

BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

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President's Message

Gene Mayer

The year 2006 promises to be a traumatic turning point for the Pacific Coast Region (PCR) and the NMRA; new "single dues" regulations taking effect January 1st double PCR membership. The primary emphasis of this message is to communicate with our new members.

I welcome all members receiving *Branch Line* for the first time. I hope you enjoy reading about Regional activities and upcoming local events. You will receive the January-March issue of this publication each year. You will also receive quarterly Division newsletters. I hope you will subscribe to *Branch Line*, mailed quarterly for \$6 per year.

The primary benefit of Regional membership is to meet other modelers in your area. Member Aid Chair Rod Smith of Fremont is available to answer your questions, and refer you to nearby members who can help with modeling problems. You can reach Rod at 510-657-3362 or e-mail RailGeezer@aol.com.

NMRA Members are also assigned to

local Divisions: The Coast Division includes the San Francisco Bay Area Counties. The Daylight Division encompasses Central California from Merced and San Luis Obispo south to Bakersfield and Santa Barbara. The Hawaiian Division covers the entire state. The Redwood Empire Division includes the north coast counties from Marin to the Oregon Border. The Sierra Division encompasses the rest of Northern California and Northern Nevada.

I welcome all those who are receiving the *Branch Line* for the first time

Divisions hold local meetings throughout the Region. Divisions sponsor and conduct educational programs at these meetings. Rail fans, experienced modelers, and historians make oral presentations, show videos and slides, demonstrate modeling techniques and conduct participatory work shops.

The Hawaiian Division has been inactive for several years, after the former Director moved to Oregon. We have 40 members in the Islands, but only two receive the *Branch Line*. During my recent Mexican vacation, I met Al, a part time

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VIEW FROM THE LEFT SEAT

Dave Connery, PCR Vice-President

Several very positive things happened at the mid-year PCR BOD meeting in November:

- 1) Steps were initiated to have PCR provide help with postage and copy material for three Division Newsletters a year. Publications Chair Gus Campagna is working out a firm proposal for the Board's final action in May. This is an important step because it will insure regular communication from both the Region and Divisions to all NMRA members in the Region.
- 2) The board approved the joint sponsorship of the LD/OPS SIG meeting in Santa Clara, February 11-12. This continues Board interest in helping promote all aspects of the hobby in our area.
- 3) PCR Director Ron Plies has been studying the decrease in interest in contests and will be working with Contest Chair Bill Scott to increase interest in our Contest at the upcoming PCR Convention. This is an example of the board working to keep model railroading relevant to the needs of today's modelers.
- 4) Stephen Johnson was introduced as the new *Branch Line* Editor – welcome aboard Stephen, it is good to have you in this position.
- 5) Treasurer Larry Altbaum reported that while PCR remains in sound financial health, our expenses continue to exceed our revenue. We have covered this in past issues of *Branch Line*, but the important thing is that this problem continues to be dealt with by the Board in an open and creative manner.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the ballot for Director from each of the active Divisions. Please exercise your vote for a Director within your Division (you can only vote for Director in the Division in which you reside). It is the Board of Directors (a Director from each Division plus the President and Vice-president along with the Secretary and Treasurer [non-voting members]), who provide direction and guidance to our organization.

**The NMRA Pike Registry
...a great way to meet
other modelers ...even
arranging visits while
traveling on vacation.
You might be missing
something that would
be a lot of fun.**

Department Managers oversee each of the Departments (committees) that bring you the PCR activities – Publications, Conventions, Membership, Achievement Program, Non-Rail and Contest. Their names and contact information is available in the Call Board section of the newsletter. We would love to have you become involved in this endeavor. At the very least, contact your Director and let he or she know

what you would like PCR to be doing. It is part of your job as a member.

Finally, don't be shy about becoming active and involved in NMRA, PCR and Division activities and programs. As an example, I recently received my copy of the NMRA Pike Registry for 2005-2006 (everyone with a model railroad registered with the NMRA receives a copy). I noted that while there were 502 model railroads in this issue, only 22 are in PCR. Registering your model railroad is a great way to meet other modelers through communicating, trading passes, interchanging cars or decal sets or even arranging visits while traveling on vacation. You just might be missing something that would be a lot of fun. Learn more about this program at www.nmra.org/pikereg/.

MADE IN THE PCR

by Dave Connery

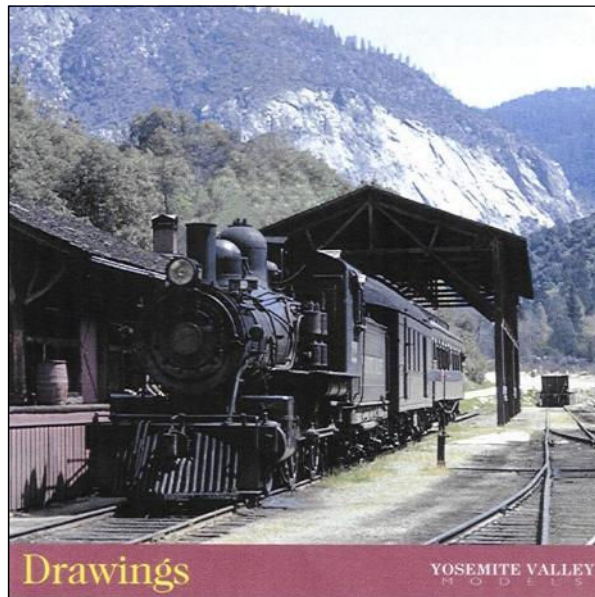
Yosemite Valley Models CD's

Back in the January-March 2005 issue of *Branch Line*, I reviewed the magnificent book *Trains to Yosemite* by Jack Burgess. Now Jack has supplemented this book with several CD's. The one reviewed here is a CD of Yosemite Valley Railroad Drawings that includes equipment and structures. All the drawings are by Jack and all exhibit his focus on authenticity and detail.

Again, this is an absolute must have item for every YV modeler; I think that goes without saying. It is also a great source of information for those modeling other short lines, to understand how things were typically done in the first half of the last century. In addition, many of these drawings could be used as is for models by those who are free lancing a railroad.

All of the drawings on this CD are in PDF format, so they are compatible with PC's and Macs. I counted drawings of 64 structures and 28 pieces of equipment. The structures ranged from outhouses and signs to water tanks and stations and there are locomotives, passenger

cars, freight cars and M of W equipment included. While many of these drawings appear in the YV book, many do not and there are added photos, information and modeling notes included on the CD. In fact the CD has everything you need to accurately model a great deal of the YV. The CD contains a whopping 367 pages of information and sells for \$18.00, including shipping.



In addition to the Equipment Drawings reviewed here, there are also YV Route Maps on a CD, a two CD set of Research Resources, caboose decals and log car decals. Locomotive and box car decals are planned for the future. You can learn more about all these products by visiting the website at www.yosemitevalleyrr.com/yosmtmdl.htm. On the site there is an easy ordering system using PayPal® or you can send your personal check

to Jack at Jack Burgess, 36129 Sandalwood Street, Newark, CA 94560 or reach him by e-mail him at jack@yosemitevalleyrr.com. International shipments require \$5 additional postage.

Silent Auction at Sacramento PCR Convention

PCR received a sizeable donation of model railroad equipment with the passing of member Keith Heinsohn. Nearly all of this equipment was purchased over the past 10 years and all is in new condition, as Keith had not yet started construction of his layout. At the PCR Convention in Sacramento we will be using a Silent Auction to dispose of a number of the items in this estate. Check the Convention Program for the time and place of this event – at this writing it will probably be in a room in the Clinic area Friday afternoon and evening.

You can help PCR with this disposition, the proceeds of which will go to PCR to help fund our Region. We will need members help in setting up, manning, closing and then settling with bidders during the convention. In addition, there are some items in the estate we plan on selling in the Coast Auction and some we believe can best be sold on e-Bay®. If you can help with any of these activities, please contact PCR Vice-president Dave Connery at: deconnery@aol.com or phone 925-735-0134. No previous experience needed.

National Garden Railway Convention

July 3—July 9, 2006

Santa Clara, California

Ever wonder about the hullabaloo over large scale the past several decades? Well, 2006 is your chance to see what it is all about. The National Garden Railway Convention will again be held in our Region (this will be the 22nd annual convention and it has been in our region four times previously). The convention will be July 3rd through 9th and will be headquartered at the Santa Clara Convention Center and attached Hyatt Regency Santa Clara Hotel (ex-Westin). On the website you will find registration material along with schedules and all the other information you may have questions about: www.bagsr.org/convention/.

National Garden Railway Conventions are not that different from PCR and NMRA conventions except the focus is on large scale and mostly outdoors. There will be seven days of layout tours with 10 to 12 different garden railways on tour each day. If you don't want to use the maps and drive

yourself, bus tours are available. Every evening there are clinics and most evenings also have a special event such as the Barbecue at San Jose Historical Park (including a trolley ride), the "Its It" Ice Cream Social and the Banquet where the guest speaker will be Jack Burgess, MMR, speaking on the Yosemite Valley Railroad. The Exhibit Hall is open Thursday and Friday evening for Convention attendees only and then on Saturday and Sunday for both the Convention folks and the general public. There are Door Prizes, a popular vote Contest and of course, lots of good fellowship.

You don't have to own a Garden Railroad to really enjoy yourself at a National Garden Railway Convention. You can register online or write to PCR member Bob Ferguson, 530 Fig Tree Lane, Martinez, CA 94553, and request a registration form.



Editor's Notebook

by Stephen Johnson

Hello and Happy New Year! I'm Stephen Johnson, your new *Branch Line* Editor. I'm a Sierra Division member, recently returned to N Scale model railroading.

I'd like to welcome those receiving *Branch Line* (BL) for the first time, our 600+ "new" members under the new NMRA "Single Dues" program. I hope you find it worth a \$6 subscription.

The bi-annual Directors Election is upon us. Please mark and mail your ballot (pg 17). These are the people who run this organization for you. If you don't know them, most are on the Callboard (pg 31). Better yet, come to a meet and ...meet. Introduce yourself and ask around. Come to another and ask some more. One more meet and you're a regular.

Time to make plans to attend the annual PCR Convention, River City Express. Read all about it, starting on pg 12. Looks like it's going to be a fun one.

For those online, the PCR site, www.pcrnmra.org, has links to Division sites, meeting notices, PDFs of the Bylaws, Manual of Operations and back issues. PCR's yahoo group, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCR-nmra/>, has lively discussion, answers to questions, event updates, links to area layouts and more. Both sites have full-color PDFs of BL with clickable links and emails. Two more fun sites: www.railroadradio.net/ has live streaming radio feeds from around the country. Ever wonder how all those steam valve-gears work? Go to www.tcsn.net/charlied/ and follow the directions.

Articles, club info, event notices and critiques can be sent via e-mail: CV12Steve@pacbell.net, or s-nail mail to 208 13th St., West Sacramento, CA 95691. Deadlines are the 12th of March, June, September and December.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Based on minutes taken by Gus Campagna November 5, 2005



President L.E. “Gene” Mayer called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM, at the Sacramento DoubleTree Hotel, site of the 2006 PCR Convention. Board members present were Vice-President Dave Connery, Treasurer Larry Altbaum, and Directors Doug Wagner (Daylight), Kermit Paul (Coast), Jesse Menefee, Jr. (Sierra), and Ron Plies (Redwood Empire). Gus Campagna acted as Secretary, absent Rich Kolm. Agenda and minutes available at www.pcrnmra.org.

President Mayer reported Director Menefee’s resignation due to ill health; a replacement will be appointed. He commented that many members are concerned about the new *Branch Line* subscription fee and the proposed budget. Vacant positions pose a serious concern, foremost are the Membership Promotion Committee Chair and Membership Department Manager.

Vice-President Connery noted that with the changes brought about by the new NMRA Regulations, effective membership recruiting at the Division and Region levels is more important than ever. A strong program of activities that retains members goes hand-in-hand with an organized effort to bring in new members. He pointed out that there are no written objectives to guide the Region. The Board agreed that specific objectives need to be developed, which Connery will work on and report at the next Board meeting.

Member Services Chair Bob Ferguson commented on NMRA’s transition to single membership. He pointed out that only the new NMRA membership form should be used. NMRA expects its membership database to be active by January 1, at which Jim Long will be the new Chair.

Convention Department Manager Dennis Stokely reported on the status of PCR conventions. Bill Swindell,

Chair of “Devil Mountain 2005” in Concord last May, submitted his final convention report. There were 280 registrations. Bob Warner, Chair of “River City Express 2006” in Sacramento next May, described the convention program. Stokely said planning for the “Suntan Special 2007” convention in Santa Cruz is well underway (Kevin Hurley is Chair). John Houlihan, Chair of “Sierra Memories 2008” in Fresno, reported they are still negotiating a hotel; a proposal will be submitted at the next meeting.

The Keith Heinsolm bequest of a collection of model railroad equipment will be inventoried and sold, possibly at the May PCR convention.

Publications Department Manager Gus Campagna introduced Stephen Johnson as the new *Branch Line* Editor. He reported that the Postal Service will increase rates in January, affecting newsletter costs. The January-March *Branch Line* will be mailed to all members in the Region, (approved by Board May, 2005). Receiving the other three issues requires a paid subscription (or life membership), or downloading from the PCR website.

John Rolston, Chair of the Special Committee on Financial Support of Division Activities, submitted his report. The Committee concluded, in part, that:

- 1) Every member within PCR should receive a quarterly Division newsletter at no additional cost.
- 2) A portion of the expected \$2 NMRA administrative subsidy be allocated to defray Divisions’ newsletter expenses.

The Committee was thanked for its work.

**PCR Board of Directors
meet two times a year,
once in the spring at the
PCR Annual Convention
and again in the fall.**

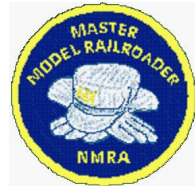
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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

by Jack Burgess, MMR, AP Department Manager

GETTING STARTED



What exactly is the Achievement Program? The NMRA website (www.nmra.org) states, "In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

"The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers."

My own definition of the Achievement Program is more concise: I see the program as a way to personally challenge a modeler to expand his/her own interests and abilities and, in the process, enjoy the hobby even more. For example, there may be areas of the hobby that sound interesting to a modeler but that also seem initially intimidating due to the lack of knowledge or experience. The Achievement Program may be the just the catalyst needed to encourage that modeler into exploring these new aspects of the hobby and, in the process, not only expanding his/her talents but discover greater enjoyment from the hobby.

There are eleven different AP categories. The requirements for each category are available from the NMRA website and reviewing the criteria for each category is a good first step. This will give you an overview of the program and the basic requirements for each certificate. Note that, although there are eleven different AP categories, a modeler must only meet the qualifications for seven certificates in order to achieve the ultimate goal of Master Model Railroader. Of the seven certificates, you must receive one from each of four areas:

Railroad Equipment

- Master Builder – Motive Power
- Master Builder – Cars

Railroad Scenery

- Master Builder – Structures
- Master Builder – Scenery
- Master Builder – Prototype Models

Railroad Construction and Operation

- Model Railroad Engineer – Civil
- Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical
- Chief Dispatcher

Service to the Hobby and NMRA Member

- Association Official
- Association Volunteer
- Model Railroad Author

If you have held an office at the National, Regional, or Divisional level, I'd first look at the requirements for Association Official; you may already qualify! If you haven't been an official but you have been a contest judge or had your layout open for organized tours during an NMRA event, check the requirements for Association Volunteer. You might find that you need only to document your past efforts to get credit for these efforts.

If you have a layout, next take a close look at the requirements for Model Engineer – Civil and Master Builder – Scenery. For example, if you are in HO scale, you need to only complete 32 square feet of scenery to meet the basic requirements for this certificate ... that is the equivalent of a 4' x 8' layout! The requirements for Civil are more varied but will be covered by many typical layouts; one of the requirements is to construct a certain amount of track, for example 50 linear feet in HO. The track must be complete with ballast, drainage facilities, roadbed profile, etc. The track must include at least six different features such as a passing track, spur, cross-over, turntable, grade change, etc. Again, many layouts will easily meet this particular requirement.

Next, I'd suggest listing those certificates for which you think that you might already partially satisfy. For each AP certificate, jot down what you have already done and what still needs to be done to satisfy the

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(Continued from page 6) Achievement Program

requirements. Maybe you already have much more than 50 feet of prefab track completed on your layout with several spurs, a couple of sidings, and a turntable. In fact, you can count five different track features on the layout and you only need one more. You realize that you have been meaning to finish that crossover to avoid backing the passenger train into the station and now realize that, if you moved it up on your “To Do” list, you’d complete this requirement for Model Engineer – Civil!

If you have entered any NMRA-judged modeling contests in the past, dig out your old score sheets. If you received at least 87½ points for a model that you built, that model will count toward Master Builder certificates.

Once you check off the requirements for a Certificate, complete the required Statement of Qualifications or SOQ for that certificate and submit it to your local AP representative or myself. **Be sure to include a photocopy of your membership card with your submittal.**

I’d then suggest making a list of what you need to do to finish up the next certificate that interests you. Use this list to prioritize your upcoming projects and before you know it, you will be completing the Statement of Qualifications or SOQ for another AP certificate.

Once a modeler has received seven certificates including at least one from each of the four general categories, they can submit an SOQ for Master Model Railroader. This is a major achievement and recognizes the comprehensive talents of the modeler.

There is no question that completing the documentation for the Achievement Program can seem intimidating to some modelers. However, the Golden Spike Program is much easier and requires demonstration of modeling skills in only three areas. The Golden Spike Program is thus a good way to get your “feet wet” with the Achievement Program and get some recognition for your modeling skills at the same time. An application for the Golden Spike Award program is included in each copy of the *Branch Line*. (Find it on pg 30. Ed)

I am happy to announce that Jack Verducci has been awarded a Golden Spike award for his garden railroad. He has also continued to document his work to date and has awarded AP certificates for Model Railroad – Civil, and for Chief Dispatcher. Seth Neumann has been awarded an AP certificate for Model Railroad – Author and Joseph Aymar has received a certificate for Master Builder – Motive Power.

Congratulations to all three of you!

Fifteen PCR modelers have achieved the goal of Master Model Railroader. In table below: (GS) — Golden Spike (d) — deceased

MASTER MODEL RAILROADERS OF THE PACIFIC COAST REGION		Railroad Equipment		Railroad Setting			Railroad Construction and Operations			Service to the Hobby		
		Master Builder Motive Power	Master Builder Cars	Master Builder Structures	Master Builder Scenery	Master Builder Prototype Models	Civil	Electrical	Chief Dispatcher	Association Official	Association Volunteer	Model Railroad Author
23	Eric Bracher	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X
39	Robert A. Silveria (d)	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	
65	James F. Tangney	X	X	X			X	X			X	X
67	Bill Kennerley	X	X	X			X		X		X	X
71	Louis Queryrel (d)	X			X		X	X	X		X	X
101	Thomas R. Knapp	X	X	X			X	X	X			X
105	Hal Riegger (d)	X			X		X	X	X		X	X
136	Jack A. Burgess		X	X	X	X	X	X				X
139	Gerald S. White	X	X	X			X	X			X	X
172	Ruediger von Prittwitz	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
207	Jim Vail (GS)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
215	Robert W. Brown	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X
253	Robert Wirthlin	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X
293	Fred Verrier (d)	X	X	X					X	X	X	X
302	Kermit Paul Jr.		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X



Coast Division Report

by Tom Crawford, Chief Clerk



Coast Division is on a tear. We are cooking. Our last meet was held on December 4th, 2005 at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View. This is a beautiful venue with lots of room. Jim Manley, one of our members and a senior docent of the Museum arranged this for us, and gave us a description of the museum. We were given a tour of the museum, and it is wonderful.

There were 125 members and friends at the meet, two who were members of Coast Division attending for the first time. We had six guests from Redwood Division, five from Sierra, and one from Daylight. We also had four guests who are not members.

We had new signage, courtesy of Dave Connery for the entrance sign, and Kermit Paul for the individual station signs. We're getting pretty fancy here, guys.

The clinics included an "Update on DCC Sound" given by Ogden Lamont, an "Animation Roundup" given by Kermit Paul and our ever popular "Model Railroading Roundtable" chaired by Jerry Littlefield.

The Rainbow Girls provided their crowd pleasing fare of polish dogs and chili for lunch.

The business meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by Superintendent John Marshall.

Bob Warner talked about the 2006 River City Express PCR Convention, May 3-6, in Sacramento. If you register before the end of January, you get a \$10 discount.

Kevin Hurley talked about the 2007 Suntan Special PCR Convention in Santa Cruz. He is signing up volunteers. If you are interested in helping, contact Kevin at 831-728-1934.

Seth Neumann reported that the Operations and Layouts Special Interest Group will meet on February 11 and 12, 2006 at the Santa Clara Depot. The SP Historical and Technical Society is planning its next meet for July 13-16, 2006. We will put a full report in the

appropriate Coast Dispatcher.

Gene Meyer, the President of PCR, discussed the issue of the doubling of our membership on January 1st, 2006. At that time all NMRA members living on our Division will become division members, without need to separately sign up. We need to bring these new members into the fold.

Bill Burket announced that he is working on the banquet, and asked how many would attend. About 35 hands hit the sky, so we took that as a positive. Bill will find a place. He is searching for a co-chair. Contact Bill if you are interested.

John Sing has done a fantastic job reviving the model contest. Read the Coast Dispatcher or go to the PCR yahoo group to get the complete picture of what he is up to. The result is that the contest was well run, with a number of great entrants. What we are shooting for is more people, not just Aces, showing off what they have. Bring your favorite model to the next meet, even just for show if you don't want to enter the contest. (For the next one, I am bringing my graffiti laden car).

This month, the theme was "favorite model", an open category. The winners of the popular vote were:

- 1st place – Mark Schutzer
- 2nd place – Tom Vanden Bosch
- 3rd place – Ken Markley

The March contest will be cabooses (cabeese?), freight cars, and maintenance of way cars.

In the photo contest, which was "Trains in Action" Brian Booth won First Place, Mark Schutzer won Second Place, and Seth Neumann won Third Place. March's theme will be Models.

Mark Schutzer has revamped the switching contest. Things work much better and cleaner now. Mark, now having lots of practice time getting the system to work beautifully, handily won the Senior Division

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(Continued from page 8) Coast Report

with a time of 3:33 for the six car problem. No, that is not a typo. It was 3:33, 27 seconds faster than Burket, who, with Crawford, was left in the dust. Steve Wosolowski won the Brakeperson Division with a time of 8:04 for the five car problem. We had two people promoted to Senior Brakeperson.

The auction was the normal lively affair, with about 350 items auctioned off. We had 17 door prizes and raffle prizes of \$25 and \$75, and a great time was had by all.

Coast Division Upcoming Events

March 5, 2006

Division Meeting

Buchser Middle School
1111 Bellomy St.
Santa Clara

The following clinics will be offered:

10 AM	DCC Roundtable (2 hour clinic) Jon Miller, Don Fiehmann, Ogden Lamont, Howard McKinney
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Noon	Business Meeting
1 PM	Auction
3:30 PM	Raffle

All day long:
Photo Contest: Model photos, (not computer altered)
Model Contest: Freight Car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way
Allen Fenton Switching Contest

June 4, 2006

Division Meeting

Bay Area Computer Museum
Hwy 101 at Shoreline Avenue
Redwood City

The following clinics will be offered:

10 AM	To be scheduled
11 AM	To be scheduled
11 AM	"Model Railroad Roundtable" Jerry Littlefield

Noon	Business Meeting
1 PM	Auction
3:30 PM	Raffle

All day long:
Photo Contest: TBD
Model Contest: Structure, Display, Self-propelled & Traction
Allen Fenton Switching Contest

(Continued from page 1) President's Message

Honolulu resident from Seattle, who dropped out of NMRA. He operates on friends' layouts in both locations, but sees no need to rejoin NMRA because there are no local activities in Hawaii. Do any of you members want to reorganize the Division? *(In some Regions clubs function as Divisions. The NMRA liability coverage and pending PCR newsletter subsidy make it worth considering. Ed)*

In my opinion, the biggest benefits of membership are attending local activities, as well as regional and national conventions. PCR will hold its 2006 convention May 3-7 in Sacramento. The program will include clinics, home layout tours, prototype tours, model and photo contests, and a train show. Descriptions of the activities and a registration form can be found in this issue.

I urge you all to attend!

(Continued from page 5) BOD Highlights

Treasurer Altbaum reported that PCR's assets remain healthy but with negative cash flow. Dues income (now discontinued) and *Branch Line* subscriptions (new) are projected to be under budget. PCR has yet to receive any allocation from National under the single dues program. The prophesy of a financially difficult FY 2005 is turning out all too true. It was decided interest earned on the 2000 NMRA Convention account be paid to the general fund. With projections for FY 2006 looking much brighter, action was deferred so the Treasurer can rework his proposal.

The Special Committee's report and Treasurer Altbaum's comments that the true benefits of membership are connecting and communicating, lead to a discussion of the importance of every member receiving Regional news at least quarterly. One proposal was to give two pages of content to each Division quarterly for its newsletter, along with first class postage. Publications Department Manager Gus Campagna was asked to propose a plan at the next Board meeting.

The Board approved joint sponsorship of the Layout Design and Operations SIGs meeting in Santa Clara, February 11-12, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

The next regular Board Meeting will be May 3rd, 2006 at 1:00 PM, at the Annual Convention in Sacramento.



Redwood Empire Division Report



by Steve Skold, Chief Clerk

RED finished the year 2005 with a meeting at the historic Donahue Depot Railroad-Ferry Museum in Tiburon. Phil Cassau gave a history of the building and tour of the upstairs, where the station master lived with his family. There are numerous pictures on the walls downstairs showing the Tiburon yard at different times and an HO scale model layout of the yard as it appeared between 1900 and 1910.

The second part of the program was Bill Kaufman's presentation on the San Francisco Belt Line RR and how he is adapting it to his new layout. He gave this at the last PCR Convention but many in the audience had not seen it. The weather in Tiburon was beautiful and there was a fantastic view of the Bay and of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 19th at the Monroe Hall on W. College Ave in Santa Rosa. Doors open at noon and the meeting starts at 1:00 PM. Bill Williams will give a show and tell clinic finishing up his

long running series on Thinking Small. After that, we will have a round table discussion on the future of the Redwood Empire Division and where members think we should go and do. Our attendance figures have been falling and we need to find out what people want and how to provide it. Our major source of funds comes from sponsoring PCR Conventions and the last one just broke even. With the addition of all the NMRA members living in our Division, we will have additional expenses. The Special Door Prize will be a one year subscription to a national model railroad magazine. We will also have a layout tour at the home of Steve Skold with his On3 Whiskeytown & Shasta and the Trinity Southern.

Future meets in 2006 include May 21st at the Napa Valley Northern Club in Napa and our annual picnic meet at the West Side Farms on August 13th. Featured will be Ron Kaiser's HO gauge Western Pacific.

For updates and schedule changes, go to Gus Campagna's website: <http://home.earthlink.net/~campgus/>.



Daylight Division Report



by Doug Wagner, Director

Due to the recent resignation of Daylight Division Superintendent Paul Deis, at the November 19th Daylight Division's Meet, in Bakersfield, Pat Boyle, of Coarsegold, volunteered (no, he wasn't railroaded!) to serve out the remainder of the term, until January, 2007. A big thank you goes out to Pat for so graciously volunteering!

As mentioned before, the November 19th Daylight meet, in Bakersfield, was well attended with 32 members showing up at the meet's host, the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society's downtown Bakersfield Clubhouse. The meet's attendees got to tour the clubhouse with two large layouts, HO and N scales, currently under construction. The GEHAM's HO layout is 30' x 100' in size and the N scale layout is 18' x 80'

in size. The clinic presented at the meet was one on making your own castings for model railroading. Two HO layouts were on the tour—one depicting the Southern Pacific's route over Dunsmuir and the other depicting the Baltimore and Ohio's operations in Pennsylvania. Another tour—not a layout, though—was a replica of a Southern Pacific agent's office built in a bedroom of a residence to depict the office of a Southern Pacific #22 standard depot. The office had artifacts from Southern Pacific to make it look just like the real deal!

The next Daylight Division meet will be in Fresno, on February 25th. Tentative schedule for the year's other Daylight meets are: Santa Barbara, May 27th; San Luis Obispo, August 26th; Merced, November 4th.



Sierra Division Report

by Dick Witzens, Superintendent



The International Model Railroad Show, cosponsored by Sierra Division in Roseville each November, appears to have been another success, though final figures are not available at this writing. Thanks to the many members who volunteered to help out. This year we didn't get enough to fill all the slots, and had to rely on other Region and even non-NMRA people to help out. We provided a new tots' wooden train layout to supplement the audience participation Timesaver layout. There were almost always several young children (and future model railroaders?) playing there and giving their parents a needed break or opportunity to see the great and highly detailed nearby S Scale layout.

The next Sierra Division meeting will be noon to 5:00 PM, Saturday, February 25th, at the South Natomas Branch Library, 2901 Truxel Rd in Sacramento. From I-5, exit El Camino east to Truxel (second traffic light) and turn left at a traffic light. It's up about ½ mile on the left. From I-80, the Truxel exit is one mile east of

the I-5 interchange. Turn South, go about ¾ mile, turn right at the traffic light. We expect to have a clinic on the R Street Corridor, by Tom Campbell. The Corridor was an industrial and business area in downtown Sacramento served by two major railroads, about a block apart. The corridor was also part of the Sacramento Valley Railroad, the first railroad west of the Mississippi River. It later became a branch of the Southern Pacific. All PCR members are invited to attend.

On April 1st, Sierra Division will have an outing to the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista Junction. Exact details and costs are being worked out. At this time, we plan on having a picnic on the grounds. Trolley cars will be available for rides. The widely acclaimed Sacramento Modular Railroaders will be putting in a guest appearance that weekend as part of the museum's special events. That Saturday will be the first day of their "Scenic Limited" train rides out onto the nearby prairie. We hope to charter our own car for 39 lucky people, at a special rate.

WELCOME ABOARD !

Say hello and extend a hand to our newest members, who joined PCR between July and November, 2005.

DAYLIGHT DIVISION

Wayne Asbury	Lompoc, CA
Robert Briney	Clovis, CA
Timothy Broadley	Ridgecrest, CA
Tommy Johnson	Sonora, CA

SIERRA DIVISION

Gregory Hamway	Gold River, CA
Peter Heindel	Carson City, NV
Victor Maiello	Roseville, CA
Robert Morrison	El Dorado Hills, CA

REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

Michael Meusen	Eureka, CA
Ernie Simard	Petaluma, CA
Robert Tupy	Crescent City, CA

COAST DIVISION

Constance Boyington	Watsonville, CA
Mary Dowling	San Jose, CA
Henry Graham	Berkeley, CA
Charles Green	Orinda, CA
Bruce Hansen	San Jose, CA
Gary Kruse	Hayward, CA
Victor Sprajc	Campbell, CA
Paul Vilandre	Belmont, CA
Keith Wandry	San Jose, CA
John Wright	Morgan Hill, CA

OUT OF REGION

Thomas Fairbairn	Pacific Palisades, CA
Ron Palmquist	Cape Elizabeth, ME

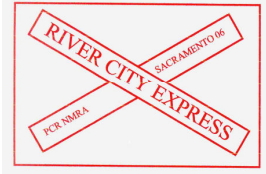
Under the new Single Dues Program, Out-of-Region members become subscribers after January 1st.



RIVER CITY EXPRESS

PCR Convention May 3-7 2006

by Bob Warner, Convention Chair



It's time to plan for a great experience in 2006, the PCR Convention. The Sierra Division is hosting **River City Express**, May 3-7. We have a great line up of tours, both prototype and layout, as well as clinics and events; all the things that you have come to expect and that make PCR conventions the fun and informative gatherings we look forward to each year. The new people you meet and the old friends you see again should make this a memorable convention.

The DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento – site of all functions and tour starts – has given us some great room rates – \$98 for up to two people and \$108 for up to four. Their website is www.doubletree/sacramento.com (use the reservations code **PCR**), or call them at 1-800-222-8733, or 916-929-8855. The hotel is located across the street from Arden Fair Mall, a large complex of shops, major stores and restaurants. A variety of fast food and elegant dining are within a short walk or drive of the hotel, which also has multiple restaurants and lounges.

Our cross-buck logo has been applied to pocketed green polos and black hats, which can be ordered with your registration. Shirt are \$22 and \$25 for XXL. Hats are \$14, one size fits all.

We are working very hard to secure some great tours. We booked an extensive tour of the California State Railroad Museum and the old Southern Pacific shops.



CSRM has redone many of their exhibits and added new ones, along with some truly life-like manikins in realistic poses. There have also been some big changes to the SP shop buildings, including a new transfer table, allowing them to move more stored equipment inside. A lot of restoration work is in progress. The docent-led tour will be very informative and give you lots of excellent opportunities for pictures.

The items in the shops as well as the buildings are of great historical significance and are not open to the general public. The tour will require extensive walking over uneven ground. We will try to make arrangements for those with special needs if you let us know in advance. Many other industrial and rail tours are being actively pursued but are sometimes hard to nail down this far in advance of the event. We are planning to tour the Sacramento Light Rail Facilities and shops, the Siemens Rail Car manufacturing facility, the Roseville UP Rail yard, along with some other museums and lumber, rock and chemical industries that are served by rail in and around Sacramento.

After the close of Early-Bird registration in January, we



The convention car is sure to be a hit. It's an HO scale WP wood refrigerator car by Accurail, representing the 775, R-30-13 cars that AC&F built for WP in 1924. Most were rebuilt in 1939 and many survived a good number of years. The cars come in three numbers, 52608, 52617 and 52623. A convention logo decal will be available, as well as a multi-number decal for those who would like a whole fleet of these fine cars. The cars sell at one for \$14 or \$12.50 for two or more. Order with your registration to insure you get the quantity you want.

(Continued on page 21)



Clinics at the River City Express 2006 PCR Convention

by John Marshall, Clinic Chair



It's mid decade and so far the clinics presented at the PCR regional conventions have been getting better and better each year. After attending last years convention I was left wondering how we would ever top it this year. Well, it has been a lot of work but **it can and will happen! You can look forward to 90 clinic sessions over four days!**

Each year there are new clinics presented at the PCR convention. There are also a lot of updated clinics too. There are some really hot topics in our hobby today. And, we are going to see them covered at the **RIVER CITY EXPRESS**. Let me give you a glimpse of what is in store for you.

Say you like Operations? Need to revise your layout to run better or more prototypical? Well, this is the convention for you! How about an all day session on Operations and Layout Design? Those inimitable Siamese twins of Operations, **Seth Neumann** and **Jim Providenza** aided by **Bill Kaufmann** will be presenting clinics and roundtable discussions on Operations and Layout Design all day Thursday, May 4th!

In to DCC or thinking about it? Well we are going to have a DCC blowout! For novices like me, we are bringing back **Mark Gurries** to assist the beginner to expert levels of DCC. If you have any questions about how to get started or move up in DCC, Mark's the guy to ask. If you have your DCC up and running but want more out of it, like sound, then **Don Fiehm** is the guy to talk to. Want even more? Then we have **Jon Miller** giving you the latest in DECODER PRO. Between these three guys, they can make a locomotive do everything but the windows or fly! The DCC sessions will be another all day affair so plan now for a blow-out Friday May 5th!

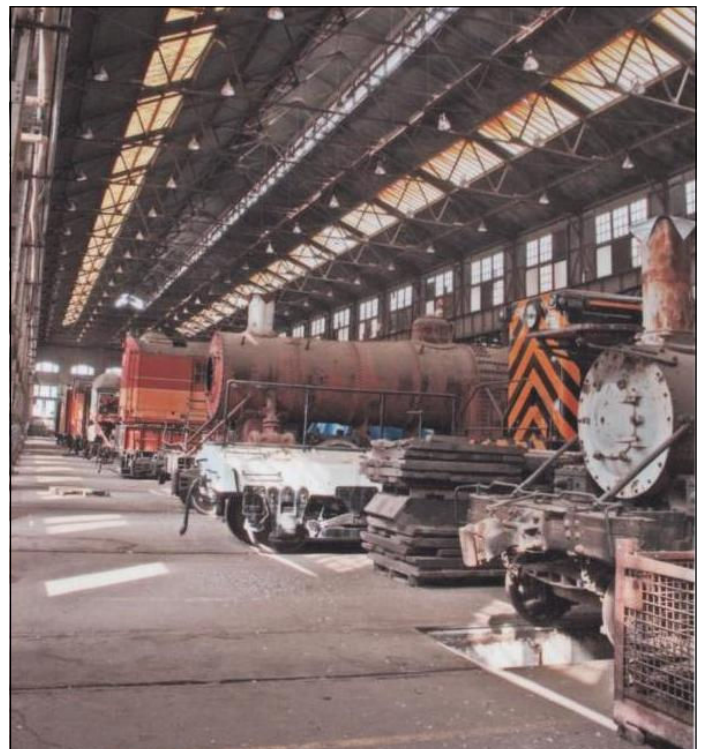
Bob Clark will give us an update on classic passenger trains. Boy, if you ever thought that passenger trains lacked operations potential, take a look at non-name train operations on the NYC! Forty eight car changes or interchanges and five motive power changes between

New York and Chicago. All this in 18 hours running, interchanges with at least 12 other non-name and named passenger changes at eight major cities. Now that's operations.

Layout space limited? Well then **Dave Clemens** or **Phil Gulley's** clinic may give you that additional piece of information or that glimmer of an idea you need to spark the start of out next major model railroad. Layout missing something? Well, have you thought about adding sound? **Jim Wells** will be there to show you how to add that missing element.

Returning again this year to his home away from home region, **Bill Schaumburg**, Editor of RMC will finally complete the construction of the Tunnel at Town Talk. Even if you are not interested in the Grand Finale of this ongoing project, Bill is a joy to listen to and a font of knowledge.

All these and many more will make this convention a real treat for the clinic-goer!



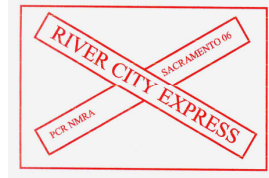
Sacramento Locomotive Works erecting shop extension, part of the Southern Pacific shops tour at the convention.



River City Express

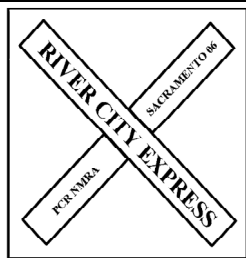
The 2006 PCR Convention

Planned Clinics



- #1 Troubleshooting and repairing brass steam locomotives – Mark Schutzer
- #2 Rebuilding Brass Steam Locomotives – Mark Schutzer
- #3 Union Pacific in a 14' x 18' bedroom – Dave Clemens
- #4 Trackwork – Doing it Right – Rich Kolm
- #5 Scratch Building Layout Sound Systems & Sound Tracks – Jim Wells
- #6 The 1950's – The last of Steam – Dave Mussatti
- #7 Revisiting Rail Fair 1999 – Dave Mussatti
- #8 Layout & Prototype Tours at the 2004 NMRA & Narrow Gage Conventions – Dave Mussatti
- #9 Logging and Sawmills: Equipment and methods 1890-1927 – Jim Zeek
- #10 DCC Basics – Systems & components available – Mark Gurries
- #11 Decoder Hardware & Installation – Mark Gurries
- #12 Decoder Software: Features and Options – Mark Gurries
- #13 DCC Wiring for your layout – Mark Gurries
- #14 “R” is for Railroad – Sacramento’s R Street Corridor – Tom Campbell
- #15 Hazardous Materials Markings 1908 to Present – Paul Deis
- #16 SP Box cars – Tony Thompson
- #17 Planning & Building for Operations and Rural Scenery – Patrick Lana
- #18 Special Trains on the Crandic Route – Patrick Lana
- #19 Decker Meat – Prototype and Modeling – Doug Harding
- #20 Meat Plant Operations & Traffic – Doug Harding
- #21 The Tunnel at Town Talk – Bill Schaumburg, RMC
- #22 TBD – Michael O’Connell, Cooch Ind.
- #23 The SP Sacramento Shops – Bob Pecotish
- #24 Light Rail in Sacramento – Greg Austin
- #25 Sacramento’s New CAF Cars- Greg Austin
- #26 Systematic Model Building – Neil Pfafman
- #27 Thinking about the BOX – Operations focused layout planning – Phil Gulley
- #28 Backdrop Painting – Darryl Huffman
- #29 Sound: The Next Step in DCC – Don Fiehmann
- #30 Decoder Pro: Programming made easy, and it’s FREE – Jon Miller
- #31 Classic Passenger Trains – Bob Clark

Plus a day of clinics and roundtables by the Layout Design and Operations SIGs



PCR/NMRA
RIVER CITY EXPRESS
Convention 2006
DoubleTree Hotel
Sacramento, Ca
May 3-7, 2006

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

RIVER CITY EXPRESS
 Ed Pultz, Registrar
 211 Cedar Lane
 Woodland, CA 95695
 E-Mail: epultz@juno.com

www.home.earthlink.net/~rivercityexpress/index.htm

Hosts: Sierra Division – Pacific Coast Region, Sacramento Modular Railroaders, Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society

REGISTRATION FORM

Please PRINT Information

Last Name		First Name *		Registration Date		Committee Use	
Address		City		State		Zip code	
Home Telephone		e-mail Address		NMRA Number		PCR Member	
						<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Registration Type (Please check one)		<input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Non Rail <input type="checkbox"/> Youth		REGION (if no)			
Interests (Check all that apply)		<input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> Other:					
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANTS LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS				(Use more forms if necessary)			
Last Name		First Name *		Registration Type		Committee Use	
				<input type="checkbox"/> MR <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Youth			
FARES: Please fill in and total			QTY	@		Total	
Regular Registration				70.00			
Early – Bird Registration (before January 31 2006)				60.00			
Spouse & Youth Registration (12-18, student; Under 12 free with parent.)				30.00			
Non-members must join NMRA. NOT required with spouse or youth fares				9.95 Rail Pass 6 mos.			
One Day Registration (Circle One) Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun				35.00			
Shirts Golf type with pocket and logo (Check Size) <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL				22.00			
Shirts Golf type with pocket and logo (Check Size) <input type="checkbox"/> XXL				25.00			
Convention Hat with logo (one size fits all)				14.00			
Convention Car – WP Wood Reefer (HO Only) for 1 <u>only</u>				14.00			
Convention Car – WP Wood Reefer (HO Only) for 2 or more				12.50 ea			
SP Loco Shops Tour Thursday LIMITED ACCESS*** incl. bus transport				20.00			
CA State Railroad Museum Tour Thursday docent led incl. bus transport				15.00			
Yolo Short Line Ride & BBQ Saturday Cab-Ride Drawing self transport				55.00			
Light Rail Shop Tour Friday incl. bus transport				15.00			
SATURDAY BANQUET Guest Speaker, Awards, Door Prizes Buffet-style				45.00			
SUNDAY BREAKFAST More Awards & Door Prizes, Buffet-style				16.00			
HOBO BREAKFAST Saturday @ Hotel, Buffet-style				16.00			
Non-Rail Orchid Tour Thursday incl. bus transport				10.00			
Payment by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check** <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card (use WEBSITE above)				TOTAL:			

* Name desired on badge

** Make check payable to "Sierra Div. PCR Conv. Comm."

*** Indicate special needs

DoubleTree Hotel \$98.00/night/room for 1 or 2 and \$108.00/night/room for 3 or 4
 2001 Point West Way Use rate code PCR
 Sacramento, Ca 95815 800-222-8733 916-929-8855

http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/private_groups/rlsadt_pcr/index.jhtml

PCR: www.pcrnmra.org

NMRA: www.nmra.org/

PCR DIRECTORS ELECTION

Jim Providenza, Ballot Committee Chair

Over the last several years I have volunteered as the PCR's Ballot Chairman. I've noticed, over that time, that only a small percentage of our region's members vote on a regular basis – on the order of 3%. That changed once when we had a contested election in Coast Division and the percentage climbed to double digits, barely! This confirmed something I have felt about voluntary organizations – people become actively involved in the organization itself only when they feel their input is needed or if they have something they feel strongly about.

I accepted this as normal and got on with business – in this case counting ballots and certifying the vote to the Board of Directors.

During the last statewide election I had an opportunity to work on a local election campaign - it was an issue I thought was important. I worked with some experienced politicians and came away with a very different perception of the right to vote. We were getting ready to walk the precincts, going door to door to hand out fliers, and the politicians were telling us how to do it. "You never walk up long driveways, it takes too much of your time. You never walk the hilly sections of town, it takes too long. Forget the apartment complexes,

experience shows renters seldom vote in local elections and we don't have time to waste..."

It was all about allocating a scarce resource –the volunteers' Saturday mornings –and getting the biggest return possible for the work they could do. But what about all those folk we weren't going to try

to contact, I thought? In some sense, we were disenfranchising them. Not that they wouldn't be able to vote, but for our purposes, their vote didn't count. It didn't feel very good to me at the time, even though I understood the rationale.

Which brings us back to the PCR and this (and future) elections. Your Division Directors are your representatives on

the governing board of our organization. They, along with the region officers – President, Vice - President, etc. –make policy and shape the direction our region goes in. The work they do represents the wishes of those who voted them into office.

No one is going to come knocking on your door... And remember:

If you don't vote, you don't count.

Only a small percentage of our region's members vote on a regular basis – on the order of 3%.

If you don't vote, you don't count.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Using the ballot on the opposite page, cast your vote for ONE (1) candidate in the Division in which you reside. If you are not sure of your Division look for your county listed under the "Write-In" lines.
- 2) Remove the ballot. It is pre-addressed to the

Ballot Chairman. Fold and secure as indicated on reverse. Stamp and mail it.

- 3) Your ballot must be received by April 22nd, 2006.

Following the Ballot are Candidate Statements.

**IF YOU DON'T VOTE
YOUR VOTE DOESN'T COUNT**



PCR DIRECTORS BALLOT
VOTE FOR ONE (1) CANDIDATE IN YOUR DIVISION ONLY
MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 22, 2006

DIVISION 3 DAYLIGHT

Doug Wagner (incumbent)

WRITE-IN _____

CA- Fresno, Kern, Kings, Monterey, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbra counties

DIVISION 4 COAST

Kermit Paul, MMR (incumbent)

WRITE-IN _____

CA- Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz counties

DIVISION 5 SIERRA

Jim Long

WRITE-IN _____

CA- Amador, Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba
NV- All **except** Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye counties

DIVISION 7 REDWOOD EMPIRE

Gus Campagna

WRITE-IN _____

CA- Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, Sonoma counties

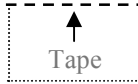
DIVISION 9 HAWAI'I
VACANT - INACTIVE

WRITE-IN _____

HI- All the area of the State of Hawai'i

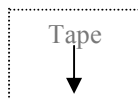
Fold on line

**16 Drakes Cove
San Rafael, CA 94903-3815**



**PCR Ballot Chairman
16 Drakes Cove
San Rafael, CA 94903-3815**

Fold on line



CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

DIVISION 3 DAYLIGHT

My name is Doug Wagner, and I'm running for the position Director for the Daylight Division. I have held the position of Daylight Director for the last two years. Most of you know me by now, but for those receiving the *Branch Line* for the first time, let me tell you a little of myself. I live in Bakersfield, and am a member of the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society, of Bakersfield. I have been an officer in the Daylight Division for the last eight years and a member of both PCR and NMRA for 15 years. With the new membership reorganization, we know there will be growing pains, but the current Board of Directors of the PCR is doing everything possible to make this transformation as smooth as possible and we always appreciate the membership's input. I would appreciate your vote! Thank you!

Doug Wagner, Daylight Director

DIVISION 4 COAST

I am the current Coast Division Director, Division Achievement Program Chairman and candidate for another term as Director representing the Coast Division on the Pacific Coast Region Board of Directors. Probably the most important current job of the PCR Board is to establish and implement policies responding to recent changes at the National Level.

We will need to find cost effective ways to communicate with our existing and newer members resulting from these national changes. If reelected, I will continue to represent your interests to the PCR Board.

Kermit Paul, MMR

DIVISION 5 SIERRA

Jim Long has previously served four years as Coast Division Superintendent and has served PCR as the past Convention Chair. In addition, he served as the Convention Chairman for the 2000 PCR Convention and has worked on several other PCR Convention committees as well as the NMRA National in 2000. Jim had an HO layout in Fremont and has plans to build a new one at his new home in Cameron Park. In addition, he is planning on building a Garden Railway in his back yard and has two sections of the On30 Yosemite Short Line.

In a word, he is deeply involved in this hobby and works hard for the good of the hobby.

Dick Witzens, Sierra Superintendent

DIVISION 7 REDWOOD EMPIRE

My name is Gus Campagna, and I am running for the position of Division Director from the Redwood Empire Division. I have served in this position before, in addition to holding all local division offices and serving as the division newsletter editor; and I was the convention chair for the 1999 PCR convention in Ukiah. I am currently the Publications Chair for the Pacific Coast Region. I model in both HO and G-scale and plan to build two new layouts when my new house in Penngrove is completed.

If elected, I will use the skills and experience that I have gained over the years to continue working for the benefit of the PCR and its members. I would appreciate your voting for me so I may have this opportunity.

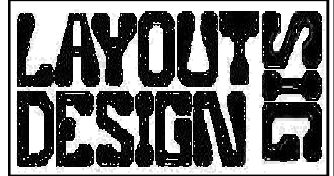
Gus Campagna

DIVISION 9 HAWAI'I VACANT — INACTIVE



Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Groups News

by Seth Neumann



This fall we've had several major operations sessions in the Coast Division, as well a couple in the foothills! I'd like to take this column to discuss upcoming events this winter and spring:

1. The annual Bay Area PCR/LD/OP SIG meet will be held at the Santa Clara Depot (SBRHS) on February 11th. Registration starts at 8:00 AM and the program starts at 9:00 AM. Donation \$5.00. Drinks and light snacks included.

There will be layout tours Saturday night and Operating Sessions Sunday. See our web site at <http://homepage.mac.com/jacobsen/LORM2006/>.

Clinics this year will include (subject to change)

- ◆ "Modeling Milk" by Ed Loizeaux
- ◆ "Designing the Station Agent into Operations" by Otis McGee, Jim Providenza and Joe Green
- ◆ "State Belt line" by Bill Kaufman
- ◆ "Adaptable Operations" by Mike Birmingham and Don Marenzi
- ◆ "Modeling an SP Branch" by Bruce Morden

In addition we will have a design challenge based on the Richmond Pacific/Parr terminal and a panel on "getting off your duff and building something"

2. The River City Express (PCR) convention May 3–7 at the Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, will feature Op Sessions as well as the traditional Thursday OP/LD track with the LD and OP SIG meetings and open discussion in the evenings. Plan to make this part of your convention experience!
3. The NMRA Independence Junction Convention, in Philadelphia, June 2–9, will feature the LD SIG tour and picnic on Wednesday and the OP SIG will sponsor Op Sessions through out the week. Sign up early to avoid disappointment!

4. A plug for the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society convention, X2006, in Oakland, July 12–16. While not strictly a design or operating event there will lots of great prototype inspiration as well as layout tours and some operations. We expect to have several great tours including historical SP equipment at the Niles Canyon Railway and CalTrain operations.

See elsewhere in this newsletter for information on the PCR and NMRA and check out the SPHTS' website for X2006: www.sphtsannualmeeting.org/.

That's all for this issue!

SIGs at the River City Express

The Operations and Layout Design Special Interest Groups (LD/OP SIGs) will have a number of clinics and activities at the River City Express PCR convention hosted in Sacramento, CA May 3–7, 2006. The OP-SIG is looking for layouts within an hour or so of the convention site (Arden Fair mall area) which can host special operating sessions during PCR convention. Interested parties should contact Kent Williams via e-mail: kent@ownry.com. Visit the convention site at www.home.earthlink.net-rivercityexpress/~rivercityexpress/.



National Model Railroad Convention

July 2 to July 9, 2006

(Continued from page 12) River City Express

will send confirmations and first calls for tour signups. Register early and be first in line for events you don't want to miss. This will contain more convention details.



John Marshall is putting together a wonderful collection of clinics. The clinics will run from noon on Wednesday to noon on Saturday. We are working hard to include new and unique topics from basic skills to advanced techniques, so that everyone will benefit.

There is fine collection of area layouts to see; most have never been on a PCR tour. Many scales and roads will give examples of both exquisitely finished and "work-in-progress" layouts. There is always something to be learned from the work of others.

The non-rail program will have craft clinics as well as some new adventures, such as talks by a Master Gardener and a trip to a local orchid enthusiast with over 1000 orchids in a backyard greenhouse. A special quilt clinic is also planned, with an excursion to local quilting stores. Card games and all forms of needle craft will keep the spouses very busy. We are also planning a fun – "what can you make with this?" contest – with only a provided box of stuff.

A special event at the Convention is a silent auction run by Coast Division members. The material is from the Heinsohn bequest to the PCR. *(See Silent Auction, pg 3. Ed)*

We will have a full array of model and photo contests. Don't be shy about entering your work; we want to

give ribbons and plaques in all categories. Start building those models and get busy with your cameras. The awards obtained can be one step toward your Master Model Railroader, or just a really fun experience. One thing that always comes out of this is a refining of your skills, while meeting modelers with similar interests.

A treat not to be missed; the traditional Hobo Breakfast is Saturday morning. The event is always a great gathering of friends. A Hobo is anyone who has attended National Conventions outside their home Region. Hoboes may also bring guests. Special prizes are handed out, and the "Official Beggar" passes through asking for spare change to

support this annual activity.

Topping off the fun will be a large Train Show, with about 10,000 square feet of space. We have invited a number of diverse, exciting modular layouts representing most scales. The vendor portion is shaping up to be a first class opportunity to see and buy the new, the old and unique, covering all areas of the hobby; locomotives, rolling stock, buildings, vehicles, figures and scenery



materials in all scales. It opens 1:00 to 4:30 PM Friday to registrants, and to the general public after 6 :00 PM.

The Saturday night Banquet will be a lot of fun, with an excellent speaker telling his experiences on the railroad, and lots of door prizes. Major Contest awards will be presented, giving everyone a chance to celebrate the fine work entered.

(Continued on page 23)



Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

A Letter to Trevor Marshall in Toronto

by Jim Provenza



Trevor,

Well, we had a rump op session on the SCN Sunday. 'Twas asked to host an open house in conjunction with the local NMRA Redwood Empire Division meet on Sunday, November 20th. Agreed on the proviso that anyone showing up would be subject to commandeering into an op session. Posted same info on my SCN Operators list and had over half a dozen regular crew agreed to show up to operate/mentor as needed. This was also a great opportunity to have an open house in the spirit of November being the time to show our hobby to the public. We had to limit it a bit as we had folks coming from the RED meet of course. So we targeted folks at my wife's workplace!

We ran only about 2½ hours, but we introduced about five people to the SCN and over half a dozen other folk to operations. After the session, 10% of the cement fleet had to go to the rip track, but that is part of the game ... wouldn't have it otherwise if it meant folks wouldn't get a chance to try out operations.

Two cement hoppers went on the ground (read cement floor) in the helix - think it was a case of the helper and head-end crews pushing and pulling out of sync. Pushed the cars over the outside edge ... One car sustained no damage whatsoever and finished its trip up the mountain! Clearly need more op sessions for them to gain more experience. Have to remind folks that the swing-helper needs to keep the slack shoved in as least 2 - 3 cars ahead.

Two cars went on the ground (again, five feet to the concrete) when a car snagged the edge of the loading bay of the bulk loader at Santa Cruz Portland Cement. I think I've trimmed back the edges of the concrete sides at least three times, but don't have it right yet. It's on the Bad Order list to fix before the next op session.

I got to pick up the work at Mac St Yard after another newbie had to leave early. Was delayed a bit by hosting duties (what's with this open house stuff anyhow?) and two trains arrived in the interim. Having worked

Mac St. yourself you can appreciate how far behind the 8-ball I ended up ... Had to hold out 1-272 (yeah, we actually ran ... er ... will run a second section of the drag!) for about a scale hour (15 actual minutes) while I cleaned things up a bit.

Seems the car cards decided we had a major flow of traffic eastbound. So much so that the DS, Dave Clemens, decided to run a second section. 1-272 set out 6 or 7 cars at the interchange at SP X-ing, came into Mac Street with about 13, and the yard en-route Stockton the WP with 20 cars. Max is 25 due to capacity. Even with the new staging tracks, it's still not enough: the told me that 2-272 looks to have 13 out of Fallon, but then we'll have to run a cab hop up over the summit to Fallon to power the train back to Mac St and off to the WP in any case. This will all happen next session - but if I don't clear out the staging track we won't have anywhere to put him!

This is one of the beauties of the car card and waybill system to my mind. To tick them off:

1. It is self-repairing. If a car gets out of order (taken to the wrong place, left behind, etc.) you only have to leave the car card with the car. It will move along as it should next session.
2. It is all front end loaded. Once you have completed the car cards and waybills your thinking and writing are essentially over. And you can spread it out. If you want to fill out all four parts of a typical four cycle waybill you can do one before each session, two at once or all four at the same time.
3. It is industry demand driven. Cars are "ordered" based on the needs of the industries on the layout as initially determined by the layout owner.
4. It is "random" within specific parameters. That is, you define the number of cars/cards the layout, and the number of times a specific industry orders an empty

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22) Santa Cruz Northern

car to load or receives a loaded car. Thus, Del Monte cannery on the SCN can take up to 7 reefers each “day” while Edwards Equipment might only see one car every other “week”. But, as you go through various sessions, car patterns evolve and traffic begins to ebb and flow across the railroad in a totally uncontrolled fashion.

Which is how we ended up with 50% more eastbound cars for the drag than we usually have! We couldn't run the second section of 272, let alone 271, the Westbound Perishable, or the return of the Cementpede or the Westbound Suntan the time we had left on Sunday. Looks like the Robin will get an op session out of this!

And one final thought: One of the neatest things of the day – one of Terri's co-workers, named Trevor no less – brought his 6 year old son Riley over to see the layout. Trevor seemed to have nothing more than a polite interest in things railroading, but he clearly understood Riley's passion. They were the first to arrive and I handed Riley the throttle for the Westbound Perishable and acted as his pilot over the railroad. He was ecstatic – his face glowed. He did a good job of controlling the train and following the speed limit. As an aside, contrary to popular wisdom this type of care is something I find to be the case almost universally with kids I have run trains on the SCN. After Riley brought the Perishable to a stop in Santa Cruz staging he watched as other trains got running as the session began to pick up speed. It wasn't too long before Riley was bugging his dad to get to run another train.

Trevor was trying to explain to Riley that other people needed their turn and Riley was a bit put out and trying to be good about it. I checked with Dr. Ed Merrin, who was running the E. Rica Local and he agreed to work as conductor with Riley as his engineer. Riley jumped right in with a big grin on his face again. I didn't keep track, but I think they were at it for over an hour! Riley was clearly engaged, asking pertinent questions about the why and how of things as they switched out the industries. Now that is what it is all about!

We'll chat about the progress on the 1:20.3 SR&RL for the backyard next time.

Take care,
Jim

(Continued from page 21) River City Express

The Annual Business Meeting follows Sunday morning breakfast. There are a number of important issues to vote on, so your attendance is very necessary. We will also be giving the rest of the Contest awards and have many more door prizes.

We will provide maps to the self-guided layout tours, local hobby stores, the UP yard in Roseville, the replica turntable in Folsom and other rail-related sites, as well as a variety of local eating places.

So come and join the fun with friends old and new, at the 2006 River City Express in Sacramento. Remember, the sign-up for extra fare tours will be mailed first to Early Bird registrants. – Don't be left out of a tour (many have limited tickets). Get your money in now and enjoy the fine convention that we have planned for you in Sacramento. A lot of good people are working hard to make sure that this convention is one to remember.

If you or someone you know lives in the greater Sacramento area and would like to have their layout on tour for the convention, contact Bob Warner as soon as possible at 916-772-7502 or bwarnel@softcom.net.

Elsie Group News

Our yearly **Big Fun Weekend** occurs in the Left Coast Mecca for Honky Tonkin' Crude Oil Drillin' and Swillin' Cowpoke Capital of the Gol-Durn Wurd, Bakersfield, CA., January 14–15 The Kern County Model RR show brings Elsies from Far and Wide for some pure unadulterated Train FUN! We eat a whole lot too! We journey long and far to Bakersfield, ancestral home of one of Elsie's Spiritual. Leaders, Al Sandrini. We gather to take turns at the Cash Register to pay some 'tribute' to the West Coast HOn30 'temple' Al runs, B&F Hobby Shop, www.bnfhobby.com. With the Train and Trooper 'Temple' in far away Maine, it is one of two gathering places where the mystic mutterings of HOn30 are spoken freely and with exuberance and reverence, where HOn30 items are available on the shelves. Doubtless other Modular Clans will be coming to the Fairgrounds, 1142 S. P St, to play with their trains and some kids & ride big ones outside. All this plus Vendor tables, Door Prizes, even a Raffle for a 4' x 8' train layout, for a mere \$6 per adult, 12 and under free. Sponsored by the Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society of Bakersfield, at www.gehams.com.

WRITTEN IN THE PCR

Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" Series

Review by Dave Connery

While Arcadia Publishing is actually located in North Carolina, they have one of their four Regional offices in San Francisco. The company publishes miniature history books of very local interest and they publish a lot of them, there are over 2000 titles in this series so far, with new ones being released every week. These books all follow a very set format. Each is 128 pages long, each includes about 236 photos, each is 6 1/2" x 9 1/4" and each sells for \$19.99. The books have very little text, except for a brief introduction and the well written and comprehensive captions – the photos tell the story. The printing is crisp and the photos are full of easy to see detail.

The two books I read that I am basing my review on are *Niles Canyon Railways* by Henry Luna and the Pacific Locomotive Association and *Railways of San Francisco* by Paul C. Trimble. Both of these books are in the sub-category of "Images of Rail" and in checking the Arcadia Publishing web site I found there are 49 books in this series but when I did a search on railroads I found 75 from around the country. Most of the books are about small towns or local areas of larger cities. Again, by checking the Arcadia web site I counted 163 books about locations within the Pacific Coast Region. There may well be one about your home town.

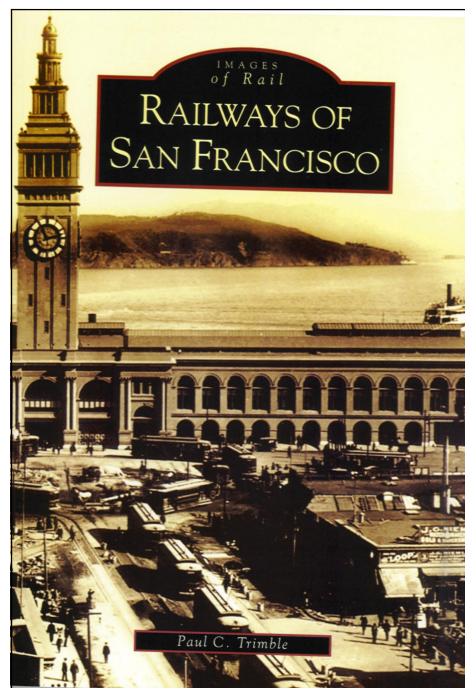
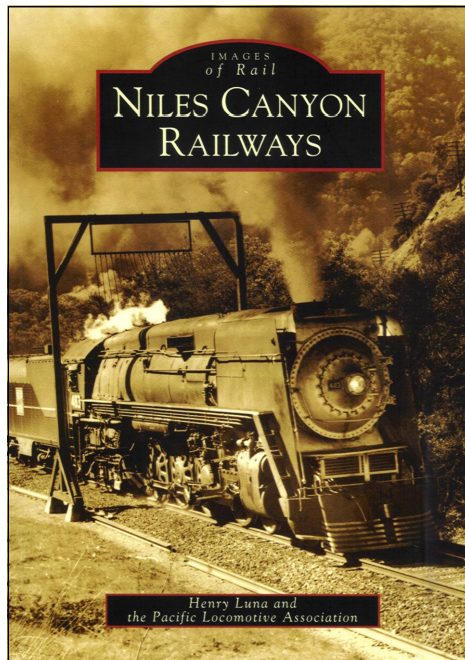
I greatly enjoyed seeing historical photos of Niles Canyon throughout its use by railroads, since I only live

a few miles from the Canyon, am a nonparticipating member of PLA and regularly travel through the canyon.

I learned a lot about what once was and found the history of the PLA more fascinating than I had expected. The Railways of San Francisco was both a disappointment and a delight. The disappointing part was that there was only one photo of a steam locomotive on the State Belt Railroad, all the rest of the photos were of street cars and trolleys. The delight was all the historic detail in the background of nearly every photo.

The great value to us as modelers is the many images of historic settings. In scanning the list of towns included in this series I could easily imagine a prototypically correct model layout setting being built based on structures and scenes available in these books. They don't include equipment data, maps of rail locations, dates pertinent to a particular railroad, antidotes of rail workers, operations details or any of the things we expect in today's state of the art railroad books. But, they are like sitting down with your grandparent and having them describe in detail how things were when they were kids.

You can probably find some of these books about your own area in the Local Interest section of nearby book stores. For a complete listing of the books available go the



Arcadia Publishing web site:
www.arcadiapublishing.com/.



Member Aid

What Does It Mean For Me?

by Rod Smith, Member Aid Chair



I'd like to introduce you to the Member Aid function within the Pacific Coast Region. First though, I should introduce myself. My name is Rod Smith, and I am a member of the Coast Division. I joined NMRA and PCR in 1956, so I guess I am a dinosaur, but my long membership has allowed me to meet an awful lot of fine modelers, and I can't think of anything I've done in model railroading which has given me more pleasure. Most of my close friends are people I've met through this hobby, and I treasure their tolerance of me.

Now, about the Member Aid program: It is a benefit to which each member is entitled. You can seek answers to your questions about this great hobby. You can also volunteer, and become a resource to others. Bob Pethoud is the Daylight Division Member Aid Chair. If you are uncertain who you should contact, give me a buzz, or contact the Superintendent of your Division. Many years ago, a legend in the PCR headed up this committee. He was Paul Shimada, and he held many offices in the PCR as well as the NMRA National. He tirelessly promoted the hobby, and especially encouraged modelers to become active in the organization. After he passed away, it seems the Member Aid committee faded in organization, but the interest of members in helping others continues to this day. That's what Member Aid is all about – helping others. You can avail yourself of the services of this committee by email or snail mail. If you use snail mail, a self addresses stamped envelope is appreciated, as there is no budget for incidentals. My addresses are at the end of this article.

Member Aid is made available to you through the efforts of volunteers. It may take a while to answer your questions. We may have to do some research, or locate an appropriate volunteer to handle it. Volunteers also have jobs and responsibilities beyond this hobby, but don't despair; we will get to you with an answer. I am fortunate in having many knowledgeable friends who have volunteered to help with this committee, and I may refer your questions to some of them where I know they have expertise in the area you asked about.

My first bit of Member Aid to you is about how to get the most out of your membership in the Pacific Coast Region. **Get involved with your Division!** Attend its meetings and activities. Go to the clinics which are held, even though you may think the subject matter is not your current interest. But, and it's a big but, don't just attend and take a seat in the back, listen, and go home. You have to get involved and meet the folks. Now, I know it is the organization's responsibility to make you feel welcome and draw you into the group. But, have you ever attended a new church, or gone to a service organization lunch meeting? Remember how the folks there gathered in their groups of folks they knew, and didn't seem to recognize the new guy? Well, model railroading can be similar to those groups. Most of us are somewhat shy, and we aren't the best ambassadors for the hobby. It's not that we want to exclude you. We'd always be happy to make a new friend who shares our hobby. Perhaps we don't recognize you as new. Most Divisions don't make first timers wear a special badge or some such other way of conveying that status. Remember, we are all seeing folks we only see at the meetings, and those meetings are all too short to get up to date on each other's activities since we last saw them. But, if we don't invite you into our conversations, it's not because we want to exclude you. Join right in. Tell us your name, and what your interests are. No doubt someone at the meeting shares your interest, and we can introduce you. The Coast Division, for instance, has a modeler's roundtable at each meet where anyone can bring up a topic for discussion. Why not ask "I'm new here, and does anyone know where I can learn about the (insert a subject)?" I think you'll find model railroaders are the friendliest and most helpful people there are. Give it a try, you'll like it.

If you have a question, please contact me at:

Rod Smith
40330 Monte Ct.
Fremont, CA 94538-2832
(510) 657-3362
E-mail: RailGeezer@aol.com



Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

Gus, Ron, Mike, Alan, Don and Wes' Big Adventure



by Ron Plies (aka Nor Cal Ron aka Rusty Ron), Club President

On October 4,th 2005, the Eel River Valley Model Railroaders set up a section of their layout at the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society Convention in San Diego. The story begins the year before, after the last convention in Tempe, AZ. I received a call from the president of the SPH&TS asking the question, "What would it take for your group, the

private plane and actually found the right airport), Mike Bording from Tucson, AZ, (former PCR member and NMRA life member), Alan Borchardt, and Wes Fulton, we had the layout off-loaded and in place before dinner. With our fearless leader Ed Zakareckis, who was in charge of the vendors' room, and his friend Lee, our group ventured down to the waterfront in San Diego using the San Diego Trolley. We were joined by Dave Berriman from Eureka. We had a great sea food dinner, some good fellowship and for a plus, the Trolley let us out right in front of the old Santa Fe Depot. Before getting back on the Trolley we walked through the old depot and enjoyed its beauty.



The whole gang at the SPH&TS convention. L to r: Wes Fulton, Ron Plies, Mike Bording, Don Nelson, Allen Borchardt, and Gus Campagna. At right, Wes is standing behind the layout.

ERVMRR, to bring the modules to San Diego?" Before I could say anything the president said, "I will make you a deal you cannot turn down", and he did.

Next, we move to the morning of October 3rd, 2005, leaving Fortuna before sunrise. Please understand how improbable this was, as I am not a morning person. I picked up Gus Campagna in Petaluma. In our Budget Rental truck we started down I-5, that great scenic highway known for its beauty. We drove down to Hwy 58 and turned east. Those who know that area know "The Loop" cannot be passed by, so we drove to Tehachapi for the night. With the dawn of a new day, and the promise of seeing some trains and a visit to the Original Whistle Stop in Pasadena, we set out with great expectations. After leaving a charitable contribution at the Whistle Stop we headed south to San Diego, getting there around 2:30 PM. With the help of other members from our club, Don Nelson, (who flew down in his

Wednesday morning we started setting up and had everything running by noon. One soldered joint had come loose, and I remembered the bump



on I-5 where it occurred. Don, Allen, and Wes were able to find the problem and had it fixed in no-time. Considering we traveled literally from one end of the state to the other, over 900 miles, we came out very well, I think. As the conventioners arrived at the hotel we were able to show them what the NWP looked like around 1950 in miniature. We featured Fortuna, Fernbridge, Alton and Shively, and the hills between, along with the Port Costa module. That evening we

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(Continued from page 26) Big Adventure

were invited to the La Mesa Club at Balboa Park, along with the other people who were attending the convention. We also had the privilege of having the other clubs in the museum open to us for viewing. These were the San Diego HO club, the O Scale club and the N Scale club that has a beautiful model of the San Diego Depot.



1950's view of Fernbridge with train # 3 the Redwood arriving and the Humboldt Creamery Association in the background, all by Bruce Palmer.

Many members were given the opportunity to operate on the Tehachapi Loop layout of the La Mesa club. It operates on real time from Mojave to Bakersfield, no fast clock, so you get an idea how large this layout is. With the NCE DCC system, the engineer walks with his train and the only orders are to follow the signals and do what they are showing. The loop is in and is operating, making for a very interesting layout. When in San Diego this is a must see.

Thursday was a day to run trains, talk with fellow model railroaders and SP fans sharing information and ideas, and take in the great clinics like the one by Tony Thompson. That evening was spent doing layout tours.

Friday came with the 2nd crew, Alan, Don and Wes, taking over the duties of running the trains so the 1st crew –Gus, Mike and Ron –could take in the clinics and take another ride on the San Diego Trolley. Along with Paul Chandler, a friend from Tucson, AZ, we found our way out to Reed's Hobby Shop in La Mesa and again made some charitable contributions. We got to see the trolley system during the day and found it to be a great way to get around the area. That night we were able to take in a number of great clinics.

Saturday came and it was time to break down the layout

after a morning of running. We had it down and loaded up by 4 PM so we could get ready for the banquet that night. There were over 250 in attendance, with a group from the Bay Area to promote the next year's SPH&TS convention. Now tell me if this does not sound like a PCR event: The chairman is Otis McGee, with Ray deBlick, Kermit Paul, and Tony Thompson. The convention will be in Oakland, July 12th through the 16th. So if you are looking for something to do and are a fan of the SP, you might like to keep these dates open and be a part of this convention. The ERVMRR layout was honored at the banquet, receiving first place in the display category.

Sunday came as another "morning person only" day as we were on the road by 6 AM. We stopped a few hours later and displayed at the Western Prototype Modelers meeting in La Habra in Southern California. With just over an hour to set up, Gus and Ron were able to put together a switching layout made up of Port Costa, Fortuna and one of the hill sections. There was a very impressive display of models at the meeting, at least double over last year. John Sing has some nice photos on the PCR list. If you access the PCR list archives you will be able to view them. We were on the road by 5 PM, with dinner in Pasadena, and spent the night in Kettleman City, way out there on good old I-5. Monday we finished the trip with Ron leaving Gus off at Petaluma and traveling the Redwood Highway the rest of the way home.



Ron's Port Costa module at the Western Prototype Modelers meet.

We did indeed have a big adventure that everyone enjoyed, and hope we can do something like this again,

If you would like to know more about the Eel River Valley Model Railroaders, please visit our website at www.eelrivervalleyrr.org.

Club Info

ALAMEDA COUNTY CENTRAL RAILROAD SOCIETY

ACCRS is located at the Alameda Co. Fair Grounds, Pleasanton. A 30 by 100 foot room has O and HO layouts. Open to the public every Friday, 6 to 10 PM, they operate continuously during county fairs and special events. Annual dues: \$24, \$15 initiation fee; Jr membership for ages 12 to 18 (with sponsor), free.

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

ANTIOCH MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The Black Diamond Lines is an HO club located at 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch. Scenery is 95% complete and there is a lot of operating action. In 2006 we celebrate our 25th year of operation (anniversary cars available). We meet Tues. and Fri., 7:30 to 10:00 PM. Runs are the 3rd Fri. of the month.

Contact: President Tom Lutrel, 925-609-7093
Web: www.blackdiamondlines.org

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 Z MODULE COOPERATIVE

BAZ is a group in the SF Bay Area interested in developing and displaying Z scale modules. Members are building them to the "Z-Bend Track" Module miniModuleZ specs Anyone in Northern California interested in Z Scale railroading is welcome to join us. We meet Sundays 10 AM to 5 PM at members houses

Contact: Robert Ray pray59@sbcglobal.net
Yahoo group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BAZ_modules

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL MODEL RAILROAD 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

Formerly the Vallejo Model Railroad Club, we moved from the Solano Co. Fairgrounds, and are developing a track plan to fit our 36' x 60' room, located on the 2nd floor of the Odd Fellows (IOOF) Lodge, 645 Loring Ave. We are deciding if we will model a prototype or freelance road. We meet Wed., 7:00 to 10:00 PM.

Contact: 510-787-6703 (recorder)
Mail: P.O. Box 4057, Vallejo, CA 94590-0405
E-mail: LoggingRR@aol.com or LambertRP61@comcast.net
Place "Carquinez Model RR Society" in subject line.
Web: www.CarquinezMRS.org

COASTAL VALLEY LINES

The CVL is an informal association of novice to advanced model railroaders who live in Sonoma County. We meet at 7:00 PM the 1st Thu. of the month. We operate our HO modular railroad at local public shows.

Contact: Brad Squires, 707-568-4298 or Don Hanesworth, 707-823-9615 Web: <http://home.pacbell.net/jrolston/>

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: Ron Plies, 707-725-9063 Mail: P.O. Box 950, Fortuna, CA 95540

ELSIE

The Left Coast (Elsie) HO30 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, 661-322-7955; John Spelce in Martinez, 925-228-3279; or Ken Lunders in Cupertino, 408-777-9572.

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 E-mail: carldw@aol.com
GEHAMS web: www.gehams.com

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM/EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

Located at 900-A Dornan Dr. in Miller-Knox Regional Park at Point Richmond. Meetings and behind the scenes tours Fri., 7:30 to 10 PM, and Wed., noon to 4 PM (when we typically work on the layouts). New members welcomed in all our scales, O, HO and N, including narrow gauge and traction. Contact: 510-234-4884 or 510-758-6228 (to 8 PM)

For info or to schedule special shows, E-mail: John Edginton, EBMES Pres, jedginton@edg-law.com
Web: 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 the 1st Sat of the month, 7:30 PM. Contact: David Berriman P.O. Box 915, Arcata, CA 95518 707-825-7689

MOTHER LODGE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The MLMR meets Wed, 7:00 PM in the old historic primary school building in Sutter Creek. Additional meetings normally

Continued next page

held 9:00 AM Sat. We are a fully DCC modular HO club.
Contact: Joe Stafford, 209-245-5016

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 offline connections to Stockton and Portland, has 700 feet of mainline, 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: NapaJohn@napanet.net Web: www.nvmrc.org

Nn3 ALLIANCE

Our 700 members in nine countries model narrow gauge in "smaller scales". Nn3 describes 3', 3'6", and meter gauges, modeled in N or 2MM Scales. Our local portable exhibition layouts and modules regularly appear at conventions and shows. The Nn3 Handbook, 140 pages with 400 illustrations, covering all aspects of small scale narrow gauge, is available through the address on the web site. Official mailing address:

The Nn3 Alliance, PO Box 6652, Chesterfield, MO 63006

Web: www.Nn3.org <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nn3/>

SACRAMENTO MODEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established in 1948, the SMRHS is located at 1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento. Modeled as the Sierra Central RR, both HO and HO_{N3} layouts. HO layout is being rebuilt to depict SP/WP prototype. Open Wed. and Fri. nights, 7:30 PM.

Contact: 916-927-3618 E-mail: 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: Dick Witzens, 916-684-1987

Web: <http://saccentral.railfan.net/>

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 member's 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 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: Pat LaTorres, 510-276-3121

E-mail: duhnerd@pacbell.net

SAN LUIS OBISPO MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

SLOMRC members are actively engaged in HO, N, and G scales. Work & run sessions on our N-scale layout most Saturdays. With a nearly 4000 scale ft class yard and 3 scale miles of run, we are actively seeking new members to run with us! Evening meetings on the 2nd Tue. of every month.

Web: www.trainweb.org/slomrc/index.html

E-mail: slomrc@kingdomhobbies.com

E-mailing list: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SLOMRC>

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

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. 7:00 to 10:00 PM or Sat. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Contact: 408-243-3969

SOUTH COAST SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

We meet every 3rd Tues. at 7:30 PM, and other times. The club has no address, but consists of enthusiasts of all scales and prototypes in the Santa Barbara area, and has a collection of railroad books and videos for loan to members. Activities includes operations and work sessions at member layouts, and field trips. Membership is \$2 per month.

Contact: Secretary Walter Naumann, 805-564-1359

E-mail: WNaumann@aol.com

TRI-CITIES MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The TCMRC meets in the restored Niles Depot at 36997 Mission Blvd., Fremont. The club has both N and HO layouts. Work nights are Fri., business meetings the 1st Tues. and operating sessions the 1st and 3rd Sun. of the month

Contact: Stanley Keiser, 510-791-1504

Web: <http://nilesdepot.railfan.net/>

WALNUT CREEK MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY

The WCMRS, located at 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, is open the last Fri. of the month from 8 to 10 PM for operations. Fares are \$1 for 6-12 and seniors over 60 and \$2 for adults.

Membership is always open to interested HO modelers.

Contact: 925-937-1888 (recorder) Web: www.wcmrs.org

If you would like your club listed, send a brief description and contact information to CV12Steve@pacbell.net or mail to Editor, 208 13th St, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

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The Golden Spike Award

The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA member who does not hold MMR status. It will be administered by the Regional and Divisional Achievement Program Chairman under the direction of the National Achievement Program Chairman. AP regulations and definitions apply for scratch built and super detailed. To qualify for the award the member must complete the following checklist, obtain the signature of the Divisional AP Chairman, or another NMRA member designated by the Divisional AP Chairman. The Divisional AP Chairman will submit the signed form to the Regional AP Chairman who will issue the Golden Spike Award Certificate.

Qualifications for the Golden Spike Award

1. Rolling stock (Motive power and cars)
 - _____ Display six (6) units of rolling stock (Scratch built, craftsman, or detailed commercial kits).
2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures and Scenery)
 - _____ Construct a minimum eight (8) square feet of layout.
 - _____ Construct five (5) structures (Scratch built, craftsman or detailed commercial kits). If a module has less than five structures, additional ones separate from the scene may be used.
3. Engineering (Civil and Electrical)
 - _____ Three (3) types of trackage required (turnout, crossing, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used.
 - _____ All installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously. (Double-track main, single-track main with sidings, and block or command control).
 - _____ Provide one additional electrical feature such as powered turnouts, signaling, turnout indication lighted buildings, etc.

Member _____ NMRA# _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Scale _____ Type of Pike _____

Verification by _____ NMRA# _____

PCR CALLBOARD

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• President	L.E. "Gene" Mayer	(916) 359-6934	GeneFWRR@aol.com
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• Director, Coast Division	Kermit Paul, MMR	(925) 935-1859	(no e-mail)
• Director, Sierra Division	(vacant)	<i>Jesse Menefee, Jr. resigned 11/05/05</i>	
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• Director, Hawai'ian Division	(vacant)	<i>Hawai'ian Division is not active</i>	
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• 2007 Santa Cruz	Kevin Hurley	(831) 728-1934	KMHurley01@pcrmra.org
• 2008 Fresno	John Houlihan	(559) 435-0874	John@irishtracklayer.com

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• Division Contest Chairs:			
• Daylight Division	Bill Scott	(559) 298-7715	vallyflyer@aol.com
• Coast Division	John Sign	(650) 373-0765	SingJ@us.ibm.com
• Sierra Division	Norman Morris	(530) 742-6930	NormMorris@sbcglobal.net
• Redwood Empire Division	Steve Skold	(707) 539-1782	SandCSkold@aol.com
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• Photo Contest Chair	(vacant)	---	---

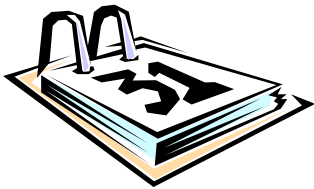
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• Sierra Division	Dave Bayless	(530) 887-8880	---
• Redwood Empire Division	Harold Mentzer	(707) 226-5153	HSMentzer@aol.com

NON-RAIL ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

• Manager	Mary Moore-Campagna	(530) 426-9055	MaryCMoore@campagna.com
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BRANCH LINE
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553



Calendar

January 14-15...**Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society**, model train show in Bakersfield

February 2- 4...**O Scale West meet** in Santa Clara
www.oscalewest.com

February 11-12...**Bay Area PCR-LD/OP SIGs meet**, at the Santa Clara depot

February 19...**RED meet** at Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa

February 25...**Sierra meet** at South Natomas Branch Library

February 25...**Daylight meet** in Fresno

February 15-26...**Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum**, model train show

March 5...**Coast meet** at Buchser Middle School

March 11...**Winterail 2006**, Stockton

April 1...**Sierra outing** to the Western Railway Museum, Rio Vista

May 3-7...**River City Express PCR Convention**, Sacramento

May 3...**Board of Directors meeting** at RCE Convention

May 21...**RED meet** at the Napa Valley Northern Club

May 27...**Daylight meet** in Santa Barbara

June 4...**Coast meet** at Bay Area Computer Museum,

Redwood City

July 2-9...**Independence Junction NMRA National Convention**, Philadelphia, PA

July 3-9...**National Garden Railway Convention**, Santa Clara Convention Center

July 12-16...**SP Historical & Technical Society Convention** Oakland

August 13...**RED annual picnic meet** at West Side Farms

August 26...**Daylight outing** in San Luis Obispo

November 4...**Daylight meet** in Merced

Gus Campagna is trying to keep an updated calendar at <http://home.earthlink.net/~campgus/#projects>. E-mail any regional, divisional, or other interesting events.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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Inquiries regarding membership application, renewal or change of address should be directed to: National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga TN 37421-2119.