shapeways, they offered a lost-wax metal option. As I understand it, they would print your 3D model in a castable resin, then invest it and lost-wax cast it in brass (or silver or gold if you wanted). The castings were quite good, if a bit pricey, apparently being primarily aimed at the jewelry market.

When Shapeways shuttered their operation in July of 2024, that option disappeared. Since then, some of us in the Nn3 community (<https://groups.io/g/Nn3>) have been searching for alternatives. Gregg C. of that group discovered Sculpteo – apparently a French firm (<https://www.sculpteo.com/en/>) – that indicated they offered this service and he was successful in getting some Nn3 locomotive parts produced by them. Meanwhile, I experimented with printing my own castable-resin models using Siraya True Blue resin in my Elegoo Saturn 8K printer, and sending them to Trackside Details in the Fresno area (<https://track-sidedetails.com/>), the company which produced the brass castings for my Nn3 0-4-0T Porter and West Side Shay kits offered by Republic Locomotive Works. On learning of Gregg’s success, I also uploaded an STL file of a locomotive superstructure I had printed and sent to Trackside Details to Sculpteo and I have subsequently received castings from both.

While there may be other alternative sources out there I have not yet discovered, I now had two viable alternatives for obtaining brass castings for my Nn3 models. And while the services and products of each are quite acceptable for my purposes, there are some differences between these alternatives I should point out. I will mostly focus on a single steam locomotive superstructure for pointing out these differences as this was the “common denominator” between the orders from both of these manufacturers as well as earlier Shapeways orders. The accompanying photos illustrate some of these differences.

Quality:

The Sculpteo castings are much finer than the Trackside Details castings, due largely – I believe – to the quality of the castable resin prints I provided Trackside. (The brass casting can only be as good as the wax.) The prints I supplied to Trackside did not have the sharpness of the Sculpteo brass castings, which I attribute to a higher resolution 3D print made by Sculpteo. This is noticeable on the boiler lagging bands as well as on the side that was facing the build plate during 3D printing and where most of the 3D printing supports are attached. For the Trackside “wax”, I was responsible for removing the supports before sending them the print, so have myself to blame for this, while Sculpteo did this removal on their own 3D print. The Trackside castings also still have a sprue which I will need to grind off. Of note here is that the Sculpteo casting is their “raw” brass, but I suspect their cleaning process after castings uses walnut shells or some other mild abrasive which leaves a very smooth and shiny surface similar to what I was getting from Shapeways castings. I use an air-eraser to “sandblast” this surface to give paint a bit of “tooth” and improve paint adherence. The Trackside castings do not have as smooth and shiny a surface. Having said all that, when painted and weathered I don’t think the difference is all that noticeable – but this is a subjective call.

Cost:

After factoring in postage and other costs, the Sculpteo parts final cost (which were closely comparable to the Shapeways cost for the same part) were about five times the cost of the same part from Trackside Details. For many items, for me the small difference in quality would not justify the higher cost. However, for highly detailed castings, especially with small details pushing the limits – and for a limited quantity – Sculpteo is worth considering.

The following should be considered variable and is intended for relative comparison only. I included 20 various parts ranging from a couple of locomotive superstructures down to individual headlights and generators in my order to Trackside and the final cost including Priority Mail shipping (both ways) was \$112. Simple math would indicate a per-part cost of \$5.60, but the parts varied quite a bit in size, and as I understand it, part of Trackside’s pricing is based on the weight of the brass they use for a project. On calculating the cost of one of these superstructures based on its weight compared to the weight of all 20 pieces, it works out closer to \$20 all-in. The single Sculpteo casting cost me \$92 including shipping from Michigan. I suppose it is OK for a single project you consider very important, but I need five of these Consolidations, and that gets a bit rich.

Continued on page 29

Turn-around time:

I got my parts from Trackside a week after I sent them the 3D prints. This is not always the case, as I believe Dave at Trackside only fires up the furnace and casts once per week, so two weeks is probably a better allowance. I placed the Sculpteo order on October 8 and received the single casting (from a Michigan address) on November 21 – six-and-a-half weeks.

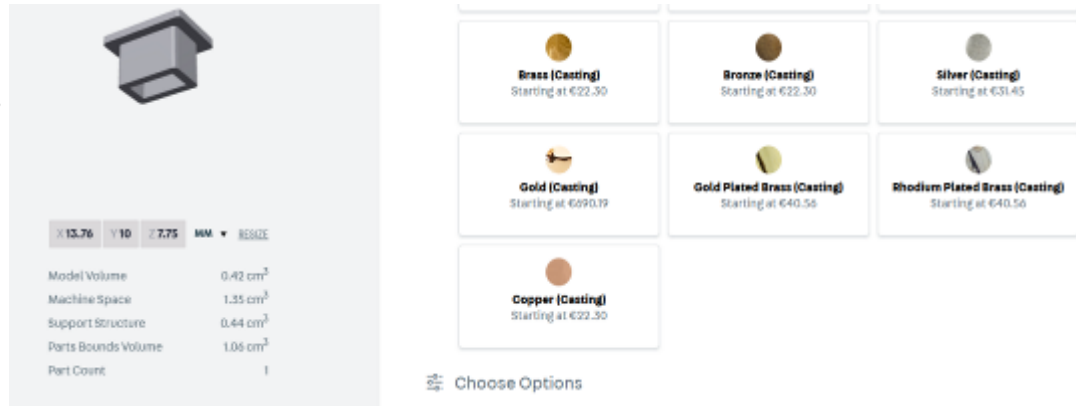
Convenience:

Using Sculpteo is much more convenient, as you do not need to print parts then mail them to the caster – you just upload your STL file on the Sculpteo web site, pay them (dearly) and sit back and wait.

Latest News:

Since embarking on this quest for alternatives, the original co-founders of Shapeways (who had left the company in 2012 & 2014) announced on December 3, 2024, that they had re-acquired the assets of the bankrupt company and were restarting operations. The website is now up and running (www.Shapeways.com). On December 10, 2024, the new

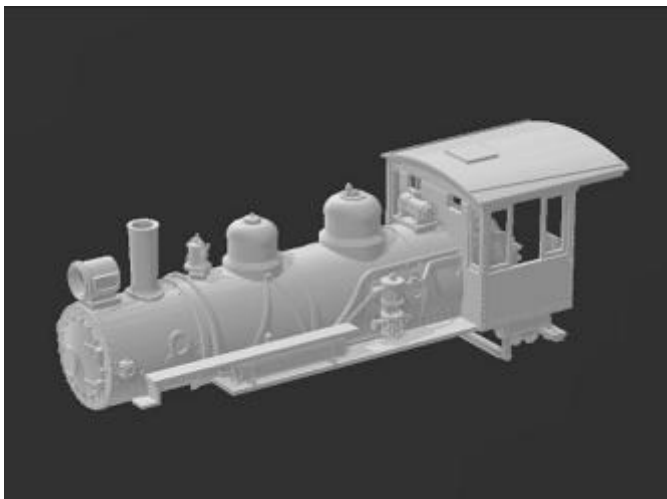
management team announced they were once again offering lost-wax-cast metals (brass, bronze, silver, gold, and copper) giving me a third potential option. I have uploaded one of the locomotive superstructure models that Shapeways previously cast for me in brass to the new website and will report how that goes in a future issue.



From Shapeways website.

Conclusion:

I will use Sculpteo (or perhaps Shapeways when they start casting again) for important one-off projects where I really want very high-resolution detail (such as the frame and two-drum steam engine of my Nn3 Marion steam shovel) but will use Trackside Details for items I want significant multiples of.



Typical 3D model of locomotive superstructure.

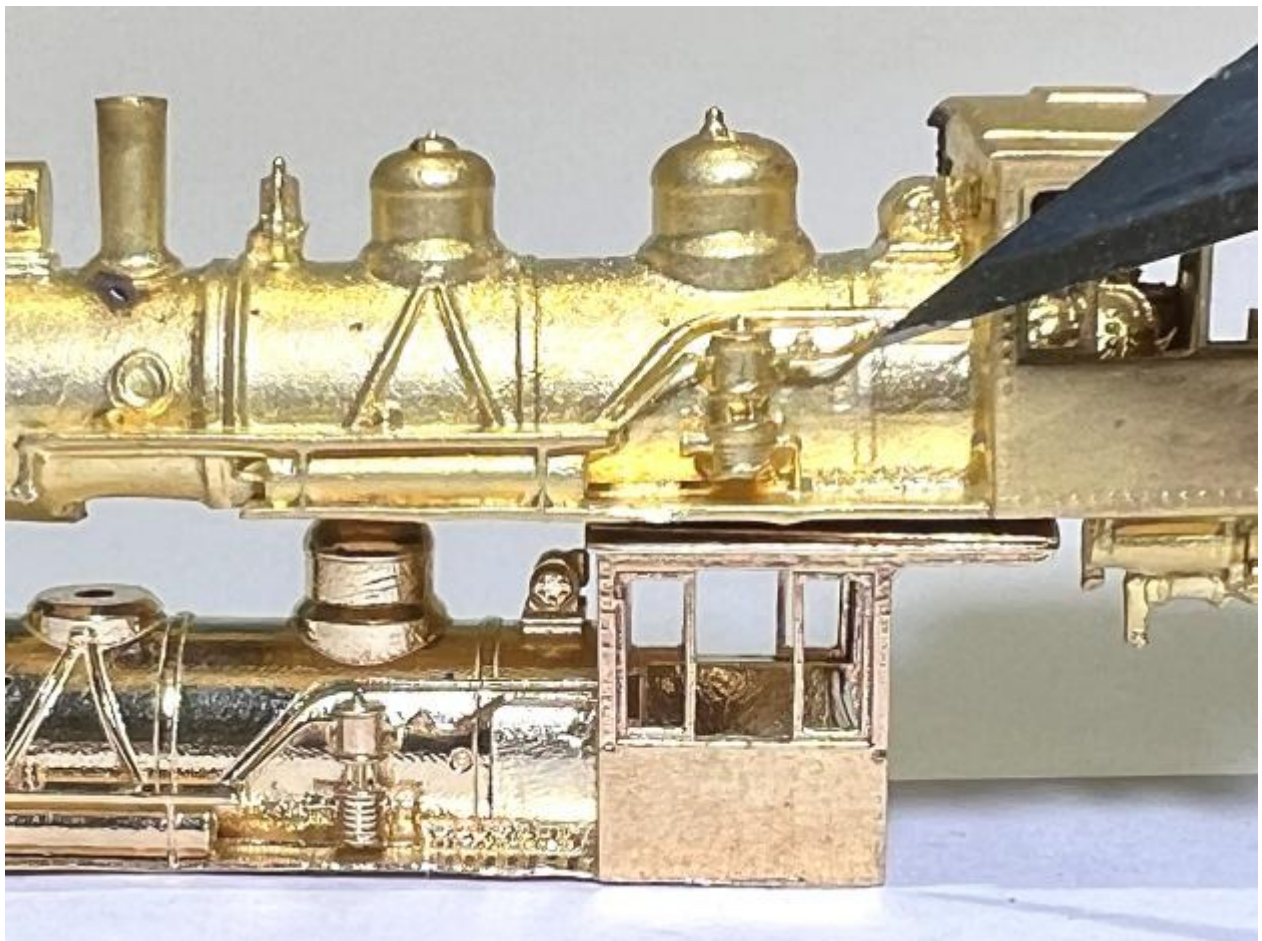


Close-up of TTn3 boiler showing free-standing piping.

Continued on page 30

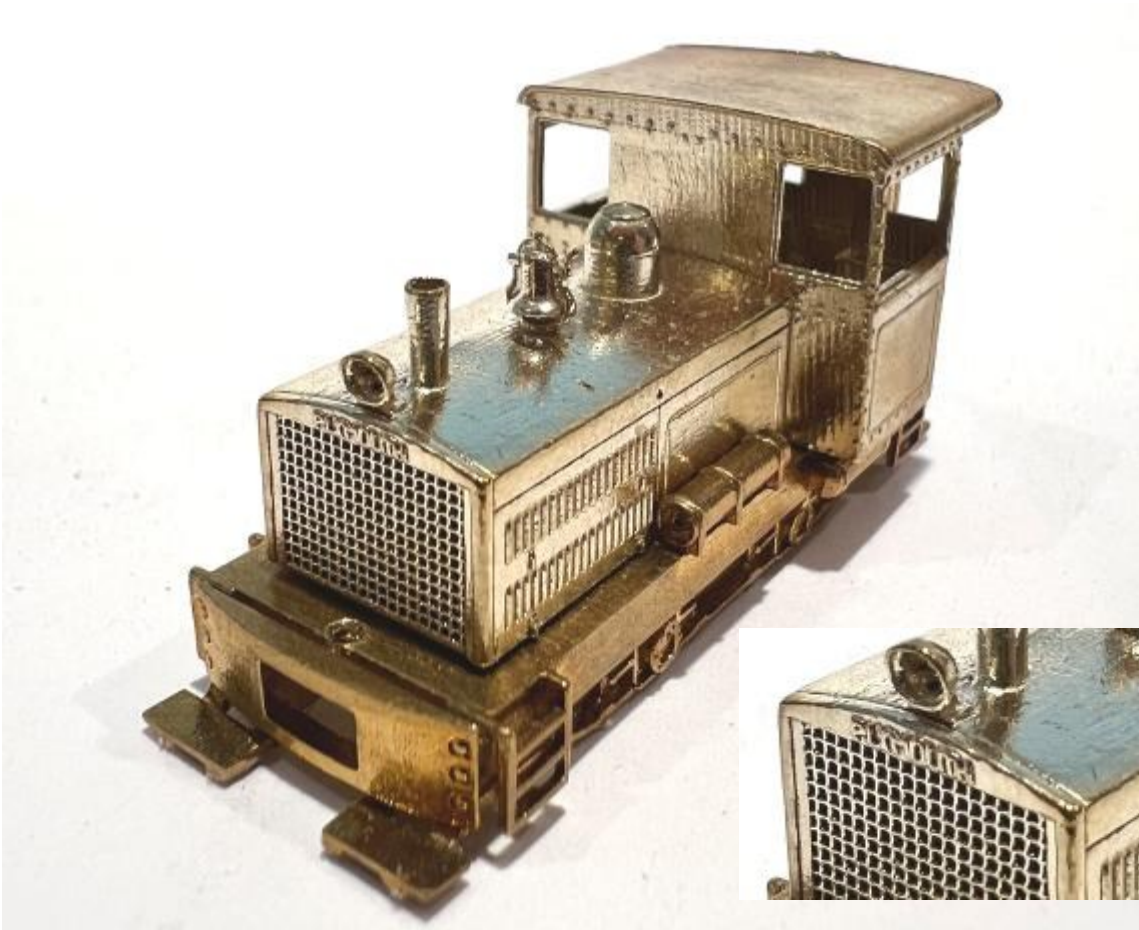


Brass lost-wax castings from 3D files, from left to right: Nn3 Plymouth HL 20 ton (Shapeways); TTn3 PCRy #110 boiler (Shapeways); Nn3 PCRy #107 (Trackside Details); Nn3 PCRy #107 (Sculpteo).

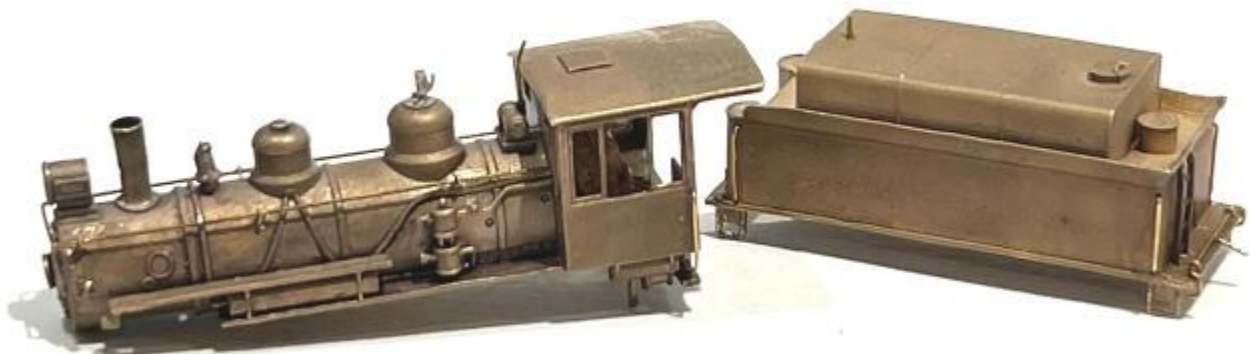


Comparison of details and finish between Trackside Details (top) and Sculpteo (bottom) castings.

Continued on page 31



Close-up of Nn3 Plymouth showing the level of detail of brass castings made from 3D CAD files; note “PLYMOUTH” on radiator (inset).



Shapeways brass castings after “sandblasting” with air-eraser and fitting with railings.

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Finished Nn3 model of PCRy #107.



Finished Ttn3 model of PCRy #110.



Finished Nn3 model of PCRy #120.



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
2025 National Convention

STATION No. VI

Hosted by:
the NORTH CENTRAL REGION

July 14-19, 2025

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend! **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

Our location – Sheraton Detroit-Novi, MI
A suburban location with FREE parking!



CONVENTION GOALS and HIGHLIGHTS -

Our main objectives are to provide events of value, items attendees will see as worth their money, all at the lowest possible cost. ** We will honor the traditions of past conventions but at lower cost and with greater flexibility. ** This convention will be shorter, starting at 1 PM on Monday and continuing through Saturday afternoon with a banquet Saturday evening. ** Note that registration includes all layout visits and operating sessions, and all activities at the hotel except Modeling with the Masters, and admittance to the National Train Show. ** We will support all the traditional activities of the SIG's. ** The National Contest will be fully supported. The contest will be in a prominent room and will be run by the National Contest team. There will be space for model displays, modular layouts and other functions. Those putting their models on display will have the option of entering the People's Choice Contest. ** We will have several prototype tours which may include a Ford plant tour and a cruise on the Detroit River with an emphasis on the industrial aspects of the waterfront. ** We expect to have at least 90 clinics. The clinics will be varied, and each will be given twice. ** We expect to have at least 60 layouts open for visit. Most layouts will be at least 900 sq. ft. in size running to over 3,000 sq. ft. in one or more cases. All layout visits and op sessions will be self-guided so you may take your time.

<https://nmra2025.com/>

Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

By: Jim Providenza

The Maintainer

Let's start off with a bit of truth in advertising:

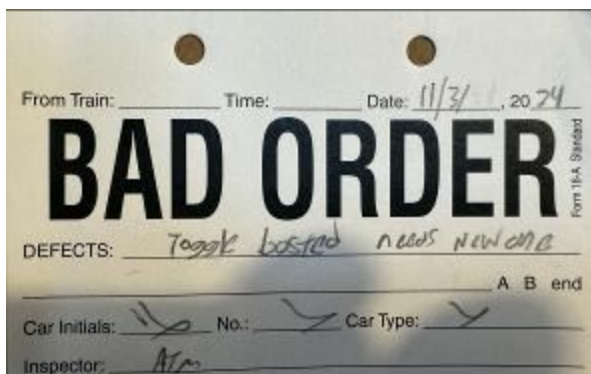
1. Paul Weiss' Central Vermont in Northern California (the CVinNCA) is an amazing creation even as it stands today.
2. The CVinNCA is still years away from completion, and there is always construction going on between op sessions.
3. That said, the CVinNCA is an operating railroad – and has been since its inception.
4. Covering a full 'railroad day' currently takes two operating sessions, about 10-12 actual hours.
5. Preparing for op sessions takes several days' work ahead of time by a number of people – just like it does for any other railroad.
6. And like any other railroad, model or prototype, when trains run, stuff happens...

Paul was aghast when I told him I planned to write this Tales. I mean, what does it say about the CVinNCA when we talk about how we deal with PROBLEMS DURING AN OP SESSION? Might this not reflect poorly on the railroad?

To my mind, what it says is that Paul makes every effort to make sure the 'customers' – those coming to an op session – have the very best possible experience. These efforts range from pairing folks new to operations with experienced operators, to continually working to improve the documentation the CVinNCA crews need to do their work. The efforts include cleaning track and locomotive wheels before every op session, car / location inventory on a regular basis, and preparation of waybills, switchlists, loco and van assignment lists, etc. for each session.

These efforts are all part of staging the railroad for op sessions ahead of time. But how do you handle the inevitable problems that crop up during the session? How do you maintain the pace, the flow of the 'railroad day', when something goes wrong? What do you do to maximize the customer experience even as Murphy is doing his best to wreak havoc?

On a small to medium size home layout, the owner / host usually handles these problems – I know I do on the SCN. But on a large layout like the CVinNCA, or any club layout like the La Mesa Club's Tehachapi layout down in San Diego, you really need one or two people dedicated this task – let's call them maintainers.



Stuff happens on even the best of railroads. On Sunday at the latest 3 day ops weekend at the La Mesa Club, I was the yardmaster at Santa Fe Bakersfield. One of the toggle switches controlling the switch machine for a switch in the yard ladder broke - and that put a real crimp in yard work. The operating aisle for the yard is really tight and I was asked if I would make repairs (quite an 'honor' if that is the right word, the club has very high standards as you would imagine).



Bob Hanmer grabbed this photo of me putting on my Maintainer hat as I soldered the leads to the replacement toggle – and within half an hour the yard was back in business.

Continued on page 35

Tales of the SCN ct'd.

So, what does a 'railroad day' in the life of the maintainer look like? Well, I kept a list at a recent CVinNCA session...

1. I was 'wrong' about the which of two cuts of cars was actually meant to be on the south White River Extra – which led to a decision after the session to change how trains are staged at the north end of the railroad.
2. Repaired a New Haven Alco RS11 that had problems going through a switch on the NYNH&H Fort Yard lead– a combination of a wire impinging on the lead truck and
3. Widened a bit of tight track gauge at the above-mentioned switch
4. Cleaned the wheels on the locomotive on the 1st Montville Job after it ran into some dirty industrial track we missed before the session.
5. Repaired the dispatcher's reading glasses (really!)
6. Fixed a coupler box that had worked loose on a gondola
7. Repaired the details on a boxcar that got 'sideswiped'
8. Stepped in to run train No. 2 due to a crew shortage
9. Swapped out power on a through freight when one of the locomotives stopped responding– probably due to a thermal overload breaker tripping in the locomotive's decoder
10. Freed up the points of a switch that were stuck – sometimes we get a bit 'enthusiastic' in ballasting
11. Un-weathered the reporting marks on one side of a tank car that was so heavily weathered it looked like it had different numbers on the two sides of the car
12. Determined the cause for a power loss on the New Haven interchange tracks at Willimantic and made a temporary work-around fix, made a bad order tag for a permanent fix before the next session
13. Helped hunt for some missing waybills, and couldn't find them. See number 1- above...

When you consider how complex any model railroad is, and realize that all of them are one-off creations, with hundreds of moving and interrelated parts, built and maintained by 'amateurs', it is amazing what we can and do accomplish!

And... the customers go home happy!

What we are working to avoid – but the photos are too good not to share - the great State Line derailment of 2024!

This derailment occurred between sessions while I was making a backing move, to come ahead again to find out what was causing a problem with a piece of track at the south end of Monson. Momentum got the best of me, train speed suddenly rose unexpectedly, and the van jumped the track, went 6 and a half feet to the floor and disassembled itself. The next ten or so cars piled up in this truly prototypical jackpot, but amazingly sustained no damage!

After a diligent search for small parts (mostly successful) the van spent an hour in the SCN shops and returned to service the following Tuesday.



Looking Back

by Dave Connery, MMR, PCR Historian

We Have Anniversaries and We Have Editors

With this issue of the *Branch Line* we start a new year and for the NMRA, a new decade. This year the NMRA is celebrating its 90th year serving model railroaders of all scales and prototypes. We have been alerted by our National President to expect a number of ways this significant accomplishment will be celebrated. I am sure if the original organizers were to visit us this year they would hardly recognize today's organization. Organizations need to change to remain relevant in a changing world. The year we just finished, 2024, was the Pacific Coast Regions 80th anniversary. Then in 1961 PCR decided to create more local functionality with the development of Divisions, another effort to bring modeling closer to us modelers. We should be thankful to those early modelers who established the concept of Regions and Divisions then set the pattern for the remainder of the organization to follow.

But how do I know these things? I often find myself digging for our history into past issues of the PCR *Branch Line*. The early issues are now a rich brown with age, produced by typing on a paper stencil and then running them off on a mimeograph printing machine. How we produce the *Branch Line* has certainly changed and then changed again and again. The first issue in 1944 was four sides but quickly expanded to six and then sometimes to eight sides and photos became a regular feature of the now lithography printed *Branch Line*. Not just photos but advertising became a part of the *Branch Line* in 1947 and these simple ads lasted until 1956. Over time, the *Branch Line* sometimes grew to 10 or even 12 sides as photos became more and more important. For a while, the newsletter was published 6 times a year - every other month.

By the 1970's 12 sides had become standard size for the *Branch Line* and the *Branch Line* continued to grow in size until by the early 1990's it was regularly 24 sides and continued growing to soon reach a total of 40 pages average. *Branch Lines* in the 1940's were crammed with every bit of space filled with material. Over the years, with more pages, editors have used white space effectively to make reading the newsletter more enjoyable. In 2004, we changed to a slick, more magazine like paper that provides great contrast with the print and makes reading a joy. In 2020, we eliminated the paper, printing, and postage altogether - moving to an all-digital product.

One might think BOD Meeting notes would be a good source of organizational history but a quick comparison shows that things like dues increases, Division boundary changes, Convention locations and profitability issues, budget concerns and changes to the By-laws and Manual of Operations tend to fill board notes. The *Branch Line*, from day one, has been full of encouragements to attend meetings (then conventions when the meetings changed into formal events) and why, reporting on recent conventions and contest results, printing reports from Clubs and then Divisions and local groups and recording awards and achievements of members and the organization itself. In 1994, to celebrate our 50th anniversary, Editor Bob Ferguson issued a spectacular 88-page issue highlighting some of the high points of our first 50 years of model railroading. The cover included copies of all the different mastheads of the *Branch Line* used over the years and I have included a copy of that cover here.

Looking Back



Continued on page 37

My hat is off to these many hard-working and often unheralded Editors who have maintained such a complete record of the activities of PCR and its modelers. A lesson to everyone: when our editor calls for more input do not be shy about responding with a meaningful report on activities in your area. Future generations may someday be searching for your article!

PCR *BRANCH LINE* EDITORS

1944 – 1946	Paul Lehman
1946 - 1948	Tom Lawless
1948 – 1949	Bernard Root
1949 – 1951	William Webb
1951 – 1953	Jack Jerrils
1953 – 1956	Jack Hoffman
1956 – 1958	Francis Lionberger
1958 – 1961	Harold Dowe
1961 – 1965	Faith Rider
1965 – 1969	Bill Carvin
1969 – 1973	Don McCord
1973 – 1976	Ernie Mattschei
1977 – 1978	Charles Kent
1979 – 1981	Tyler Knighten
1981 – 1982	Jeff Goodwin
1982 – 1983	Carol Roloff-Henry
1983 – 1989	Ernie Mattschei
1989 – 1994	Bob Ferguson
1995 – 1999	Dave Connery
2000 – 2001	Les Dalstedt
2001 – 2010	Bill Kaufman
2010 – 2017	Chuck Harmon
2018 – Present	Chip Meriam





On a cold and foggy Saturday morning in December, several brave and determined model railroaders gathered at The Train Depot restaurant in Fresno to share some stories and a hearty breakfast.



Several Daylight Division members swap stories while waiting for breakfast to arrive. From left to right: John Houlihan, Dave Grenier, Robert Sexton, Steve Lowe, Dave Theis, and Don Smith

Once breakfast was over, announcements and some division business took place before the gathering broke up. Luckily, by the time the layout tours started, the fog had burned off and everyone was treated to a warm and sunny day.



Can you tell that Steve Silva's multi-deck layout is inspired by the Milwaukee Road?

Rob Briney points to a scratch-built structure on his Sierra, Clovis & Western layout.



Continued on page 39



Steve Lowe enjoys operating his N scale California Zephyr over the Tehachapi Loop on his layout. While not 100% proto-typical, the train looked fantastic in this setting.

Robert and Sylvia Pethoud's Fall Creek Branch switching layout features realistic switching action and shows off some excellent modeling skills.

It was great fun meeting new folks in the hobby and renewing friendships from the past. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the layouts and appreciating the efforts made by the layout owners. It was wonderful seeing younger people interested in the hobby, such as Matthew (on the left) showing his dad, Adam, how much fun being a model railroader is. Thanks to all who took the time to open your layouts and to all the guests. See you in Woodlake on January 25 and at the Daylight Limited Convention in San Luis Obispo March 27-30!



Walter Mizuno, Director, Daylight Division





GEHAMS welcomes visitors
 on any Saturday, (closed on Dec. 25)
 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM,
 to view trains operating over
 Central California's largest
 HO and N Scale layouts.
 For more information, please email
 carldw@aol.com, phone (661) 331-6695
 or visit our web site at gehams.club



Bakersfield Model Train Show Central California's Largest March 1 & 2, 2025



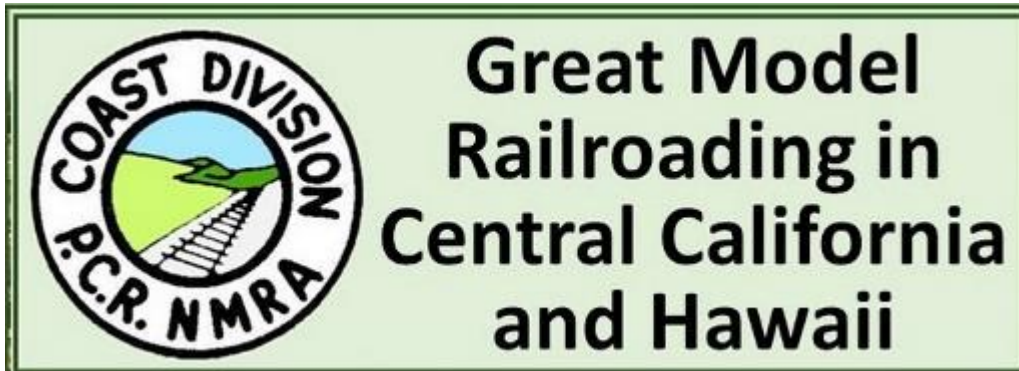
**Kern County Fairgrounds
 1142 South 'P' St, Bakersfield, Calif.**

Saturday: 10 AM—5 PM

Sunday 10 AM—4 PM

- 100+ Tables Of Model Trains For Sale
- 1,000's Of Square Feet Of Model Train Layouts On Display
- Hourly Door Prizes
- Raffle Drawing For A 2-½' x 4' N Scale Layout
- Raffle Drawing For A \$100 VISA Gift Card

**Admission: \$10.00 Per Person
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 Kids Ages 12 & Under Admitted Free When Accompanied By A Paying
 Adult (Entry Good For Both Days)
 Information: (661) 496-9514 or Kevin4strings@gmail.com
 www.gehams.club**



VISIT THE COAST DIVISION YOUTUBE CHANNEL



[LINK](#)



There are currently 109 recorded videos comprising nearly sixteen hours of model railroading content. Make sure you have plenty of time!!

Continued on page 42



2024 – A Great Year

2024 was a great year for the Coast Division. We started the year with a visit to the Redwood Valley Railway and the Golden Gate Live Steamers. Then in April the Coast hosted the 2024 PCR Convention. In late July we had a visit to the CSRM and the NMRA “Magic of Scale Model Railroading” Exhibit. In September we had our South Bay meet in Santa Clara at the SBRHS and we are planning an auction on December 8th in Alameda.

Upcoming 2025 Events

For 2025 we have one event planned so far, a North Bay meet at the Golden State Model Railroad Museum in Richmond.

February 15, 2025 - Coast Winter/North Bay Meet

We will meet at the Golden State Model Railroad Museum in Richmond. Clinics in the AM, layout tours in the afternoon. We will have a Square Foot Challenge (see below).

Square Foot Challenge at Coast Winter Meet

Time to start modeling. For the Coast Winter/North Bay Meet February 15, 2025 at the GSMRR club in Richmond, we will have a Square Foot Challenge. The rules of the challenge are to build a model on a 12x12 inch base. The model can be in any scale and based on any prototype or whimsical inspiration. Jesse Walden will be managing the contest. We will have two winners, one selected by a panel of Coast MMRs and one selected by popular vote. Models from this contest can also be entered at the PCR convention. These are examples of past entries.



Continued on page 43



South Bay Meet – September 29, 2024

We had our third meet at the SBRHS this year. We started the meet with two clinics in the large room and an extended weathering clinic in the boardroom.

These were the clinics:

Creating and Detailing a Scene on Your Layout

Seth Neumann/Earl Girbovan/Richard Brennan

Earl, Seth and Richard describe the planning and implementation of a new scene on Seth's "Union Pacific Oakland Sub" layout based on a prototype industry.

An Operating System for Smaller Layouts

Jesse Walden

I do not have a 300 foot mainline layout that is prototypically accurate but enjoy the logic and discipline of an operating system to move cars and trains around. This clinic will explore the setting up and layout operation using a modified waybill system.



Easy Weathering – Updated!!

Frank Markovich - MMR

This was a small hands on clinic to understand some of the techniques to achieve realistic results – not just weathering. Speed things up and keep costs down! Adding all this detail while keeping it all of safe."



Layout Tours

After the clinics and lunch we had Ted Stephen's and Seth Neumann's layouts will be open as well as the SBRHS layout. Having Ted's layout being open was especially poignant as it is planned to be torn down at the end of the year.

Event Help Needed

We need to plan some "Field Trips" to other locations. If you are associated with an organization or venue you think would be a great one day field trip, please contact coastpu23@gmail.com. If you have a contact at the venue, put me in contact so we can set it up .





CHALLENGE



BUILD A ONE FOOT MODEL RAILROAD DIORAMA

☆☆BE PART OF THE PCR-COAST DIVISION☆☆

☆☆ONE FOOT CHALLENGE☆☆

WHAT? WHAT? WHAT? WHAT? WHAT? WHAT? WHAT? WHAT? WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?

The Coast Division of NMRA/PCR is inviting YOU to participate in our
☆☆ ONE FOOT CHALLENGE ☆☆

The purpose of the challenge is to have FUN
and be creative with your modeling skills

We will strut our stuff and oohs and aahs at the
SPRING 2025 Coast Division Meet



👉 RULES 👈

The diorama must be a
square 12 inches by 12 inches

Any scale, any era, any theme

The diorama must be railroad related and include
a railroad track of any length



SMALL PRINT

To participate in any official activities, one needs to be a NMRA member
The diorama must sit flat, be self-contained, non-electrical and easily movable



✓ Judging ✓

1st and 2nd places will be by POPULAR VOTE of COAST members attending



➔ PRIZES ➔

\$ £ € \$ £ € \$ £ € \$ £ €

Everyone will be so proud of you. It's a challenge not a contest. There MAY be a Prize

Questions, comments, signing up (expressions of interest)

Jesse Walden, coordinator CDOFC

jesse.cpw@gmail.com





On Saturday, September 28th, the Redwood Empire Division gathered at the Western Railway Museum for our annual picnic. Forty-one members and guests enjoyed a beautiful day. Thanks to Cliff and Denni Baumer for helping organize this year's picnic. They have been a part of the Western Railway Museum for many years. Cliff Baumer, our tour guide, guided us to the first part of the picnic agenda, a ride on the Key System 187 Key System three-truck, two-car articulated all-steel unit designed and built to run over the Bay Bridge.

Riding on Key System 187

We boarded the Key System articulated cars for a fifty-minute trip south from the museum to Molena and back to the museum. Cliff and museum personnel gave us a running commentary during the ride. This track is part of the original Sacramento Northern line from the ferry landing at Chipps Island to all points north ending at Chico.



The cars featured a variety of fascinating car card reproductions (advertisements), as seen when the cars traveled from the Bay Area north to Sacramento, Oroville, and Chico when smoking was socially acceptable and a Coke cost a nickel.

Touring the Car House

Following the train ride, Cliff Baumer led a tour of the Loring Jensen Memorial Car House, a fully enclosed, temperature-controlled storage and display facility. The car house houses a variety of interurban cars, street cars, freight cars, maintenance equipment, and locomotives from electric railroads all over the country.

Picnic

Following the car house tour, we boarded the Petaluma and Santa Rosa #63 and traveled to the museum's picnic ground. This little wooden interurban car was built in San Francisco by the Holman Car Company in 1904. It ran between Petaluma, Sebastopol, and Santa Rosa and had a branch in Forestville. The Redwood Empire Division provided lunch. Members and guests could visit the museum exhibits and gift shop after the picnic.



If you haven't made the trip to the Western Railway Museum in Rio Vista then you should plan to. For myself it was a first visit, and I didn't expect to enjoy it as thoroughly as I did.

Paul Weiss
RED Superintendent



Sierra Division Report

Sierra Division's Major Fall Activity is always the International Rail Fair, a train show that's been held in the Sacramento area for decades. This year the event took place the first weekend of November at Cal Expo.



Rail Fair is cosponsored by four model railroad organizations: European Train Enthusiasts, The Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club, Sacramento Modular Railroaders, and the Sierra Division, PCR-NMRA.



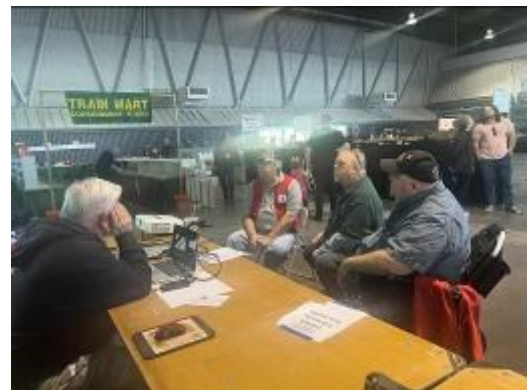
For the little ones, a special "Junior Engineer" layout was a prime attraction. We can't help but think this exhibit may have been a "first exposure" of our hobby to the youngest among us.



A young model railroader delights himself with out TimeSaver switching layout. The TimeSaver attracts many potential new NMRA members.



The "Square Foot Diorama Challenge" drew several entries. This year's theme was "Fall Into Winter", including anything to do with the fall and/or winter seasons. Each entry had to include at least one railroad element. Here, the railroad separates the graveyard from the pumpkin patch and the Giant Pumpkin.



Model railroading clinics were offered throughout both days of Rail Fair.

Continued on page 47



The Sacramento Modular Railroaders, or “Sac-Modular” to most of us, literally put together an enormous and impressive operating HO Scale layout.



The Sacramento chapter of the European Train Enthusiasts set up a modular layout featuring European passenger and freight operations under overhead catenary.



Time Table

PCR Event Calendar

Saturday, January 11, 2025
10:30am Sierra Division zoom meeting
Saturday, February 8, 2025
Great Train Show
10:00am Sierra Division meeting
Sunday, February 9, 2025
Great Train Show
Saturday, February 15, 2025
Great Train Show
Sunday, February 16, 2025
Great Train Show
Saturday, February 22, 2025
Great Train Show
Sunday, February 23, 2025
Great Train Show
Saturday, March 8, 2025
Great Train Show
Sunday, March 9, 2025
Great Train Show
Thursday, March 27, 2025
Daylight Express PCR Convention
Friday, March 28, 2025
Saturday, March 29, 2025
Daylight Express PCR Convention
Sunday, March 30, 2025
Daylight Express PCR Convention
Saturday, May 10, 2025
10:00am Sierra Division meeting



Continued on page 49

Daylight Limited

PACIFIC COAST REGION CONVENTION

**MARCH
27-30
2025**



SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

- Three full days of clinics
- Lots of layout tours and operating sessions
- Several train related excursions available
- Great location accessible via Amtrak
- All suites hotel offers free breakfast, free cocktail hour, and free parking



HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. Each is available for NMRA members to borrow for the cost of processing and postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit www.nmra.org and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.



We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org

Then, get that popcorn ready.



Convention HQ is the Sheraton Hotel
21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI 48375

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Monthly Activities

First Thursday - 10:00 AM / Siskiyou Model RR Club. / Currently meeting at member's homes. Info: Tom Brass, (530) 842-4921,

First Saturday 10:00 AM / San Leandro Historical Railway Society (HO, O, G), Monthly meeting / 1302 Orchard Ave, San Leandro, CA / Eugene 510-963-2985 / Info: info@slhrs.org.

First Saturday 11:00 am to 12:00 PM / Golden State Model Railroad Museum / East Bay Model Engineers Society (O, HO, N, Narrow Gauge, Traction) / Point Richmond, CA / Club Phone 510-234-4884 or info@gsmrm.org. Free coffee and doughnuts.

First Saturday 12:30 PM / European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) Sacramento Chapter (HO, HOM, N) 3600 J Street, Sacramento, CA. (entrance from 36th Street near East Sacramento YMCA). Social and H0 layout running 12:30 to 2:00 PM, then program/show and tell, followed by 2:30 PM business meeting. / Contact: Dusan Petras (650) 300-9504 or Jim Fischer (916) 965-7117, e-mail: dusanpetras@aol.com / See the website for additional information: www.ete.org.

Second Tuesday 7:30 PM / Empire Builders Model Railroad Club (HO) 3318 School St, Oakland, CA / e-mail: president@ebmrc.org

Second Wednesday 7:30 PM / Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (HO&N) Bakersfield, CA / Doug Wagner, e-mail: carldw@aol.com or 661-589-0391 / Club phone: 661-325-5820

Second Saturday 10:00 AM / Tehachapi Loop RR Club / Tehachapi, CA / Tom O'Brien, e-mail: threerail@earthlink.net 661-822-1546

Second (and Fourth) Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (and every Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM) • Admission: Free / Bay Area N-Trak Model Railroad Club (N) Wells Fargo Express Room, Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, 900 Loring Ave., Crockett, CA • Map / Donations are welcome. / Contact: Jim Gray, send text to 925-260-5804 or e-mail to gray-marks@hotmail.com

Second Saturday 1PM-4PM / West Bay Model Railroad Association, Open House, We run trains run for our visitors, 1090 Merrill Street, Menlo Park, CA / e-mail westbaylines.com

Second Saturday 1:00 to 5:00 PM / European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) San Francisco Bay Area Chapter (HO) Location varies / Contact: Brian Hitchcock, brianhitchcockdba@gmail.com / See the website for additional information: www.ete.org.

Second Saturday 1:30 PM / Carquinez Toy Train Operating Museum Business Meeting, 645 Loring Ave (Across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. MAP

Second Saturday 3:00 - 6:00 PM / California Central Club (HO & HOn3) / Old Agnew Station, 4185 Bassett St, Santa Clara, CA / Subject to change, contacting us in advance of your visit is highly recommended at: ccmrc1961@gmail.com

Second & Fourth Weekends / Swanton Pacific Railroad Society (19") Santa Cruz County, CA / Ed Carnegie, e-mail: ecarnegie@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2378

Mid-Month Weekends / Bitter Creek Western RR (Live Steam) Arroyo Grande, CA / Dan Andrews, e-mail: danandrews@charter.net or 805-481-0419

Third Monday 7:00 PM / San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (all) Oceano Depot, CA / Dennis Pearson, e-mail: info@sломra.org or 805-929-3062

Third Tuesday 7:00 PM / Visalia Electric Model Railroad & Historical Society / Meets at Ryan's Place Restaurant, 3103 South Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA / Cecil Eppler, e-mail: cecil_eppler@sbcglobal.net

Third Wednesday 8:00 PM / West Bay Model Railroad Association, Monthly Business Meeting, 1090 Merrill Street, Menlo Park, CA / e-mail westbaylines@gmail.com

Third Friday 7:00 - 11:00 PM / Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club Operating session (HO) / Antioch, CA / Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com / Club phone 925-779-1964

Third Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Noon / San Joaquin Central Operating Session (HO) / Fresno, CA / Chuck Harmon, e-mail: harmonsta@aol.com or 559-299-4385. It's April 1949 on SP's Donner Pass and fictitious SJC. An advance courtesy contact is appreciated. Send e-mail to be added to mailing list.

Third Saturday / Sacramento Modular Railroaders Operating Session (HO) / Sacramento, CA / Scott McAllister, e-mail: scooter923@att.net

Fourth Wednesday 7:00 PM / Coast Toy Train Club / Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Rd (at Alamar), Santa Barbara, CA / Lots of collecting in S, O, and Standard gauges. / Contact: Ken Kelley, e-mail: kenatttr@thirdrail.com

Fourth (and Second) Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (and every Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM) • Admission: Free / Bay Area N-Trak Model Railroad Club (N) Wells Fargo Express Room, Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, 900 Loring Ave., Crockett, CA • Map / Donations are welcome. / Contact: Jim Gray, send text to 925-260-5804 or e-mail to gray-marks@hotmail.com



Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Alameda County Central Railroad Society

ACCRS is an HO and O scale club with layouts in a 30x100 building on the Alameda Co. fairgrounds in Pleasanton. With over 60,000 annual visitors, ACCRS is a great showcase for the hobby. Layouts reflect Alameda County and California and are continually improving and updating. Open for Fair events and Fridays, 6-9 PM. Lowest dues in the area.

Contact: Gary Lewis 925-455-8135
 Email: glgslewis@comcast.net
 Web: www.pleasantonmodelrr.org/index.html

Amador County Model Railroad Museum

The ACMRRM is located at 13828 Gold Mine Road, #1, Pine Grove, CA. Gold Mine Road intersects with Hwy 88 in Pine Grove. Our non-profit association is open to the public from 10 AM to 5 PM, Friday through Sunday during Winter months and Wednesday through Sunday during the Summer. Work sessions are held every Tuesday starting at 10 AM. Our scenic DCC HO-scale layout depicts the lumber and gold mining history of Amador County. Operations include the Amador Central short line as well as the railroads of California's Central Valley including terminals at Stockton and Sacramento. Contact: Robert Piety, 209-296-3587 email rdpiety@sbcglobal.net

Antioch Model Railroad Club

The Black Diamond Lines is an HO Club located at 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch. The BDL has been in continuous operation since 1981. Our Club is open to visitors on Tue. & Fri. from 5 to 7PM. We hold monthly Operations Sessions (4 hr.) on the LAST Saturday of each month, from 10 AM to 2 PM using Train Orders. We are a DCC (only) layout and we are kid friendly, although anyone under 18 has to have a related adult present, to run on the layout. For more information, info@blackdiamondlines.com or visit us on the web at www.blackdiamondlines.com and we can be found on Facebook and YouTube.

Bay Area Ntrak Model Railroad Club

BANtrak MRC invites N scale modelers to visit us at the Wells Fargo Express Room, Southern Pacific Railroad depot, 902 Loring Ave., Crockett, on Wed. and Sat., 10 AM to 3 PM. Contact: Bob Lewis, 925-283-6838
 E-mail: BobLewis1@sbcglobal.net

Bay Area S Scalers

BASS is a group of modeler railroaders in the San Francisco Bay Area focused on scale modeling in 1:64 scale. BASS is a round robin club, typically meeting in a member's home on the third Saturday of odd numbered months. Meetings may include a mini-clinic, or showing progress on models or a layout. We also have a modular layout that has been displayed at public events. Contact: Michael Eldridge (meldridge2000@gmail.com).
 Web: www.bayareasscalers.org

California Central Model RR Club

The CCMRC is located in the old Agnew depot (Santa Clara) of the Southern Pacific (4185 Bassett St.) directly across from the Lafayette St. gate of Agnew State Hospital. The theme of the 15' x 50' HO club is western railroading running from the Bay Area to Southern Oregon. We meet Fri., 7:30 to 11 PM. Operating sessions the 1st and last Fri. of the month. Contact: 408-988-4449 (operating nights), or Wayne Cohen, 408- 779-0707.

Carquinez Model Railroad Society

CMRS models the line from Oakland to Sparks with a double track mainline and many well-known lineside industries on three levels. The layout is in the 36 x 60 foot main room of the recently renovated former Oddfellows building that dates back to the 1890's. New HOn3 branch-line coming soon. Entire railroad is NCE DCC-based with JMRI WiFi throttle support. We are open to the public bi-monthly with weekend open houses. Please see our web site (www.cmrstrainclub.org) and our listings in the PCR Master Calendar for more information. The club is open for perspective members and visitors during our Wednesday night work nights, 5PM to 9PM. We are located on the second floor at 645 Loring Ave., Crockett, CA 94525. Contact: Ron Lehmer, president@cmrstrainclub.org or Steve Huffstetter, secretary@cmrstrainclub.org. Club

number
 510-722-3025



Continued on page 52

Coastal Valley Lines Model Railroad Club of Sonoma County, LTD

Coastal Valley Lines Model Railroad Club of Sonoma County, LTD (Coastal Valley Lines) is an association of novice-to-expert model railroaders from the Sonoma County area, who operate a digitally command controlled (DCC) HO scale modular railroad at public and private events, and gather for clinics, work sessions and monthly meetings. Coastal Valley Lines is incorporated in the State of California with its primary purpose of educating the public about model railroading as a family hobby and is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization with elected officers and bylaws. Additional information can be found at cvlrr.com.

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

The Eel River Valley is an HO club with a NWP-layout series of modules under construction. We meet Fri., 7:30 PM at the Humboldt County Fair Grounds Commercial Building, NW corner, Ferndale. Contact: Jack Jensen, 707-845-2823, 3313 Union St., Eureka, CA 95503 or Ron Plies, 208-229-7107, 12818 N. 11th Ave., Boise, ID 83714.

Elsie The Left Coast (Elsie) HOn30 group invites anyone interested to join us. We use existing standards for module construction but are not merely a modular group. Contact: Al Sandrini in Bakersfield, 661-664-8614 or Ken Lunders in Cupertino, 408-777-9572.

European Train Enthusiasts

ETE (www.ete.org) serves modelers, railway fans, related organizations, and the community through public venues, operating layouts, the annual convention EuroWest, the chapter newsletter, and the quarterly national journal, the ETE Express. ETE is open to all who have an interest in European railways, whether full size or scale model. The SF Bay Area Chapter meets the second Saturday of the month from 1-5pm in various locations around the bay. Contact BillKeaney (650) 355-7231 or billkeaney@comcast.net.

Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society

Bakersfield GEHAMS, founded in 1987 and in their current location since March '94, is dual-scale with a 30' x 100' HO, and a 18' x 80' N based on SP's route from Bakersfield to Mojave with Tehachapi Loop. Though under construction, mainlines are in with monthly operations. Contact: Doug Wagner, 661-589-0391 email: carldw@aol.com GEHAMS web: www.gehams.org

Golden State Model Railroad Museum – East Bay Model Engineers Society

900-A Dornan Drive in Miller-Knox Regional Park at Point Richmond. Weekly public hours are on our website. To meet members, inquire about membership and behind the scenes tours come 1st & 2nd Friday evenings of the month between 7:30 and 10 PM.; behind the scenes tours also available most Wednesdays 11 AM to 3 PM. New members are welcomed in all Scales – O, HO and N, including narrow gauge and traction. For general information check the website or call (510) 234-4884 (recording); for membership inquiries call 1st or 2nd Fridays 8-10p.m. (510) 236-1913. For other information or to schedule special events, Email info@gsmrm.org. Website: www.gsmrm.org

Humboldt Bay & Eureka Model Railroad Club

The HB&EMRC meets at their clubhouse and layout at 10 West 7th St., Suite #C in Eureka, on Sat., 7:00 PM. Visitors are always welcome. Business meetings 1st Sat of month, 7:30 PM. Contact: David Berriman P.O. Box 915, Arcata, CA 95518 707-825-7689

Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad Museum

26 Station Place - Salinas, CA 93901
The Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad Museum is dedicated to creating & maintaining a Railroad Museum in Salinas with an emphasis on the historic, contemporary and future value of the Railroad to the Salinas Valley and Monterey Bay Regions, providing experiential educational opportunities for children of all ages enhancing the core curriculum and inspiring civic involvement in our communities.

Open first weekends of each month 10AM - 4PM
831 789 8097

www.msvrr.org
info@msvrr.org

Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society

Located at The Napa Valley Expo, (fairgrounds), 575 Third St., Napa, our railroad runs from Napa to Ukiah with off line connections to Stockton and Portland, has 700 feet of main line, and large classification yards at each end. The layout is never finished, as we are always rebuilding and improving! Era is 1940 to present. Member-owned rolling stock stresses reliability and realism. We meet Fri. 7:30 PM to 12, with formal runs the 2nd Fri. of the month. Info: John Rodgers 707-226-2985 E-mail: Napa-John@napanet.net Web: www.nvmrc.org

Continued on page 53

Nn3 Alliance

An Internet-based fellowship of over 700 members in nine countries who model narrow gauge in "smaller scales". The term "Nn3" is used generally to describe 3', 3'6", and meter gauges, modeled in N or 2MM Scales. Members include local groups in the USA, UK and Europe whose portable exhibition layouts and modules regularly appear at conventions and shows. The "corporate" entity of the group - The Nn3 Alliance - created and published "The Nn3 Handbook", 140 pages with 400 illustrations, covering all aspects of small-scale narrow gauge, which remains the standard reference.

Web: www.Nn3.org
<https://groups.io/g/Nn3>

Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society

Established in 1948, the SMRHS is located at 1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento. Modeled as the Sierra Central RR, both HO and HOn3 layouts. HO layout is being rebuilt to depict SP/WP prototype. Open Tues. and Fri. nights, 7:30 PM. Contact: 916-927-3618

Email: d.megeath@comcast.net
 Web: www.smrhs.com

Sacramento Modular Railroaders

Most of our events are operating sessions, where we make up trains in our large switch yard, and send road crews out to switch cars into and out of industries at the towns along the main line. The club owns a large main yard, the corner modules, some special modules, and some rolling stock. Members own their own modules and rolling stock. Contact: memberhip@sacmodularrailroad.com

Sacramento Valley Live Steam Railroad Museum (SVLSRM)

The SVLS was founded in 1968 and is located in Hagen Community Park, Rancho Cordova, CA. Our initial 1500 feet of track has expanded to over 6300 feet of mainline and sidings. Approximately 1500 feet is dual gauge 4 3/4" and 7 1/2". We can accommodate equipment ranging in size from 1 inch scale (standard gauge) to 5 inch scale (2 foot narrow gauge), the most common scale being 1 1/2". Public run days are on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month during our operating season

San Joaquin Valley Garden Railway Society

The SJVGRS was founded in July of 1995 to promote the joy of building and operating Garden Railways. We have grown to over 70 families in the Central Valley, meeting monthly at members' homes to spend the afternoon sharing our hobby, weather permitting. Dues: \$25 a year for a family. Contact info: Richard Emerson 559-439-7173
 E-mail: emerson.r@worldnet.att.net
 Web: <http://home.att.net/~sjvgrs/train/>

San Joaquin Valley Toy Train Operators

We are an all scale train club. We have members in scales from Z to G. Whether you are someone who likes to run toy trains in circles or model an exact date, railroad or scene or anything in between you are welcome. Everyone who likes trains is welcome. You don't need to own any trains. We have two portable layouts that we set-up at public locations. We have set them up at care facilities, Amtrak stations, train shows and other places. We also have outside club activities. We have gone on the train to Sacramento and the Sacramento Rail Museum. We've ridden the train at Railtown 1897 SHP and had a private tour there. Also we have visited home train layouts and will have many other activities in the future. Our meetings are at the Scouts Hall, 4717 Elm Street, Denair, CA at 1:30 PM (doors open at 12:30) on the first Sunday of each month. Holidays or other events can change that. We always get there by 1:00 PM to visit and see what others have brought to show. For more information please call Ed Cathcart at 209-479-4432

San Leandro Historical Railway Society

The SLHRS models the SP from Oakland/San Leandro to just east of Norden using the tri-level Donner Pass plan featured in the March '98 Model Railroader. It's housed in the former S.P., San Leandro depot, located at 1302 Orchard Ave., San Leandro (just off Davis St.). Work sessions Sat. 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM and Tues. 7:30 - 9:30 PM, business meetings the 1st Fri. at 7:30 PM. Contact: Eugene Brichacek, 510-963-2965
 email: embrichacek@gmail.com

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Continued on page 54

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA)

The SLOMRA is a multi-scale modular group with active N and HO scale layouts. The goal of our nonprofit association is railroad education and local history through public display of our modules. Our shows usually include G-gauge, tinplate, and even LEGO trains. The monthly meetings include model and prototype activities, videos and discussions. The SLOMRA is open to new members who have a love of trains. The general meeting is the third Monday of every month at 7:00pm at the Oceano Depot. For more information visit www.slomra.org or email info@slomra.org.

Silicon Valley Lines

The SVL is located at 148 E. Virginia St., San Jose. We meet Fri. 7:30 to 11:30 PM, with business meetings the 1st Fri. and operating sessions the last Fri. of the month. Our HO layout utilizing DCC for realistic operations, computer-generated train orders and radio-based dispatching. E-mail: svl@siliconvalleylines.com Web: www.siliconvalleylines.com

Siskiyou Model Railroad Club

Currently we are meeting at a member's home on the first Thursday evening of the month. Contact Tom Brass as 530-643-1556. Currently a few members have been getting together on Tuesday mornings for various activities.

South Bay Historical Railroad Society

SBHRS invites interested modelers to visit us in the historic Santa Clara CalTrain Depot, 1005 Railroad Ave., Santa Clara, Tues. 5:00 to 8:00 PM or Sat. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Contact: 408-243-3969. Web: www.sbhrs.org.

South Coast Society of Model Engineers

The club consists of enthusiasts of all scales and prototypes living in the Santa Barbara area, and has a collection of railroad books and videos for loan to members. The club has no layout but activities include weekly operations and work sessions at member layouts, as well as occasional club field trips. We meet every 3rd Tues. at 7:30 PM, at Woodglen Hall, 3010 Foothill Road, Santa Barbara. Junior members welcome. Contact: Secretary David Kuehn, email: davidkuehn@cox.net. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=163470062239>

The Tidewater Southern MRC Inc. & Tidewater Southern Railway Historical Society Inc.

We are Located in Building 1 at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds (1658 S Airport Way, Stockton, CA 95206), We have both HO and N scale layouts housed in a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove. The HO scale layout represents the former Tidewater Southern branch line of Western Pacific. We meet every Saturdays from 9am - 5pm except for major holidays and run trains on the last Saturday of the month. Admission is free! Email us at: tidewatersrhs@gmail.com for our schedule.

Tri-city Society of Model Engineers

The TCSME located in the Niles Plaza is currently looking for new members to help build and operate both an N Scale and an HO layout focused on Fremont and surrounding areas. We meet Fridays 7:30-9:30 PM. The depot is located at 37592 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536. Please visit our web site at <http://www.nilesdepot.org/> <http://www.nilesdepot.org>

Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society The WCMRS located at 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, is open on last Friday of the month from 8:00 to 10:00PM for operations. Fares are \$3.00 for 6-12 and seniors over 60 and \$5.00 for adults. Membership is always open to interested HO modelers. Contact: 925-937-1888 (recorder); Web: www.WCMRS.org. "Like Us" on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wcmrs). Please refer to www.wcmrs.org for the dates and times of our Annual, Weekend and Friday evening shows .

West Bay Model Railroad Association

The West Bay Model Railroad Association is accepting new members; all skills are invited. Construction and scenery are now complete on our DCC 2-level HO layout designed for operations; work on signaling is in process. Work sessions are Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Prospective members and visitors are always welcome. We run trains for visitors monthly on second Saturday afternoons. Business meetings are at 8 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, and operating sessions are on Saturday of the following week. We're located a few hundred feet south of the Menlo Park Caltrain station, in the former baggage building, at 1090 Merrill St., between the station and Ravenswood Ave. For more information, visit wbmrra.ning.com and facebook.com/wbmrra. Or email westbaylines@gmail.com.



Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

We not only welcome your input here at the *Branch Line*, we actively encourage it!

In fact, may we say that we go so far as to solicit your input?

If you have a small article you would like to submit for publication, or even just an idea for an article, please let us know. We will be happy to work with you.

Just contact our editor, Chip Meriam, at:

chipmeriam@comcast.net

We're looking forward to hearing from you!



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A graphic for the 2025 NMRA National Convention. It features a stylized blue and yellow high-speed train moving from left to right. In the background, a grey city skyline is visible. The text '2025 NMRA' is prominently displayed in the upper right. A banner at the bottom reads 'Novi, MI' and 'CELEBRATING 90 YEARS'. A sign above the train reads 'STATION No. VI'. The entire graphic is set against a blue background.

NMRA's Partnership Program



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February 2024

Partnership Program



National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

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