



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

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SISKIYOU SUMMIT 2012 THE JOINT PNR/PCR CONVENTION!

By Jim Providenza and Ed Liesse



Jim and Ed's Convention Checklist:

- 1- Mark your calendar for May 2 – 5, 2012 in beautiful Medford, Oregon (*You have already done that, right?*)
- 2- Register for Siskiyou Summit 2012 on the web site at www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/registration.html
- 3- Register for your stay at the Red Lion Hotel Medford at www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/hotel.html
- 4- Keep working on that model / go take that picture you want to enter in one of the many contest categories – Giuseppe Aymar (PCR) and John DeSteeze (PNR) are already working out the details, contact them with questions at www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/committee.html
- 5- Keep working on that model you want to bring to have judged for the Achievement Program – if you have questions contact AP Chairs Jack Burgess (PCR) or Jack Hamilton (PNR) at www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/committee.html
- 6- Prepare / update the clinic you hope to give and contact our clinic co-chairs, Doug Auburg (PNR) or Dave Falkenberg (PCR) via the committee page at www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/committee/html
- 7- Check back on the website (again, and again) to see what additional events and activities have been added to the convention schedule! Website updates are summarized on the “NEWS & UPDATES” page at www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012.news/html

Hmmm, it does seem like the convention website is the place to go, doesn't it?

So what is on tap at Siskiyou Summit? Due to the travel time involved for members of both regions, several activities have been moved from their “usual” day/time slots so that more members can attend them. And because this is a joint convention, several things, such as AP judging and the number and type of contests will be handled a little different than you might be used to. Our goal is to include everything everyone is used to and expects to be part of “their” regional convention, even if it is in a slightly different format.

Contents	
Siskiyou Summit Convention	1
Call Board (PCR BOD)	2
President's Message	3
Call Board (Depts.)	4
V.P.'s Message	5
Call Board (Divisions)	6
Achievement Program	7
Board Meeting Highlights	8
Contest	9
Calendar	10
It's All Trains to Me	10
Dues Increase	13
Answers are Out There	13
PS Form 3526	14
LD / OP SIG Venue	15
Mystery Photographer	15
Judges Wanted	16
Candidate Statements	17
Ballot	19
Tales of the SCN	21
Travelin' 'Round	22
PCR SIG Report	24
In Memorium	25
New Members	25
Coast Report	26
Daylight Report	29
RED Report	31
Sierra Report	32
Siskiyou Summit Reg. form	33
Club Info	34

Continued on Page 2

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Siskiyou Summit (Cont.)

With these things in mind, the day by day schedule looks like this so far:

Wednesday morning sees the official start of the convention with the PNR and PCR Board meetings, and the Sidetracks program starting at 8 a.m. Registration will open at 9 and the contest room will open at 10. Clinics will start after lunch. The day will wrap up with an ice cream social and an operating session hosted by the Rogue Valley MRC located at Medford Railroad Park.

On **Thursday** we are in full swing with registration, clinics, and the Sidetrack program all starting at 8 a.m. The contest room opens at 9. Thursday we will also have the bus tours to Train Mountain. Clinics will continue all day and into the evening with the traditional lunch and dinner breaks. Thursday's clinics will include the now traditional LDSIG / OPSIG clinic tracks concluding with the evening LDSIG / OPSIG Forum.

Friday – PCR and PNR Annual Business Meetings will start at 7:30 in the morning. Sidetracks programs will start when needed. Registration and the Contest Room are scheduled to open at 10 with clinics starting at 11. The clinic program will continue into the evening along with more operating sessions.

Saturday starts with... The Hobo Breakfast at 6:30 a.m.! Registration, Sidetracks programs, and clinics kick off at 8 a.m. The contest judging will also take place Saturday morning. Clinics continue until late afternoon. As a special event the Medford Railroad Park (www.soc-nrhs.org/medfordrrpark.htm) will be open in the afternoon to convention attendees only. The official convention program will conclude with a banquet starting at 6 p.m.

The Sidetracks plans are coming together nicely. Co-chairs Nancy Stokley and Suzy Madsen look forward to seeing all the friends they have made over the years and making new ones. Tours so far include the Harry and David Factory and Butte Creek Mill, other local options for short trips, like to the towns of Jamestown and Ashland are some of the possibilities they are working on at this time. Sidetracks will have its own space for quilting, crocheting, puzzles, talking, classes and visiting.

We will be adding more to the convention program as activities and events solidify – what was that convention web address again? Oh yeah: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/

See you in Medford in about 6 months!

Ed Liesse, PNR Co-Chair, Jim Providenza, PCR Co-Chair

**Go to the convention web
site today and register to
take advantage of the
bargain registration fee of
only \$55.00!**

<http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/>

**The Branch Line
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Pat LaTorres, PCR President

Well folks, I'm back for some more thoughts about the PCR and where we might be going (and not a thing about "hand baskets"). First off, since this issue of the Branch Line is a ballot issue and is going to every member of the PCR, even if you don't regularly subscribe. I'll take this opportunity to say hello. If, for whatever



reason you might have chosen not to subscribe to the hard-copy version of this magazine, please be aware that it is also available online via the PCR website (www.pcrnmra.org) for free and all of the photos are actually in color. Also, please note that there is a PCR Yahoo! Group, which is also free and fairly easy to subscribe to from the Yahoo! website. This group gives you the opportunity to touch base with many of the region's members, throughout all of our divisions. This is a great way to touch base when looking for roommates at

various railroad and model railroad events (such as the upcoming PNR/PCR convention in Medford, Oregon this coming May), or to get answers to any model or prototype railroad questions you might have.

It's been a good summer and fall for model railroading. Personally, I had the opportunity to travel out of my home division to make two meets in the Daylight Division, one in Fresno and a second down in Oceano (just south of Pismo Beach). The second meet was in conjunction with the Central Coast Railroad Festival and gave me an opportunity to run some live steam on Paul Deis' garden railroad, in Paso Robles (I NEVER miss a chance to get steamed up). Since I haven't made any meets in the Daylight Division for a few years, this will fill in a gap or two. As I've mentioned in the past, and will do so again, it really is worthwhile to travel to a meet or two out of your home division. I try to make at least one or two a year. Each division puts on a different style of meet, with a wide variety of activities.

In addition to these two PCR related events, I also had the opportunity to attend the National Summer Steam Up (for small scale live steam) up in McClellan the week after X2011 West, the annual Ardenwood Railroad Festival in Newark, CA, a number of activities for the Bay Area Garden Railway Society (BAGRS), a few open house runs at the San Leandro Historical Railway Society, a set up for the Yosemite Short Line (YSL) modular group at the Great Train Expo, in Richmond, CA., and I put in a day working the NMRA membership table at the International Railfair in Roseville. The point being, that there are all kinds of opportunities open to us, to enjoy and to share our love of trains (both full size and scale models) and our hobby. At each of these activities we have a chance to let people know about the NMRA and to help and encourage their growth in the hobby. It never fails to amaze me at the number of folks that have no idea that we even exist, much less know about the resource that we can be in their model railroading experience. If each of us could bring even one new member into the NMRA and the PCR each year, we would double the size of our membership overnight. Even bringing in one new member every two years would be a huge increase. Each of you has a reason why you joined the NMRA, when was the last time that you spoke with another model railroader about why you are involved? It only takes a moment when you're in conversation with someone to drop a line about us. If there's something here that attracts you, then it would probably be attractive to someone else as well.

Continued on Page 4

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President (Continued)

The PCR Board of Directors held their mid-year meeting this past October at Tom Crawford's house (since most of us didn't want to travel all the way to Medford for this meeting). And I feel that your BoD managed to actually get quite a bit done. If not finished, we at least managed to identify areas where things need to be worked on. On this subject, I'll bring up a quick two areas of concern for me. <mailto:duhnerd@pacbell.net> The first job opening which will need to be addressed in the next year and a half will be the position of Convention Manager for the region. Dennis Stokely has been handling this job for several years (as long as I can remember), but is hoping to retire from his day job soon and he and Nancy may be looking to move outside our region. As of right now, while coordinating conventions out a bit farther, it appears that the 2013 PCR convention – to be held in the San Ramon/Dublin area – may be his last in this position. If you possess skills in coordinating events and think you would be interested in this position, please contact me at duhnerd@pacbell.net and we'll see what can be done. My preference would be for you to have some time working with Dennis in a transition mode, so you can get a feel for what is involved. The second position that we're looking to fill is that of Hobo In Charge for the PCR. With the passing of Dwayne Coates a few months ago, there will be a need for someone to step in and try and fill his shoes. For those that are not aware of the Hobos, this is a group of PCR members that have attended at least one NMRA national convention outside our home region. The person stepping into this job would coordinate the Hobo Breakfast, which is held in conjunction with the annual PCR regional convention each year (usually on Saturday morning) and perhaps coordinate a Hobo Breakfast for PCR members when we are traveling farther afield to NMRA nationals around the country. Again, if you think you might be interested, please give me a shout.

Speaking of conventions, if you have not yet registered for the Siskiyou Summit, our 2012 regional convention, being held in conjunction with our PNR neighbors to the north, NOW is the time to take care of that oversight. This is looking to be a great convention and the committee has really been putting their best foot forward on this one. There will be a full program of clinics, contests and tours, so it will again be a matter of finding enough time to enjoy all of the activities they have planned for us. Please see the convention article on page 1 of this issue of the *Branch Line*, as well as the link from the PCR website for more information. As I mentioned, the 2013 PCR convention is set for the Dublin/San Ramon area of eastern Alameda County, in our Coast Division. And going a bit farther out, the 2014 PCR convention is planned for the Daylight Division, in the San Luis Obispo/Santa Maria area. More on this as things move forward.

Finally, you will find your ballots for the Divisional Directors in this issue and I would ask that you please take the time to vote for your division's director. Please, ONLY vote for the director nominee(s) from your division! Even if there is only one nominee for the position, the ballots returned help us get a feel for how many members are actually watching what's going on. If you are bothered by there only being one nominee for the director position in your division, please keep that in mind in two years when the positions come up for selection again – we would love to have you step in to provide a second nominee. These folks are what makes the region work. I would love to see

Continued on Page 5

Continued on Page 5

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Continued on Page 6

Jan-Mar 2012

President (Continued)

new blood come onto the board, because new ideas are always needed to keep things fresh and alive. On this same subject, one other item the regional BoD is considering bringing before the membership will be a change in the election process. Right now all of the directors are elected in the even numbered years and the President and Vice President are selected in the odd number years. We will be considering having two of the "mainland" division directors changed to odd number year elections (along with the President and V.P.

There will be more on this going forward, so please keep your eyes on the Branch Line.

Until next time, take care and keep the trains running

From the Fireman's Seat

By Ed Merrin, PCR Vice-president



I did it! I changed the picture on this column at last. Thanks and much gratitude to my new iPhone, which makes snapping self-portraits a breeze.

Now to get down to some business.

As you know, I'm fixated on this age-of-our-membership issue. I brought it up at the Board meeting, and I have had discussions with people since then as well. Not everyone sees eye-to-eye on this.

My concern is for the future of NMRA. Without NMRA we would still be battling over which manufacturers' equipment can coexist with each other. Track would be different from layout to layout. We would never have been able to run our decoders on someone's layout with a different DCC system (and thanks to Mr. Lenz for that as well). And who knows what issues will come up in the future that will require some sort of standardization. To me, this is the core of NMRA, although others may have a different perspective. If we have essentially a geriatric organization of old-timers this may all wither away. I believe that we need a steady "input" of younger members with energy and passion that we all cool off on as we age to prevent this.

There is another point of view that I have heard a lot about. Yes, we need new members, but the "target" group is not young people but recent empty nesters who are either retired or planning for it. The story here is that young people, very young, get interested in trains as children, then lose interest or get pulled away by other life events, family, career, and so on. But they always have trains in the back of their minds and when they finally get the time they want to become active again. These people, not the young ones, should be the target of our recruitment.

This is a reasonable sounding theory, but that's all it is. There is no information to back this up as we speak. In fact, I have been impressed that some of the people explaining this to me do not fit that profile – they have been NMRA members much of their lives.

So let's try to get some information.

Continued on Page 6

Branch Line

5

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National provides us with spreadsheets, one of which is roster data for our Region, organized by Division. It has our names and so on, and has columns for birthday and the year we joined the NMRA. I thought this was a place to start. We can see how old we are, and how old we are when we join.

Alas, the data is imperfect. Only about half of us have the date of birth available, and I wonder how accurate those are. For example, my good friend Gus Campagna, according to the data, was born in 1935! Many well known modelers in PCR are amongst those without birthday information. I cheated and filled mine in, since it was blank. The year we joined is even worse. Many of the dates were clearly screwed up, including dates in the future, some in 2012, some even in 2015! Somebody imported something wrong. Fortunately, the bad dates ran in streaks, so I was able to identify them and not use them. But that only left about a third of the members.

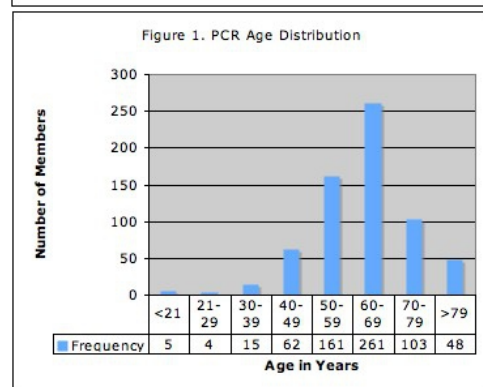
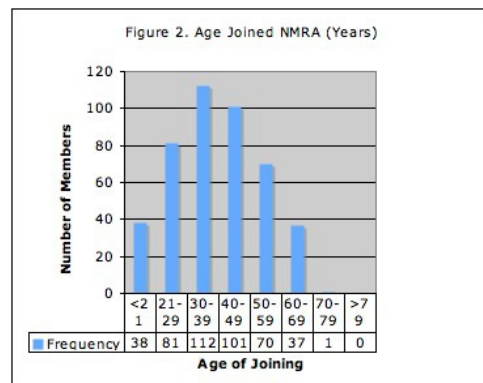
Okay, I went ahead and did what I could do, and rather than use words, here's a couple of pictures.

From Figure 1, it's obvious that we have very few PCR members under fifty years old. If we had the data from say ten years ago we could see if it looks the same (which would support the notion that middle aged modelers are the source of new members) or whether the earlier curve is shifted to the left, which would be consistent with our membership getting older and older with time.

From Figure 2 we can see that most people have joined before they are fifty, and about a quarter of us before the age of thirty.

So I hope I've stimulated some thought and perhaps some controversy. For myself, I would have to say that the numbers are more consistent with my theory than with theory number two, but I wouldn't say the matter is settled.

On a lighter note, before closing I'd like to post a progress report picture of ye old Willits Roundhouse. Still needs windows, a back door, roof vents, little details here and there, and some weathering, but here it is. 'Till next time.



Continued on Page 7

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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Jack Burgess, MMR
January - March 2012



In previous issues of the *Branch Line*, we have discussed the various certificates which can be awarded under the NMRA Achievement Program. In this issue, I want to instead discuss the goal of the program which is qualification as a Master Model Railroader. This honor is bestowed after a modeler has met the qualifications for a minimum of seven certificates out of the total of eleven AP certificates. Of the seven certificates, you must have received 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

As can be recognized by this requirement, the goal of the AP program is to encourage modelers to become proficient in many different areas. You must be able to prove (through the awarding of various AP certificates) that you have the ability to build quality scale models, scenery and/or structures and construct, wire, or operate a layout as well as provide service to the hobby.

I have always been an advocate for the AP program because it challenges you to improve your skills and, in the process, get more out of the hobby. Maybe there is an aspect of the hobby that you just don't enjoy, such as electrical wiring of a layout. You can still participate in the hobby. However, if electrical work is a challenge that you want to master, you can use the AP program as a way of confronting that possible lack of knowledge and learning more about it. In the process, you can both improve your skills and complete the requirements for an AP certificate.

I am pleased to announce the following Certificate of Achievement awards since the last issue of the *Branchline*:

- Pat LaTorres - Association Volunteer
- John Houlihan - Association Official
- Terry Taylor - Association Volunteer
- Terry Taylor - Model Railroad Author
- Dave Croshere - Chief Dispatcher
- Brewster Bird - Association Official

Continued on Page 8

Continued on Page 8

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Hawaiian Division

(Hawaiian Division offices and positions are currently vacant)

Achievement Program (Cont.)

- Brewster Bird - Association Volunteer
- Robert Schott - Association Volunteer
- Robert Randall - Association Volunteer
- Dennis Drury - Model Railroad Author

Congratulations to each one of you!

If you are interested in the AP Program or Golden Spike Program, contact me for more details. My phone number, address, and e-mail address are listed in the Call Board.

PACIFIC COAST REGION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

October 29, 2011 Board Meeting Highlights

by Tom Crawford, PCR Secretary

The PCR Board of Directors met at 1 PM Saturday, October 29, 2011 at Tom Crawford's House, 4337 La Cosa Ave, Fremont.

We are facing budget issues with the Branch Line. It costs us about \$9/year to send out the Branch Line but we only charge \$6. We will be looking into raising the rates, but rather than hit people with a \$3 jump, we will look into raising it \$1 per year in each of 3 years. No specific action was taken.

Larry Altbaum will be retiring as Treasurer after 21 years and we will be looking at finding a replacement.

Bill Scott will be stepping down as the PCR's award acquisition person, so we will need to find a replacement.

Audit Committee Chair Dennis Stokely noted that he will be stepping down after the 2013 convention. We will do an audit in 2012.

Tom Crawford now has two laptops that PCR acquired for conventions a few years back. He will assess their viability and potential saleability.

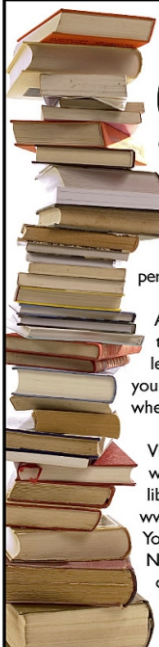
We had a minor problem where 128 out of region Branch Line subscribers didn't get their Branch Line for roughly a year. We will inform NMRA to extend their subscriptions for an additional year.

Registration for the 2012 joint convention in Medford is going slower than anticipated, so they are stepping up efforts. We are still working out problems with the difference between PCR and PNR on contests, so we decided to sponsor any categories which PNR does not want to do, providing the trophies at our own expense, and sharing expenses with PNR on those categories they do support.

Dennis Stokely presented a proposal for the 2013 convention in Dublin which the Board approved.

We are looking for a new Hobo In Charge since Jim Long physically can not do it.

Continued on Page 9




**Check out
6,000 train books.**

Or 100,000 train photos. Or 50,000 train magazines. In fact, there are a lot of things you should be checking out at the National Model Railroad Association's Kalmbach Memorial Library. You'll find everything from prototype railroad periodicals to vintage model kit instructions.

As an NMRA member, you have easy access to everything – it's all just a phone call, letter, or email away. Our staff will even help you do research about virtually any train topic, whether it's model or prototype.

Visit one of the world's largest train libraries at www.nmra.org. You'll find that the NMRA has a lot to offer modelers.



We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org
4 2 3 - 8 9 2 - 2 8 4 6

Check it all out!

Board Meeting (Cont.)

The Bylaws committee will look into ways to change the Director's terms to provide better continuity.

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at the Red Lion Hotel in Medford, OR.

(Editor's note: The full minutes of the Board meeting can be accessed at the PCR web site.)

Contest at Siskiyou Summit 2012

by Giuseppe Aymar, PCR Contest Chariman

Winter Equinox is around the corner [As this was being written. Ed.]; just a few more nights and the longest night of the year will be upon us. Consequently we will witness the shortest day of the year. From then onward we will be adding a minute each twenty four hours toward daylight, leading us to that more than spectacular day of days: the opening of our mutual Convention with PNR: the fabulous **Siskiyou Summit 2012 Regional Convention**. Fabulous indeed, as the host Committee chaired by Jim Providenza and Ed Liesse will unleash a program you absolutely cannot miss. As part of the festivities, the Contest promises to deliver an exciting array of models; given that both PCR and PNR will have entries, we should witness not only a larger output of models, but also a more diversified array of modeling types as it follows the diverse nature of the regions.

The fact that now you are adding a minute a day it should come as no surprise that you will have more time to devote to modeling, does it not make sense? With that in mind it is imperative you make up your mind right now, that you will enter a model or two in the contest. With all the categories available, it is likely you should come home with a trophy. Remember that entering a model in the contest is a fun experience and it really is the crowning point of attending a convention. It moves you from being a spectator to being a participant: this becomes YOUR convention, the stage where you can show your stuff.

How about that train you like so much but only you get to look at? Enter it in the "favorite train" category.

That building or that loco or car that you like so much but worry that it will not score very high in the contest? You can still enter it under the "popular vote." Let your peers attending the convention decide if it merits an award, instead of the judges.

Additionally you can enter models as "non-judged," just like we do at the Divisional "Show and Tell," just so that others can have the privilege to see what you have been up to.

What if the model is in progress? Bring it anyway, and place it as "non judged." The idea here is to let you share your beautiful models with the rest of us.

Continued on Page 10

PCR Membership Gauge

March 1, 2011—1,116
 April 1, 2011—1,127
 May 1, 2011—1,147
 June 1, 2011—1,152
 July 1, 2011—1,173
 August 1, 2011—1,369
 September 1, 2011—1,372
 October 1, 2011—1,173
 November 1, 2011—1,348
 December 1, 2011—1,339

Calendar

January 27 to 29, 2012 - Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sponsored by Pacific Coast Region-NMRA, Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Groups. Friday: Welcome dinner at Fiorillo's Restaurant, 638 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, followed by layout tours. Saturday: 8:30 am to 10:00 pm - clinics and panel discussions, layout design consultations, "Birds of a Feather," followed by layout tours. Mountain View Community Center (in Rengstorff Park), 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mt. View. Sunday: Operations sessions (newcomers and out-of-towners encouraged), layout tours.

February 9-11, 2012 - 8:00 am to 11:00 pm - O Scale West 2012, Hyatt Regency, 5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA.

February 25, 2012 - 9:30 am to 6:00 pm - Daylight Division Winter Meet, Sequoia Council BSA Office, 230 NW 3rd Ave., Visalia, CA. Clinics, model and photo contests, business meeting, White Elephant auction, door prizes, layout tours.

February 25, 2012 - Redwood Empire Division Winter Meet, Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society, Napa Valley Exposition, 575 Third Street, Napa, CA.

Continued on Page 11

Contest (Cont.)

As you yourself know, we are always eager to see what other modelers are doing. That is why we attend open houses on layout tours. And from that we learn new techniques, unorthodox ideas, diversified ways of tackling a problem. Models displayed in the contest room serve the same purpose. They allow others to see new techniques, experience a facet of the hobby they might not have thought to be in their grasp, learn new techniques, etc, etc.

And this brings us to a serious point: When you step into the contest room, please do not be intimidated by thinking these models are out of your league. Enjoy looking at the work of your fellow modelers, seek out the modeler and ask questions. I can assure you that the modeler will be very pleased and eager to share information with you.

Personally I remember the late Dennis Hill, Superintendent of the 4th division in PNR, always coming to seek me out and asking me a ton of questions about my models. What a gratifying moment that was. Dennis passed away last spring, and I will miss his friendship and enthusiasm. Without my models entered in the contest year after year I would not have had the chance of meeting Dennis. So long my friend.

You see, [the] contest can be an avenue for making new friends, and creating enthusiasm for both the participant as well as the observer. Let go of any established notions about fear of being judged, of thinking that maybe your model is not as good as others. Excuse me, who cares! We are all here to have a good time and we want to share that good time with others. If that good time comes about through our models in the contest, all the better. Bring your models, share them with all of us, let's come together as a group of friends who enjoy each other's company and respect each other's work.

Do not become hung up on points and winning. Let us make this a "celebration of modeling," regardless of the final score. Bring those models to Siskiyou Summit 2012. Burn up my lap top from all those entries that need to be tabulated. Would that not be a gas?

IT'S ALL TRAINS TO ME

by Pat LaTorres, PCR President

This past year and especially last summer was a very busy time, where train related activities were involved. With the beginning of a new year and some six months removed from this past summer, I can take a look back and put things in some sort of perspective. To put things in order, July started out with the Toy Collectors of America (TCA) having a meet in the main hall of the Sacramento Convention Center over the first weekend of the month. This meet lead directly into X2011 West, the 2011 NMRA national convention – which actually got underway the preceding Friday with the Advance Section, down in the S.F. Bay Area. Coming right out of this convention was the West Coast Garden Railway meet, put on by the Bay Area Garden railway Society (BAGRS) with some help from the garden railway folks from the Sacramento Valley and the Redwood Empire. And, to put a nice exclamation point on the first two weeks of the month, things wrapped

Continued on Page 11

Calendar (Cont.)

March 10 & 11, 2012 - Sat: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sun: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society's Annual Model Train Show, Horace Massey Building, Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 S. P Street, Bakersfield, CA. Admission is \$7.00 for adults, kids 12 and under admitted free, when accompanied by a paying adult. Admission is good for both days. Approximately 100 vendor tables with model train supplies for sale and thousands of square feet of operating model trains on display. Train rides for railfans of all ages (\$2.00 additional charge) Contact info: (661) 331-6695; email: carldw@aol.com

April 9 & 10, 2012 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (Sun. to 4:00 pm) - Spring Model Train Show, West Park, 491 West "D" Street, Tehachapi, CA. Come see operating train layouts in large scale, Lionel O gauge, N and HO modules. FREE! Raffle tickets will be sold for 5'x10' HO layout complete with track, train, power pack and scenery.

May 2 - 5, 2012 - Siskiyou Summit 2012 Joint PNR / PCR Convention, Red Lion Hotel Medford, 200 N. Riverside Ave., Medford, OR.

May 19, 2012, noon to 5:00 pm - Redwood Empire Division Spring Meet, Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave., Santa Rosa, CA.

Continued on Page 12

Jan-Mar 2012

All Trains (Cont.)

up with the National Small Scale Summer Steam Up (small scale compared to the more common live steam scale, but "large scale" to those of us that model in O scale and smaller). As you can see, we in the PCR had the opportunity for all of the model railroading that one could ask for. The common thread running through all of this though was, *it's all about trains*.

That's what I want to address in this article. We in the Pacific Coast Region are blessed with a situation that doesn't exist in many other parts of the country, or throughout the NMRA – an over abundance of what are commonly called "Rubber Gaugers, though are more correctly "Rubber Scalers". It is wonderful to look around and see how many modelers there are in the PCR that work in multiple scales. We have some folks that work in Nn3, HOn30 and 1:20.3; others that work in HO, HOn3 and 1:20.3; or HO and 1:29; HO, On30 and 1:20.3; and on, and on. There are some that are fine scale modelers in one scale and then collect and operate tin-plate "toy" trains in another scale (usually O, or S scale). But, the key with all of this is that these folks are all enjoying trains. Some of them even do some work in 12"=1' scale, as in full size trains. What makes this special to me is that these folks, through their involvement in the PCR show us what the true potential of the NMRA can be.

In many parts of the country, if someone works in one of the garden railway scales (1:20.3, 1:22, 1:24, 1:29, 1:32, or 7/8"), they are not considered "Model Railroaders." I've never been able to figure out why some members of the NMRA would even think of telling another train enthusiast, "we don't consider you part of our community." The fact is, the NMRA has been hurting for members for close on to twenty years, if not longer. Yet we have the "National Conventions" for N scale, O scale, Garden Railways, Narrow Gauge, Prototype Modelers and who knows what other groups – not to mention the many railway historical societies. One of the goals of the X2011 West committee when we first met to start planning that convention, was to have an all inclusive model railroad convention. No, we didn't manage to include all of the branches of the hobby that we wanted to, but we hope that we planted a few seeds in fertile soil.

The next step that needs to be taken is to reach out to those that aren't involved in the hobby, or maybe just the social side of the hobby. One of the potential strengths of the NMRA is the opportunity for community and fellowship with other folks that enjoy trains. When Steam In The Garden magazine was reborn after the death of its publisher, Ron Brown, the new editor, Dave Cole put a challenge out to the readers. He asked their readers to take a pledge to bring at least one new person into the hobby of small scale live steam over the next twelve months. I would have to ask, how many PCR members have brought even one new person into ANY aspect of the model railroad hobby, much less into the NMRA itself over the last five years? I know that it may not seem like much, but if each of us managed to bring just one new member into the PCR/NMRA even every two years we would probably have more members than we would know what to do with.

What? You say, "we don't have anything to offer these new members." Well, we all have the opportunity to help put something out there. Bennet Woll took the time to invite folks into his home for a mini Coast Division meet and everyone had a grand time. Unfortunately Bennet is no longer with us in person, but he can still be here in spirit if folks decide to

Continued on Page 12

Branch Line

11

Calendar (Cont.)

July 29 - August 4, 2012 - Grand Rails 2012, NMRA National Convention and National Train Show, Grand Rapids, MI.

September 12 - 15, 2012 - Seattle 2012, 32nd National Narrow Gauge Convention, Meydenbauer Center, 11100 NE 6th St, Bellevue, WA 98004.

June 6 - 9, 2013 - Rails Along the Rio Grande 2013, Rocky Mountain Region Convention, Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, Albuquerque, NM. Info: Al Hovey, RARG 2013 Chairman, alhovey@comcast.net

July 14 - 20, 2013 - Peachtree Express 2013 NMRA National Convention and National Train Show, Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, GA

August 28 - 31, 2013 - 33rd National Narrow Gauge Convention, Hilton Hotel, Pasadena, CA

July 13 - 20, 2014 - NMRA 2014 National Convention and National Train Show, Cleveland, OH
September 3 - 6, 2014 - 34th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Kansas City, MO.

2015 - 35th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Houston, TX

July 2015 - NMRA 2015 National Convention and National Train Show, Portland, OR

All Trains (Cont.)

continue his concept. Maybe someone could organize a pot-luck type pic-nic in Niles Canyon and spend a weekend day or holiday enjoying the Niles Canyon Railway. Some friends of mine used to get together every 4th of July out at Castro Point in just this manner. Maybe a get together at the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista Jct., or a weekend gathering at the WP Railroad Museum in Portola under the auspices of one of the PCR divisions. A railfan photography trip up the Feather River Canyon (or over Donner, out to the Mojave Desert, up the "High Line, etc.), is a great way to spend a few days with friends – as has been written in these pages. Or a day trip by train to the California Railway Museum. In this case folks could travel on a Capital Corridor from the Bay area and another group could ride the San Joaquin up from the Bakersfield or Fresno area to meet them. The key here again is, "it's all trains to me."

Just because someone is primarily interested in Lionel or American Flyer tin-plate, they may still enjoy sharing time with other train enthusiasts looking at the real thing. They may even enjoy playing trains (yes, I know, I said "playing") during an operating session on a model railroad. Even though they may not be interested in building great train models themselves, we can still share with them our joy in building something like a structure for their railroad, or scenery techniques that they can use. Just because someone models the Southern Pacific in Dunsmuir in 1955, they may enjoy having the opportunity to run a small scale live steam locomotive and getting an opportunity to see what's involved with running a "real" steam engine. Even though someone models heavy mainline diesel operations, you might find that they would enjoy learning a bit about narrow gauge logging operations – or the other way around.

While many of us might make light hearted comments about other types of model railroading – he's narrow minded, he models those Horribly Oversized trains, why would anyone want to model those boring diesels, etc. – the fact is, we all have a common thread -- A love of trains. It's amazing watching the eyes of young people, both teenagers and those even younger, both boys and girls when they see trains running. This is true both on a scened model railroad and on a "plywood central" steaming loop. This is where we have the opportunity to invite someone new into our hobby. We need to take the time to reach out to the kids, of whatever age and invite them into our community. If we want to grow our hobby, we need to show that we have a "product" worth investing time, energy and yes, even money into. If you want to keep your closed little group of friends, in a closed little world, fine. But the next time you complain about the shrinking size of the hobby, look closely in the mirror. On the other hand, I want to keep reaching out to folks that either know little about the hobby, or know little about what we in the PCR have to offer them in the way of friendship, whatever scale or form their involvement in the hobby takes. The next time you find yourself talking to a non NMRA member about trains, take the time to invite them to a divisional meet (even offer to pick up any donation cost, if there is one), or a regional convention. Let them see what the NMRA as we live it here in the PCR has to offer. If we have a good "product" we should get it out there for everyone to hear about. And I for one will keep in mind, "It's all trains to me!"

The Answers Are Out There

By Robert Pethoud, Daylight Division Member Aid Chairman

[Editor's Note: These articles were originally published in the Daylight Observation over the past 4 years or so. Bob has agreed to have them republished in the Branch Line so that all PCR members can enjoy them.]

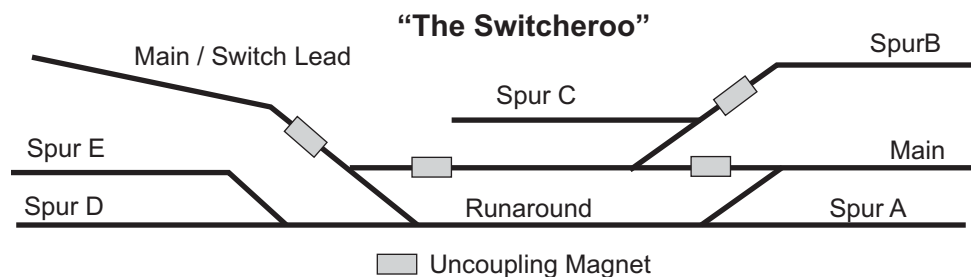
Information from Gerry Leone, NMRA Communications Director concerning dues increase:

In order to ensure the financial well-being of the NMRA into the future, there will be a dues increase on January 1, 2012 for U.S. members and oversees members served by the Chattanooga office. Regular memberships will increase by \$5 to \$44, and subscriptions to *NMRA Magazine* will increase by \$3 to \$22. Sustaining memberships (including the magazine) will increase by \$13 to \$110, and student memberships (including the magazine) will increase by \$4 to \$32. In addition, our highly successful *RailPass* trial membership program will continue at \$9.95. The current *RailPass* conversion rate to regular memberships is around 65%. Memberships administered by the A, B, and C offices are not affected.

I suppose it's an addiction, really: I can't look at a vacant store, bedroom, garage, or even tool shed without thinking about how to fit a model railroad into it. In my hands, napkins, backs of envelopes, and whole reams of paper just naturally fill with hieroglyphs representing miniature transportation empires.

The good news is that the addiction is cheap, requiring only the regular infusion of paper products and occasional inspirational glimpses of prototype track arrangements. The bad news is that there is an unavoidable urge to build some of these paper empires, and that can get expensive.

In the next several columns I propose to discuss some of the strategies, techniques, and rules of thumb that I use in my track planning.



The first (and perhaps most important) point I want to make about track planning is that it is not necessary to fill a warehouse in order to build a worthwhile model railroad. The illustration above shows the track arrangement of a portable HO layout I built decades ago and which I still use and enjoy. It measures 11" by 96" when set up, but it folds up to 11" x 48" x 4" to carry in any car and has a footprint of just 4" by 11" when stored on end in my closet.

Long-time NMRA members will recognize the plan as an expanded version of one that appeared in the *Bulletin* some years back ("Which Switch Is Which?" by Hale Hammer with photos by Jack Burgess, December, 1974, pp. 56-57). That simple plan includes all of the basic features needed for making pickups and setouts at industries by the local or way freight: facing point and trailing point spurs, switchback, and runaround.

In the original plan the spurs and access tracks were very short, turning every switching assignment into a puzzle requiring many moves. For example, the tail of the runaround (east end of the main) held one car or one loco, but not both at once, and the tail of the switchback (spur B) held at most two cars. My contribution was to lengthen all of the spurs, the runaround, and the runaround tail (one loco + one car). I also decided to add one more spur (E), since there was plenty of room for it. This makes most switching tasks fairly straightforward, but I've found that the inherent challenge of picking up from a facing point spur is quite enough for most operators. And by lengthening the spurs, there are now two or more spotting locations on each. This adds interest and difficulty because now one must often pick up or set

out a car behind another one which must remain or be respotted. Further, if one feels the need for more challenge, one can simply add more cars, use some longer cars, or fire up a cab forward as the switching engine.

This little layout has introduced countless people of all ages to the intricacies and pleasures of way freight operation. Included among them have been some serious model builders who thought actually running the trains was beneath them. It only took a few minutes for them to become enlightened: "I had no idea there was so much thinking involved in switching a few cars!"

Given that the track plan results in a small railroad that is easy to build and fun to operate, does it actually resemble any prototype? You may be surprised to find that it does. Southern Pacific's (yeah, I know, UP now) tracks in Chowchilla and the Butcher Town spurs in Modesto (both circa 1970s) are two nearby examples of remarkably similar track arrangements. If you've been inspired by this little railroad and would like to know what else can be done in a small space, check out <http://carendt.us/>, Carl Arendt's website featuring Micro Layouts for Model Railroads.

In future columns we will look at goals and guidelines and the design process, including some lesser-known techniques and gimmicks. Until next time, you may reach me with comments and questions at pethoud@comcast.net.

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Venue Announced for Bay Area PCR/LD/OP SIG Meet

by Seth Neumann

The Pacific Coast Region-NMRA, Layout Design SIG and Operations SIG will hold another joint San Francisco Bay Area Regional Meet in the Southeast Bay Area (about 45 minutes south of San Francisco) Friday, January 27, through Sunday, January 29, 2012.

A terrific three-day program is being planned for your model railroading enjoyment. The agenda for the weekend includes kick-off dinner (no-host), clinics, operations discussions, track planning workshops, and visits to local layouts on Friday and Saturday evenings. There will also be operating sessions at several nearby layouts on Sunday, along with additional layout tours. Don't be surprised if someone puts a throttle in your hand!

The Saturday Clinic and Panel program will be held at the Mountain View Community Center at 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040 from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Clinicians include authors Tony Thompson, Dennis Drury, Don Marenzi, Dave Clemens and Jim Providenza.

The meet and all three days of layout tours are open to all. If you can't join us for the entire meet, at least come out and enjoy some truly wonderful layouts all three evenings. Layout tour information will be published on the website as the event draws closer.

See our website: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sigs> and pre-register or go directly to the sign up form at <http://fs10.formsite.com/grenida/form2/index.html>.

[For more detail see Seth's article on page 24. Ed.]

Thousands of negatives still need



your positive support.

So do the thousands of plans, photos, and slides from our Kalmbach Memorial Library that we're working to digitize so that members can access them from their own computer. The good news is that the scanning is well underway. The better news is that our image library is even larger than we thought!

Which is why we still need your help. The more funds we receive, the more images we can make available.

If you haven't contributed to the Diamond Club, do it now:

Silver Level – Contribute \$75 and receive a silver 75th Anniversary commemorative pin and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.



Gold Level – Contribute \$750 and receive a gold 75th Anniversary pin, a golf shirt with the Anniversary logo, and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.

Diamond Level – Contribute \$7,500 and receive a diamond-and-gold Anniversary pin, a golf shirt and sweater with the Anniversary logo and your embroidered name, a print of the NMRA's 75th Anniversary commemorative painting, and have your name and photo printed in *NMRA Magazine*.

Make a contribution that will make a difference for decades. Visit www.nmra.org/diamondclub or call HQ at 423-892-2846 to contribute.



Mystery Photographer

by Steve Skold

Here is a picture of ___ editor and RED member _____ photographing the clay train at the Palmetto Brick factory in South Carolina, and one of the train crossing the road. This was during the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Hickory NC.

[Editor's note: Who is this daring photographer? Please note that this is a very poor example. Such a position can be hazardous! find the answer hidden elsewhere in this issue of the *Branch Line*.]



Judges Wanted

by Giuseppe Aymar

With the upcoming joint PCR/PNR Convention looming closer, our hard working staff in the Contest department has put together what promises to be the best contest in recent memory. The plaques, ribbons and Certificates waiting to be distributed are, if I may say so myself, gorgeous. Thus we expect a high number of entries in the Contest and, as sure as nighttime follows daylight, I am sure you will bring a model to be judged.



Daylight Division held a small train show at a neighborhood library in December. One feature was this Narrow gauge module by Bert Greeley.

[See full report on pages 29&30.]

Which leads me to the next paragraph. If models are waiting patiently on the tables to be judged then, it stands to reason, we need to have judges, and many of them, and from the PCR. Definitely we do not want the judges to be only from the PNR, do we? So, you say, why are you talking to me? I don't know how to judge a model! I have never been a judge before. I am scared to be a judge. What if I make a mistake!

First of all let me tell you that judges get a free lunch just for participating. That should wet your appetite (pun intended).

Second, judges get to count the time spent judging as Volunteer points toward the AP program. So, for those who are part of or are thinking of the AP program, do not miss this opportunity. You will wear a special ribbon on your name tag distinguishing you as a working member of the Convention, thus commending respect from your fellow conventioners.

Third, if you have done any modeling at all, you have what it takes to judge.

Fourth, if you have NOT done any modeling at all you have what it takes to judge. We will make sure to put you on the right track (that pun again) by teaching you the few fundamentals needed in a very short time. Besides, you would be part of a three-man team that incorporates a trained judge, so NO WORRY.

Did I mention the free lunch?

So, you say, what do I have to do to be part of this judging team? Simply reply to my e-mail: giuseaymar@aol.com or call me at 707-291-0701. Let me know that you are interested and I will make sure to give you the tools to be a good, qualified and fair judge. The sooner you contact me the better, so I will have more time sharing my knowledge with you.

It is important that all who are interested to contact me even if to say they will get to me later, so I will have an idea of the number of participants.

Have I mentioned the free lunch?

Have I mentioned THANK YOU for participating. If not, let me do it now: THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

The PCR thanks you, The PNR thanks you, and I thank you.



John Houlihan explains some points of the hobby to hopefully future modelers at the Daylight train show.

Elections for the PCR Board of Directors

A ballot for the election appears on Page 19 of this issue of the Branch Line. Please follow all ballot directions carefully. Vote only for a candidate from your division.

Mark Schutzer - Candidate for Coast Division Director

My name is Mark Schutzer and I'm running for the position of PCR Director from the Coast Division. I am currently towards the end of my second term as Coast Superintendent and I would like to continue to contribute as Coast Division's PCR Director.

Thank you for your support.



Ted Stephens - Candidate for Coast Division Director

My name is Ted Stephens and I am presenting my candidacy for the Director position with PCR. I am currently the registrar for the Coast Division and since joining the NMRA ten plus years ago, I have been an active participant in many activities offered to the membership. I've participated in several Modeling With the Masters Workshops, attended the last four National Conventions and Regional Conventions as well as being an active member of the SIG/OPS group.

I am a Human Resources professional with many years of business industry experience both as an executive and as a consultant. I am self employed and own my own consulting business which allows me considerable flexibility in devoting time to working with the NMRA.

While I have been involved with model railroading since my teenage years, with a long armchair absence from active modeling, I am now building a 10 x 30 layout in my office. I'm still learning new things about model railroading and am excited about the possibilities the future brings our membership in terms of technology as well as social exchanges.

I am concerned that while our region membership remains strong in the NMRA, we are not recruiting enough youngsters into the hobby to keep a good growth curve going. In this regard, one of my past efforts has involved helping Boy Scouts earn their Railroading Merit Badge where some of the requirements involve building models, participating in a "time-saver switching exercise" and learning other aspects of the hobby. I hope to bring a fresh perspective to the Region and will ask a lot of questions about why we do the things we do, and are there better approaches to some of our lingering issues. I plan on devoting a significant amount of my time actively working to encourage other individuals to join the hobby and become a member of the NMRA.

I will always listen to your ideas on how we can improve our organization and will work to implement those ideas whenever possible. I would greatly appreciate your support for my candidacy.



Paul Deis - Candidate for Daylight Division Director

Hello, I am Paul Deis, a candidate for Director from the Daylight Division of the PCR. Why do I want to serve as Director? I believe we are on the right track in the way we are encouraging various groups inside and outside the NMRA to share our love of trains. I agree with the great efforts that some have put into working with youth through groups like the Boy Scouts. I want to help continue these efforts. We need to engage our members and give them a reason to belong. I think we need to continue to strongly support the Divisions. The Division meet is where

Continued on Page 18

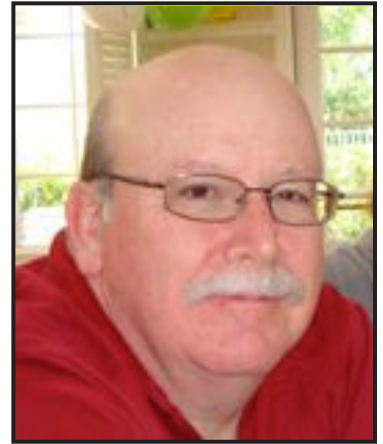
Paul Deis (Cont.)

the many members really experience some of the best benefits of the NMRA. As a Division Director I will be your representative to the Pacific Coast Region Board of Directors. Your opinions will be heard and carried forward.

Who am I? I have been involved in model railroading for my entire life. My earliest memories are of my dad's Lionel trains in the basement bedroom I shared with my 2 brothers. From that Lionel layout I moved to that new "N" scale in my teens. In 1971 that is. I built several small layouts in "N" over the years. I joined the San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Club about 20 years ago and moved into HO Modular railroading. I held several offices with the SLOMRC including 2 terms as President. I was one of a small group that put together the original FreeMo standards that have now been adopted nationwide. In 2001 I served as Chairman for the PCR convention held in San Luis Obispo. I have served the Daylight Division as Superintendent and Clinic Chair. I have authored articles in the Daylight Observer and PCR Branch Line. I have presented clinics on a variety of topics at all types of meets and conventions from division meets to national conventions. I have received the achievement award for Chief Dispatcher.

I currently am building two layouts. In HO I am modeling the SP Coast line from San Luis Obispo to San Miguel as it was in November 1949. In Large scale I am building a large garden railroad in 1:20.3. This railroad is a freelanced design based on the Rio Grande out of Chama New Mexico in 1945.

I ask for your support. Thank You.



Mel Jones - Candidate for Sierra Division Director

Hi, my name is Mel Jones, and I'm running for the office of Director; representing Sierra Division to the PCR.

I'm retired after 55 years in and out of business. I joined NMRA about 1982 as a life member. I've always had a love for trains that started about the age of three. I received my first electric set when I was eight. I also spent some time in HO, HOon3, N, Nn3, and Z. Mostly I've been a collector of N scale. I belong to what is left of Truckee Meadows N scale modular club (now 2 members). We do two shows a year in Portola, Ca. I've been a volunteer at International Railfair for the past three years. I am also actively selling my 40 year collection of N scale trains.

I decided to run for Director to PCR to give back to the hobby that has given so many years of pleasure to me. I will do the best I can to represent Sierra Division with our needs and concerns while helping the region achieve what is good for the PCR as a whole.

I would appreciate your vote. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Dave Croshere - Candidate for Redwood Empire Division Director

Hello my name is Dave Croshere. I have been nominated as a Director of the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA representing the Redwood Empire Division. I would first like to thank those who nominated me to this important position. Their confidence in my ability as a candidate is rewarding. As a liaison between PCR and RED I feel it is paramount to attend all meetings of both groups and to convey the wants, wishes and desires of each to the other. Although there may be different opinions within the groups I feel I can express those thoughts in the best interest for a common good. I am experienced as a board member, having served on several boards for multiple years. I have also served for two years in a leadership role. I am sure this background will be useful as a member of the PCR board. My involvement with Sonoma Short Line Mini Convention last year has wetted my appetite to join a group of people working together for the betterment of Model Railroading. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve as one of the Directors to the PCR.



National Model Railroad Association

PACIFIC COAST REGION

PCR OFFICERS BALLOT

Instructions for Election:

1. Election starts with receipt of ballot (Branch Line mailed approximately January 15, 2012).
2. All ballots must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2012.
3. Vote only for one candidate from your division.
4. You may write in a candidate if your choice. However, the candidate must be willing to serve if elected.
5. Voting in more than one division will void your ballot.
6. Do not make any other marks on the ballot.
7. Fold in thirds so that the return address is showing, and tape the ballot closed.
8. The ballot is considered a first class letter, and requires 45¢ postage.

PLACE AFTER YOUR CHOICE FOR EACH OFFICE.

REMINDER: VOTE ONLY FOR A CANDIDATE FROM YOUR DIVISION

Redwood Empire Director <i>(Vote for ONLY one candidate)</i>	Sierra Director <i>(Vote for ONLY one candidate)</i>
Dave Croshere <input type="checkbox"/>	Mel Jones <input type="checkbox"/>
_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Write in candidate	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Write in candidate
Coast Director <i>(Vote for ONLY one candidate)</i>	Daylight Director <i>(Vote for ONLY one candidate)</i>
Mark Schutzer <input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Deis <input type="checkbox"/>
Ted Stephens <input type="checkbox"/>	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Write in candidate
_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Write in candidate	

(Fold here)

Postage
45 cents

PCR Ballot Chairman

Jim Providenza

16 Drake's Cove

San Rafael, CA 94903

(Fold here)

Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

by Jim Providenza

Cut off times

“If the packing plants don't want to be pulled until after 5pm, then the local could start out at about 3 pm, get the paperwork and depart the yard at 5 pm. It's a 20 min run between each station and 30 min switching and air test at each station. So that would be 80 min x 2 (out and back) or 2 hours 40 min plus 2 hours work. So the local would return 4 hours and 40 minutes later. Round up to 5 hours and throw in a EXTREMELY tight contingency of an hour, so the cutoff for the train would be 11pm. Allow 1 hour to yard the train, 2 hours to switch the train, 1 hour to build the outbound, 2 hours to get an air test, crew and depart and the outbound train's departure would be 5 hours after cutoff or 5am.”

Dave Husman, OPSIG Yahoo List, 3/7/10

You know how every once in a while something comes along and catches your eye and you say to yourself, “Self, I might need that someday.” So it was with the information from Dave Husman. I've re-read Dave's description a couple of times. I've compared it to how we run trains on the SCN (way to quickly on an elapsed time basis if you take all of Dave's events into consideration) and how they run during op sessions on the La Mesa Club's Tehachapi layout at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum (much closer to the prototype, for sure, in Bakersfield Yard). This is not to say one is better than the other. I have to work within a two car garage; the folks at La Mesa have a two story basement!

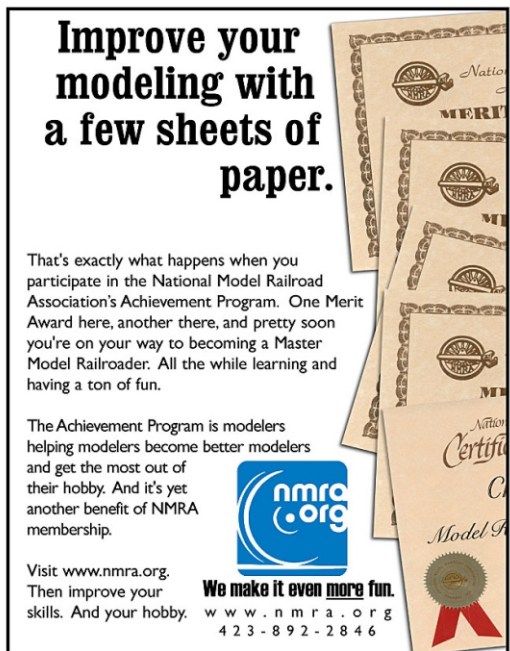
But I've also stopped to think and consider “cut off times” in a broader sense.

How close can you cut it to the start of the op session in your preparations? Oh maybe an hour or less if you are lucky and all preparations go as planned (“and throw in an EXTREMELY tight contingency”). Of course you may end up having to have the earliest arriving crew members help with track cleaning or some such.

How close can you cut it with your layout upgrades prior to an operating session or (even more chancy) an ops weekend? A day falls under “EXTREMELY tight.” How about a week? That might be okay if it is scenery, but how about trackwork? Do you need time to test (and tweak and re-test)? Maybe a couple of months if you want to host an op session or three to do a real debug and avoid nasty surprises for out of town guests.

How about when the Northern California Nameless Group Round Robin is set to show up some Thursday evening for a work session? I could lie, but some of them might actually read this. So I will have to admit that early arrivals are often invited to join us at the dinner table if I was really tied up at work. If the delay was not quite so severe (it took longer to grill the meat than expected, say) then they might get shooed into the garage while I help finish the dishes and set out munchies.

Somehow I don't think PFE ever considered cut off times quite that close!



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Travelin' 'Round

Tom Miller's Live Steam Big Boy / Fn3 Narrow Gauge Layout

by John Sing

In September 2011, I was fortunate to go to the Southern Pacific Historical Society Convention in Portland, Oregon. One of the real highlights - a visit to Tom Miller's live steam outdoor layout and his indoor Fn3 large scale DRGW narrow gauge layout. Enjoy the pictures!



Tom Miller's Big Boy. This baby really stretches out!



Even Big Boys need a little attention now and then.

Photos of Tom Miller's live steam layout taken by John Sing



This photo is dedicated to all you rivet counters.



Tom has this well-equipped (and clean!) shop to keep everything running.

Travelin' (Cont.)



This building houses Tom Miller's Fn3 layout.



Here is an overall view of Tom Miller's Fn3 layout.

These photos of Tom Miller's Fn3 layout were taken by John Sing



Tom Miller's Fn3 layout features this stamp mill model



Scott Inman of the Sacramento Model RR Club takes a close look at the stamp mill.



Here is another bird's-eye view of Tom Miller's Fn3 layout.

Pacific Coast Region SIG Report for Fourth Quarter 2011

by Seth Neumann

While we didn't host any local ops meets, there was plenty of operating to do. Local Operators attended several out of town meets in the Twin Cities, South Eastern Michigan and the "24 Hours of Tehachapi" San Diego. Most of the local layouts operated, and others were undertaking construction and expansion projects. We lost one layout (Bob Osborn) to a move within the area but we expect the C&M back on line within a year or two.

We're looking forward to the Annual Bay Area PCR/LD/OP SIG meet January 28-30, 2012. [Activities are as follows:]

Friday night welcome dinner at Fiorello's in Santa Clara 6:00 - 10:00 PM.

Saturday Clinics at the Mountain View Community Center 201 South Rengstorff Av, Mountain View, CA 94040 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

Tentative program:



Our mystery photographer is none other than RMC Editor Bill Schaumberg!

Time	Topic	Presenter
8:30	Intro	Seth Neumann, Chairman
8:40	Pat LaTorres, PCR President	Pat LaTorres, PCR President
9:00	More Prototypical Waybills	Tony Thompson/Jeff Aley
9:45	Practical TT & TO for mid-sized layouts	Dave Clemens / Jim Providenza
10:30	Announcements	
11:00	BOFs	
11:45	Lunch	
1:00	What's new in JMRI	Bob Jacobsen
1:45	JMRI Ops	Dennis Drury
2:30	Modernized South Pacific Coast in G Scale	Gary Siegel / Bruce Morden
3:15	My 3 Layouts	Byron Henderson
4:00	Panel - "Issues of modeling in different scales"	Bruce Morden
4:45	Closing Remarks	Seth Neumann
5:00	clinic program ends	

Continued on Page 25

In Memoriam
 Michael Morris, Bakersfield, CA; Joined 1/1/1980

 John Boyd, Martinez, CA;
 Joined 1/1/1959

 Dwayne Coate, Redding, CA;
 Joined 1/1/1975

 James Williams, Friant, CA;
 Joined 1/1/1967

 Ralph Marcus, South San Francisco, CA; Joined 1/1/1963

SIG Report (Cont.)

Saturday Evening Layout Tours 7:00 -10:00 (South Bay Layouts)

Sunday Op Sessions (open to all – get your feet wet!).

Looking ahead:

Joint PCR/PNR Convention “Siskiyou Summit”, Medford OR,
 May 2-6 2012

NMRA National Convention “Grand Rails, 2012”, Grand Rapids,
 MI July 29 – August 4, 2012

I hope to see you operating this fall, that’s it for now!

Seth Neumann - sneumann@pacbell.net

Newest PCR Members

By Doug Wagner, PCR Membership Chairman
 (Date Joined Is The Official NMRA Recognized Date Joined)

Name	City	Date Joined
Daniel Williams	San Simeon, CA	11/1/2011
Fernando Quinones	San Jose, CA	11/1/2011
Dominic DiMano	Millbrea, CA	11/1/2011
Charles Bolden	Roseville, CA	11/1/2011
Jim Shiff	Sebastopol, CA	11/1/2011
Bill Bitner	Eureka, CA	11/1/2011
Tom Witzel	Hayward, CA	12/1/2011
Jeffrey Kurin	San Francisco, CA	12/1/2011
Kirk Wilder	Boonville, CA	12/1/2011
David Watkins	Eureka, CA	12/1/2011
John Barry	Cotati, CA	12/1/2011
Maureen McKenzie	Boulder Creek, CA	1/1/2012
Chris Drome	Sunnyvale, CA	1/1/2012
Larry Cheong	Cupertino, CA	1/1/2012
Robert Perry	Grass Valley, CA	1/1/2012
Marie Perry	Grass Valley, CA	1/1/2012
Christopher Jester	Woodland, CA	1/1/2012
Jack Jester	Woodland, CA	1/1/2012
Raymond Stevens	Sonoma, CA	1/1/2012
Deli McKenzie	Fortuna, CA	1/1/2012
Darryl Noble	Ocean View, HI	1/1/2012



Coast Division Meeting Report

December 4, 2011

By Darrell Dennis, Chief Clerk

The last meet was held on December 4, 2011 at the Boy Scouts of America Headquarters, 101 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA and was enjoyed by 99 Coast Division members, 7 Redwood Division members, 1 Sierra Division member, 3 Daylight Division members, 1 Other (Our Texas buddy again!), with 1 Guest and 2 First Timers, for a total of 113! (much better turnout than the last two Meets!!) according to Ted Stephens, the Registration Chair.

[I want to also point out that Ted and Ray Lombardi have 'retrieved' our engraving machine and Ray is now making our badges again in the Coast Division! If you'd like to get a new badge, or even a second badge for when you misplace yours, stop by the registration desk! Darrell]

Clinics included:

10 AM: Seth Neumann presented operations, Plain and Simple

11 AM: Dave Connery presented build a Resin Car Kit

The Model Railroad Roundtable was moderated by Jerry Littlefield with the usual good attendance.

The business meeting portion of the Meet was called to order by Mark Schutzer, Coast Division Superintendent, at 12:07.

Announcements and remarks were made by:

#1 Mark Schutzer: Mark welcomed all of the First Timers and Guests. And Mark thanked Bob Carns, our host for the day.

#2 Charles Getz, HLM - At Large North America Director: The next Mid-Year NMRA Board Meeting will be held February 7th, 8th and 9th in Las Vegas, NV. (Charles added that this is a cheap place to meet and eat!) If anyone has something they want the Board to consider, please talk to him.

Charles then remarked that China has in excess of thirty thousand model railroaders, and they have expressed a great interest in joining the NMRA, in a fashion the Chinese government and customs would allow. This idea is in the very early investigation stage and how the final 'form' of a China region has not been fully developed. One interesting point Charles made is that the Chinese modelers also depend on the "[Standards and Recommended Practices](#)" that are a foundation of the NMRA!

#3 Pat LaTorres, PCR President: Pat reminded us of the 2012 PCR/PNR joint convention, Siskiyou Summit, May 2-5th, 2012 in Medford OR. (<http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012>)

Pat also invited everyone present to come down the street to the San Leandro Historical Society open house, featuring their HO, Garden and O Scale model Railroads, starting at noon.

#4 John Sing, Web Page Guru: John related that much of the traffic on the PCR web site comes from China and other Asian countries, showing their interest in the NMRA.

#5 Seth Neumann, OPSIG/LDSIG: The annual, jointly sponsored, PCR/LDSIG/OPSIG Seminar weekend is January 27 thru 29th! There will be the usual Seminars, Op sessions, and a dinner. Details are on the web site. <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sigs> And there are plans afoot for OpSig events at

Branch Line Deadlines for 2012

APR-MAY-JUN Issue:
Articles due by
March 10, 2012

JUL-AUG-SEP Issue
Articles due by
June 10, 2012

OCT-NOV-DEC Issue
Articles due by
September 15, 2012

JAN-FEB-MAR Issue:
Articles due by
December 10, 2012

If there are any questions contact the Branch Line Editor, Chuck Harmon at harmonsta@yahoo.com or phone (559) 299-4385.

Continued on Page 27



Coast Report (Cont.)

the 2012 PCR/PNR convention, and sessions both going and coming from the Bay Area!

#6 Again Mr. Getz, Charles introduced Mr. Frank Liu, who is doing business in China, and is helping the NMRA with the new 'region' project.

#7 Rod Smith, Coast Division Director, At the PCR Board meeting on October 29, 2011. there were no actions taken which affected the Coast Division

#8 Dennis Stokely, PCR Convention Chairperson. Dennis urged everyone to attend the 2012 PCR/PNR Convention in Medford. Also the 2013 PCR Convention committee has been formed. The 2013 PCR Convention will be held starting April 3, 2013 at the Dublin Holiday Inn Express, which is within walking distance from the new Dublin Bart station. Also the 2014 PCR Convention will be held in San Luis Obispo, details to follow.

#9 Dave Connery, Nominations Committee Chair, Dave announced that the office of Coast Director to the PCR was coming up, Rod Smith has 'termed-out'. Dave submitted two names: Mark Schutzer and Ted Stephens. Then Dave opened nominations from the floor, and seeing none, closed the nominations. The election is on the PCR ballot, so you'll be able to vote via the March Branch Line for the Coast Director ONLY!

#10 Chuck Mitchell: Chuck has some new bench work L-girders he will give for free to a deserving home. He has several display shelves for HO trains, those are free too. Also, Chuck urged everyone who goes to Oregon to check out Train Mountain! They have ride-on trains, and it is a great place to visit.

#11 Mark Schutzer: Mark explained the recent Coast Division Board of Operations decision to discontinue the printed and mailed version of the *Coast Dispatcher*. The newsletter used to be supported by the quarterly meets, but lower turnouts and higher rental costs have caused lower auction revenues. Currently we are losing about \$500 a quarter. While the bank account is healthy, it is not a good business model to continue this steady loss. What once worked, no longer works. In place of the paper *Dispatcher* will be an online only *Dispatcher*. Members will be advised of its publication via the PCR/Coast Yahoo page, and a postcard mailed quarterly. The postcard will have information about the next meet location, clinics and contests, as well as the website address of the *Dispatcher*. The Board felt this was the least painful option and was a unanimous Board decision. In addition, the guidelines for raffle and door prizes have been changed so the proceeds from the raffle will support both door prizes and raffle prizes.

Bill Swindell announced the successful bidders from the Silent Auction.

Mark noted, at 12:50 pm with no other business or announcements, that the Business meeting was adjourned and the Auction would begin in 10 Minutes.

Continued on Page 28

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Expiration date: 01/08/12
Bob R. Kabuse
Member since: 01/08/11

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Coast Report (Cont.)

Model Contest Results:

"Favorite Model", i.e. open category and by Popular Vote:

1st: Earl Girbovan for his construction of Fine Scale Miniatures collection of buildings "Skinner's Row". Additional interiors and fully lit

2nd: Al Kuhn for his scratchbuilt "Old-time Pennsylvania Inspection Car", with full interior and working windows and hatches

3rd: Jere Ingram for his Railroad Prototype Model-100%-accurate Union Pacific Turbine #57

Other great Model Contest participant entries, thx for participating:

Frank Markovich scratchbuilt trestle (received Achievement Merit Award)

Pat LaTorres logging disconnect car

Steve Wesolowski Z scale GP35 "How I lost my DCC Virginity"

Barry Chinn scratchbuilt turnouts and jig-built double-slip turnouts

Show and Tell participants:

Mike Coen custom-painted Sacramento Northern GP7 #712, with proto-accurate WP-style details.

Jim Eckman "Before & After" - dollar models from auction turned into great looking structures.

Bob Wirthlin scratchbuilt "Thomas the Tank Engine" to match his daughter's doll collection.

Frank Markovich four scratchbuilt structures, all of which received Achievement Program Merit Awards.

Thanks to all who participated! It was a great turnout and a superbly inspiring Dec 2011 Model Contest / Show and Tell show by **John Sing**

The categories for upcoming meets are: March 2012; Caboose, Freight Car, Maintenance of Way / June 2012: Structure, Display/Diorama, Self-propelled cars & traction./ September 2012: Steam locomotives, Diesel & other locomotives, passenger car./ December 2012: Favorite Model(Open Category)

Photo Contest: "Railroad Structures" by **Keith Wandry**, Photo Contest Chair

1st Place: Eugene Brichachek "UP844 Through Jack London Square, Oakland"

2nd Place: John Sing "AT&SF 9's"

3rd Place: Pat LaTorres "Classic Profile"

4th Place: Steve Wesolowski "Grateful Brakeman on U.P. 5800"

The Photo Contest categories for upcoming meets are: March 2012; Railroad Structures / June 2012: Diesel Locomotives / September 2012: Caboose / December 2012: Steam Locomotive.

Switching Contest: Steve Peters, Switching Contest Chair
Brakeman (5 car problem)

1st Place: Eugene Brichachek 5:50

2nd Place: Jim Smyrak 7:15

Senior Brakeman (6 car problem)

1st Place: Tom Crawford 5:18

2nd Place: Steve Wesolowski 5:25

3rd Place: Alan Havens 6:15

The Live Auction - 266 items [This included 8 brass items]

Silent Auction - 37 items, by John Marshall, Auction Committee Chair

Our next meet in March, 2012. The date and location TBD




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Then, get that popcorn ready.

Editor goofs on photo caption

The photo at the right was incorrectly credited in the last issue of the Branch Line. My apologies to Steve Wesoloski for the error.

Chuck Harmon



Steve Wesoloski took 3rd place in the Model - B&W print category at X2011 with "Young Beam Engineer"
Photo by Joseph Aymar



Daylight Division Report

By Dave Grenier, Daylight Division Superintendent

Fall Meet

The Daylight Division held its Fall Meet on October 8th in the restored historic SP Oceano Depot, in conjunction with the Central

Coast Railroad Festival, a 5-day celebration of railroading in San Luis Obispo County. After a brief welcome by our host, the San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association, Paul Deis presented a hands-on clinic, sponsored by Bragdon Enterprises on weathering freight cars. Afterwards

Terry Taylor presented his clinic on Santa Fe operations in the Central Valley with a little twist -- all the photos were of notable train wrecks of yesteryear!

Following a no-host lunch at nearby restaurants, we returned to the depot for the quarterly business meeting, during which Terry Taylor was awarded Achievement Program certificates for Model Railroad Author and Association Volunteer, as well as his Golden Spike Award. Director John Houlihan was presented with his long-overdue AP Association Official certificate. Congratulations to all!

After the \$25 door prize drawing and raffle of several



Daylight members learn how to use Joel Bragdon's chinks by weathering Paul Deis' cars. [Hmm! Sounds sort of Tom Sawyer to me! Ed.]



Daylight Division's fall meet was held in the restored depot at Oceano



Paul Deis supervises sealing of his weathered cars on the Oceano Depot's loading dock

Daylight Report (Cont.)



Terry Taylor's clinic was all about wrecks on the Santa Fe



Wearing his AP Chairman "hat," Dave Grenier presents Golden Spike award and AP Certificates for Author and Volunteer to Terry Taylor.



Bob Pethoud demonstrates operation for a potential modeler at the Daylight Division's train show.

weathering kits donated by Bragdon Enterprises, we had the world-famous White Elephant Auction of plain-wrapped railroad goodies donated by members. The "winning" bidder got to open their purchase in front of everyone to add to the fun. Sometimes it's a good buy and sometimes not so good. At any rate, we had a good time with it and raised a few dollars for the Division. After the last item was auctioned off, we adjourned for layout tours. Layout tours were spread out over the entire five days of the Festival.

Open House Tour

On December 3, the Division held its 4th Annual Holiday Open House Tour of layouts in the Fresno/Clovis area. Nine layouts, from N to O scale, were open to the public for viewing. The attendance results are not in as of this writing, but there were always other visitors at all the layouts I visited, so it appears that we had another good turnout.

Train Show

One week later, December 10, in response to a request from the library manager after our August meet there, we put on a Train Show at the Fig Garden Regional Library in Fresno. There were three modular

layouts on display and in operation, plus a circle of track with Thomas the Tank Engine pulling coaches Clarabelle and Annie for the kids to run. At noon we showed the movie "The Polar Express," bookended by other railroad videos. Other displays were a HOn30 module, O scale locos and cars, a multi-scale comparison display, and NMRA literature. We talked to about 50 people, with many more wandering in to just look around, and signed up a new NMRA member. Season-appropriate refreshments, cookies and milk, of course, were served.

Winter Meet

The next Daylight Division meet will be February 25, 2012, starting at 9:30 AM, at the Sequoia Council Boy Scouts of America Office, 230 NW 3rd Avenue, Visalia, CA. Come join us for clinics, contests, White Elephant Auction, layout tours and more. Contest categories: Models – Cabooses; Photographs – Railroad Structures.

See you in Visalia!



Lots of literature was available for the public at Daylight's show.

Redwood Empire Division

by Steve Skold



RED is going to a paperless Callboard due to increasing costs and limited resources. We have decided to make this change starting with the winter issue due out in February. This will enable us to expand the number of pages and content and to use color in pictures.

The summer picnic had a low attendance due to a lack of adequate notice and probably due to the distance and gas needed to get to Willits. Those that attended had a good time with beautiful weather. They were able to watch all the steam equipment on display. This included steam locomotives, steam donkeys, a steam shovel and a steam roller that was beautifully painted. There was also a group of antique gas engine enthusiasts with their unusual engines including a couple of gas engine powered washing machines. The event ended with a BBQ put on by the host Roots of Motive Power.

The Fall RED meet was held in Sonoma and hosted by Dick Foster, the editor of the Callboard. The meeting started with nominations being opened for RED Director. Dave Croshere was nominated and nominations were closed as there were no further nominees. The meeting continued with our popular show and tell segment with a number of interesting models including two of Giuseppe Aymar's first place winning models from the recent NMRA convention in Sacramento.

After door prizes, we had a clinic by members of the Sonoma County Hi-Ballers on organizing and maintaining a round robin group of modelers. This was a preview of the clinic that will be put on in Medford during the PNR/PCR joint convention in May. There were a number of suggestions for improvement provided by the audience. Clinic members were Steve Skold, Carol Alexander, Tom Swearingen and Ron Kaiser.

Future RED meets will be held at the Napa Valley Northern Club at the Napa Fair Grounds on February 18th and in Santa Rosa at Monroe Hall on May 19th.

SIERRA DIVISION REPORT

By Gary Ray



The weather was perfect for the Sierra Division Annual Picnic, held in Grass Valley on October 8. The Nevada County Narrow Gauge Model Railroad were our gracious hosts for the picnic. The layout was decorated for fall with touches of fall and the harvest season everywhere. After lunch, members visited the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum in Nevada City.

The Sierra Division held their annual fundraiser, the 35th Annual International Railfair in Roseville on November 12th and 13th. We were blessed with nice weather for both days. Volunteers were treated to a banquet Saturday night. It was nice to see old friends and meet new ones. Volunteers also had free admission and parking.

The Sierra Division newsletter, **Short Line**, went digital in 2011 (<http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra/index.html>). Many members have switched to the digital version saving at least \$300 in printing and postage costs. Our printed newsletter is ten pages, the digital has been running over thirty pages with expanded content and in color.

The division voted to use digital savings to help benefit members by offering Northeastern Scale Models' "Yard Storage" building in either N or HO scale for just \$5. It is a great kit for beginners and goes together easily. Members who wish to order on can do so by calling Gary Ray (530-873-0626). Members must be present at the February meeting to pick the building up and be willing to share their masterpiece at the following meeting. This will give those who have never built a laser kit a chance to do so and hopefully encourage all to modify as much as they wish. If you are a new member to the Sierra Division, we really encourage you to get involved. More information will be in the January issue of **Short Line** along with a construction article and a chance to order at that time if members have not yet done so.



Sierra Division's Jim Long fires up the BBQ for the picnic.



Sierra Division members Walt Schedler and Dennis Drury enjoy conversation at the Railfair banquet. Walt was a big winner at the raffle.



Gary Ray built this example of the Yard Storage building which will be undergoing further modifications.



**PNR/PCR/NMRA
SISKIYOU SUMMIT 2012
Joint Convention
Red Lion Hotel, Medford, OR
May 2-5, 2012**

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
SISKIYOU SUMMIT 2012
c/o Ted Stephens
3860 Corina Way
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4508
E-mail: Siskiyousummitreg@pcrnmra.org
Website: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/>

Hosted by Pacific Northwest and Pacific Coast Regions, National Model Railroad Association

Registration Form

Credit card orders available thru Website Link.

Last Name		First Name		First Name (For Badge)	MMR#		
Address		City		State or Province	Zip or Postal Code		
Country	Additional Address Information						
Home Phone	E-mail Address			NMRA # (Membership Required)			
Registration Type (Please check one) Model Railroader Sidetrack Youth			NMRA Region				
Primary Scales and Interests (Check all that apply) HO S N O G Narrow Gauge LDSIG OPSIG Other:							
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form for more than 1)							
Last Name		First Name		First Name (for Badge)	MMR#		
Registration Type (Please check one) Model Railroader Sidetrack Youth			E-Mail (If Different)		NMRA #		
Primary Scales and Interests (Check all that apply) HO S N O G Narrow Gauge LDSIG OPSIG Other:							
All Fares are in US dollars, includes Clinics, Layout Tours. Other items may be added later.							
FARES: Please fill in QTY and Total				QTY	Unit Cost	Total	
Full Fare Registration					55.00		
Sidetrack Registration					25.00		
Youth Registration (under 18 years or student)					10.00		
Day Fare				Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
							25.00
Non NMRA member must join the NMRA (For new US Members only New members from other countries contact local Region)				6 month Rail Pass (allowed one time only)			9.95
				Full NMRA membership/PCR or PNR subscription			64.00
Banquet (Choice of Entrée will be provided later)							35.00
Payment by Check** Cash				TOTAL:			
** Make Checks Payable to: Siskiyousummit 2012" No Refunds After April 1, 2012							

Red Lion Hotel Medford
200 N. Riverside Dr. Medford, OR 97501 Tel: (541) 753-1894
Convention special room rate is \$82.00/night for single/double, \$92.00 for triple, or \$104.00 for quad (plus tax for all rates). Call hotel at (541) 779-5614 for Reservations at 1-800-RED-LION, and use Group Block Name: PNR/PCR Joint Convention."



More hotel information can be found on website <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/hotel.html>

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: glslewis@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 celebrated 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 "ZBend 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: 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

HO Model Railroading on a Grand Scale! Can you imagine taking one real time hour to run an SP (or your favorite name) DCC train round trip from Oakland, through the Sierras to Sparks and back? Don't imagine, join us! Friday nights 7-10 (by appointment) at 645 Loring Dr, 2nd Floor, Crockett CA Call Weds 7-10 510-787-6703 or e-mail anytime loggingrr@aol.com, bob@bob2sell.com or lambert5522@att.net

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: Blain Hendrix (707) 528-8655 or Steve

Lewis (707) 527-0396. Web: <http://cvl.hobby-site.com>.

EEL RIVER VALLEY MODEL RAILROADERS

The Eel River Valley is an HO club with a NWP-layout series of modules under construction. We meet Fri., 7:30 PM at the Humboldt County Fair Grounds Commercial Building NW corner, Ferndale. Contact: Ron Plies, 707-725-9063 Mail: P.O. Box 950, Fortuna, CA 95540

ELSIE

The Left Coast (Elsie) HO_N30 group invites anyone interested to join us. We use existing standards for module construction but are not merely a modular group. Contact: Al Sandrini in Bakersfield, 661-664-8614 or Ken Lunders in Cupertino, 408-777-9572.

EMPIRE BUILDERS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Starting over after a warehouse fire destroyed our layout, we are a small friendly group now constructing an HO layout of no specific origin based in the early 50's era. The mountain division is laid and operating, with a reasonable size yard well along in construction. Work days are Saturday and during summer Tuesday nights. Us retired members also show up occasional weekdays. Centrally located by I-580 and 35th Ave. Dues \$10! Call Ted Moes at (510) 749-7099 for an invite to see/[chat/join](http://www.ebmrc.org). <http://www.ebmrc.org>.

GOLDEN EMPIRE HISTORICAL & MODELING SOCIETY

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

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM -- EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

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

HUMBOLDT BAY & EUREKA MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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

Continued on Page 35

Clubs (Cont.)

LAKE COUNTY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

HO layout. Meets Wednesday at 7:00PM in the old National Guard Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds on Martin Street, Lakeport. Call Mike Ernst at (707) 263-4949

MOTHER LODE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The MMRC meets every Mon., 11:00 AM in the old historic primary school building in Sutter Creek. Additional open houses are normally held the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM. We are a fully DCC operating HO club with a large layout. Contact: Robert Piety, 209-296-3587.

NAPA VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Located at The Napa Valley Expo, (fairgrounds), 575 Third St., Napa, our railroad runs from Napa to Ukiah with off line connections to Stockton and Portland, has 700 feet of main line, and large classification yards at each end. The layout is never finished, as we are always rebuilding and improving! Era is 1940 to present. Member-owned rolling stock stresses reliability and realism. We meet Fri. 7:30 PM to 12, with formal runs the 2nd Fri. of the month. Info: John Rodgers 707-226-2985 E-mail: 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 website. Official mailing address: The Nn3 Alliance, PO Box 6652, Chesterfield, MO 63006 Web: www.Nn3.org <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nn3/>

SACRAMENTO MODEL RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established in 1948, the SMRHS is located at 1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento. Modeled as the Sierra Central RR, both HO and HOOn3 layouts. HO layout is being rebuilt to depict SP/WP prototype. Open Tues. and Fri. nights, 7:30 PM. Contact: 916-927-3618 Email: d.megeath@comcast.net Web: www.smrhs.com

SACRAMENTO MODULAR RAILROADERS

Most of our events are operating sessions, where we make up trains in our large switch yard, and send road crews out to switch cars into and out of industries at the towns along the main line. The club owns a large main yard, the corner modules, some special modules, and some rolling stock. Members own their own modules and rolling stock. Contact: Dick Witzens, 916-684-1987 Web: <http://saccentral.railfan.net/>

SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAM RAILROAD MUSEUM (SVLSRM)

The SVLS was founded in 1968 and is located in Hagen Community Park, Rancho Cordova, CA. Our initial 1500 feet of track has expanded to over 6300 feet of mainline and sidings. Approximately 1500 feet is dual gauge 4 3/4" and 7 1/2". We can

accommodate equipment ranging in size from 1 inch scale (standard gauge) to 5 inch scale (2 foot narrow gauge), the most common scale being 1 1/2". Public run days are on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month during our operating season.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY

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

SAN 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 email: duhnerd@pacbell.net

SAN LUIS OBISPO MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION (SLOMRA)

The SLOMRA is a multi-scale modular group with active N, HO, and On30 layouts. The goal of our non-profit association is railroad education and local history through public display of our modules. Our shows usually include G-gauge, tinsplate, and even LEGO trains. The monthly meetings include model and prototype activities, videos, and discussions. A separate business meeting handles show planning and club management. The SLOMRA is open to new members who have a love of trains. The general meeting is the third Monday of every month at 7:00pm at the Oceano Depot. For more information visit www.slomra.org or email info@slomra.org or phone Dennis Pearson at (805) 929-3062.

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

The club consists of enthusiasts of all scales and prototypes living in the Santa Barbara area, and has a collection of railroad books and videos for loan to members. The club has no layout but activities include weekly operations and work sessions at member layouts, as

Continued on Page 36

BRANCH LINE
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Clubs (Cont.)

well as occasional club field trips. We meet every 3rd Tues. at 7:30 PM, at Woodglen Hall, 3010 Foothill Road, Santa Barbara. Junior members welcome. Contact: Secretary Art Sylvester, email: sylvester@geol.ucsb.edu. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=163470062239>

SISKIYOU MODEL RAILROAD CLUB,

Siskiyou MRC will be meeting at members' homes through March. As the weather warms up will return to meeting at the YW depot. Thursdays--7 pm. Call for information. Tom Brass 530-842-4921 , Glenn Joesten 530-340-2537. "12-inch scale live steam division" (the Yreka Western Blue Goose) is planned to operate at least on weekends this year. The 19 is being prepared for the annual FRA boiler inspection and volunteers are preparing for the Rules Training and Exam.

TIDEWATER SOUTHERN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Manteca, formerly the Manteca Model RR Club

(org '73), TSRHS reorganized and incorporated in 1990. Located at the San Joaquin Fairgrounds, Building 1, (corner of Airport and Charter Ways (Hw 4), Stockton), a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove houses a large HO layout depicting the Tidewater Southern, several Valley towns, and museum display cases. We meet 6 - 8:30 PM Thursdays. Contact: Ben Cantu, 209-825-7215 Mail: PO Box 882, Manteca, CA 95336 E-mail: bcantu@SQ50.com

TRI-CITY SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

The TCSME is located at 37592 Niles Blvd. Fremont CA 94536 in

the Niles Plaza. We are currently building two new layouts. The N Scale layout is in the restored Niles Depot and the HO layout is in the restored Niles Freight Building. Both layouts focus on Fremont, Newark, Union City and surrounding areas. We are looking for new members interested in building and running on the new layouts. We meet Fridays 7:30-9:30 PM and Sundays 10:00-4:00. Call 510-797-4449 for info. Please visit our web site at <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 \$2 for 6-12 and seniors over 60 and \$3 for adults. Membership is always open to interested HO modelers. Contact: 925-937-1888 (recorder) Web: www.wcmrs.org. The club is also open on select week-ends as follows: Winter Holiday Open House on the week-ends before and after Thanksgiving, Nov. 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27. 2012 Week-end Schedule: Jan. 14-15, Mar. 17-18, May 19-20, Sep. 15-16, Nov. 16-18, 23-25, 2012.

WEST BAY MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Meets at the former baggage building near the Menlo Park Railroad Station. The address is 1090 Merrill Street next to the tracks. The club meets every Wednesday from 7-10pm. Business meetings are on the second Wednesdays of the month and operating sessions, open to the public, are on the fourth Wednesdays. There are O, S, and HO Scales on a large layout. Admission is free. Donations are greatly appreciated. Contact: West Bay Model RR Association 650-322-0685 and visit our web site at: home.earthlink.net/~pesce/westbay.htm.