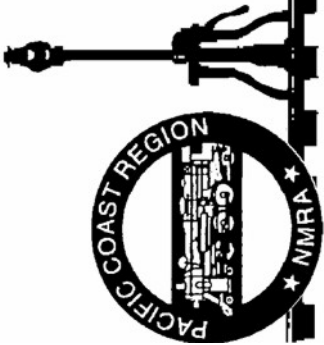


BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



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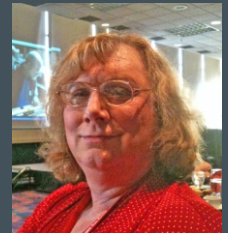


PCR Takes it to The Streets of Modesto in 2016

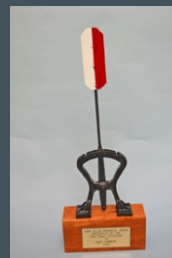
Club Car 2015 Convention Highlights



Reports from New Officers



2015 Award Recipients



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Webmaster	Gus Campagna	707-664-8466	campgus@earthlink.net

Hawaiian Division

All offices are currently vacant

Contents

The Branch Line
The Official Publication of
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National Model Railroad
Association

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The Branch Line is published quarterly to inform members of Region activities and to provide educational articles for the advancement of railroad history and the art and science of model railroading. It is distributed to members of the Pacific Coast Region. Electronic versions are posted on the PCR website, www.pcrnmra.org.

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Front Page Photo

M&ET Number 2003 is heading out for *Taking It To The Streets*, our April 20-24, 2016 PCR Convention in Modesto.

Photo by Scott McAllister

Have YOU Registered, Yet, For PCR 2016?

by Steve Wesolowski, PCR 2016 Publicity Chairman
 Photos by Scott McAllister, 2016 Convention Chariman

Have YOU registered for Taking It To The Streets, our April 20-24, 2016 PCR Convention in Modesto yet? It will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 1150 9th St. Modesto, CA 95354 No? Why Not?

Maybe you're thinking: PCR 2015 in Newark was just last month, so, there is no rush, or you're focused on NMRA Portland, NNGC Houston and/or PSR Scottsdale. Although We're lucky to have 3 Train Fun Conventions near PCR within 3 weeks of each other, I don't know many people will attend all 3....?

CAVEAT: Because I am still coming up to speed as the Publicity Volunteer, I don't have as many details to tell now as I will in later articles. I'm not even listed on the Web Page Yet! But, I'm certain We will have many Layouts to visit, enjoy and even some to operate upon, that the Ops & LD SIGS will Participate and even have their own tracks, there should be many interesting clinics and several Outside Activities to enjoy.



M&ET Shops are a part of an M&ET tour that can't be missed.

As I learn more, I will pass the information on, but as of now I'm catching up.

Register Early: Now?

I filled out my registration form while waiting for the Banquet room



Guess this guy's name and get to pay your own full-fare registration!

to open in Newark, only because I happened to talk to Jim Collins, 2016 Webmaster, while waiting, because of the M&ET tour of Modesto's Shortline Railroad. That M&ET prototype tour alone "sold" me: I had missed a

Sierra Division M&ET All-Day tour within the last year, after hearing from Bill Schaumberg and several others how much they enjoyed different M&ET tours given over

several years. So, a M&ET tour is high on my Train Fun Bucket List! You should have a much better idea of what an M&ET tour offers after you look at the photographs accompanying this article, which were taken on a previous tour.

Besides wanting to enjoy an M&ET tour, I also decided quickly to register because the time was "right" for me: Because that day I'd just completed enjoying what I assume our Newark 2015 convention offered, I also expect Modesto to have many 'new' layouts to visit & operate, some 'new' clinics, 'older' clinics I haven't learned from yet, plus opportunities to learn more about Modesto and places nearby -- why, during decades in California, I haven't spent much time in the Modesto area. One 'hidden' benefit of attending any convention is you always end up learning more about the people and area where the convention is being held.

Visit Our Website, Often

As always, the best place to learn about and keep up with what is happening & changing with this or any convention, and to keep up to date with changes is to check the website often.

Since the convention is still 10 months away, and the website has only been active a few weeks, current website visitors will find many items still labeled TBD.

But, our On-Line Registration is already working, at: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/index.html>

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Registration

Early Bird Registration - An Early Bird Registration Package Special of \$89.00 includes Registration, Awards Banquet, and PCR Breakfast. There is no fare differential between Rail and Non-Rail and Spouse registrations. The Early Bird Fare is available until January 31st, 2016, when it increases to \$99.99.

First Timer Registration - The special "First Timer" fare of \$79.00 is available for PCR members that have not registered for the past 5 conventions.

Youth Registration - Youth fare of \$50.00 provides full registration with no food events.

Day Fare - The Day fare of \$40 is good for one day of convention attendance and includes clinics, layout tours, and contests. The Awards Banquet is not included, but may be purchased as an extra-fare item.

Awards Banquet Only - Attendance at the awards banquet only for \$45.00.

PCR Breakfast Only - Attendance at the awards banquet only for \$15.00.

What's Included? All fares include convention registration, clinics, contests, and layout tours. There may be additional charges for some outside events or special clinics, if admission tickets, transportation, or materials are required. The Registration also includes the Awards Banquet and PCR Breakfast.



Just a notice that the 2016 Committee is hard at work (women, too)

Convention Car: HO scale - We have been working with Atlas on a RTR HO Scale 53' Evans Double Door Box Car painted for M&ET. We are planning to get four different road numbers. Because we are still in the early planning stages, the prices are still being determined.

Volunteering - Volunteers are the lifeblood of any convention and Taking It To The Streets 2016 is no exception. We WILL need help in the following areas during the convention:

- Registration Desk
- Company Store
- Clinic Hosts
- Contest Room
- Contest Judges
- Switching Contest
- Swap Meet
- Non-Rails Hospitality Room

If you would like to help out for an hour or two (or more) before/during the convention with any of the above positions, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator or Convention Chair, via email. Convention volunteers are considered "regional committee members" and accumulate Achievement Program Association Volunteer points at the rate of one time unit per month of active service. Model contest judges earn two time units for one day. By volunteering to help in any position, you can renew old friendships, make new friends, and help make this convention the best that it can possibly be. Remember, you always get more than you give!

Convention Committee Volunteers are Also Needed - Some Convention Committee Volunteer positions are still open. Check the Convention Committee Webpage and If you are interested in filling one of these positions. Please email Convention Chairman Scott McAllister, at mod2016chair@pcrnmra.org. Remember, when/whatever you Volunteer to Help, you will enjoy the convention even more! You don't have to Live In Modesto to Volunteer! No Prior Exact Experience is Needed, Just your willingness to Learn and Grow! 🚂

Convention name
"Taking it to the Streets"
reminds there is still a Modesto & Eastern Traction



No link 'n Pin Couplers on this railroad!

Climb aboard The Club Car!

by Jack Burgess, 2015 Publicity Chairman

The 2015 Pacific Coast Region Club Car Convention is now history. If you didn't attend, you missed a great regional Convention! Final attendance was 240 registered attendees together with 20 non-rail visitors. There were four prototype tours with the tour of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Tour very popular. Attendees had 50 layouts to visit and nearly 65 Convention attendees participated in the 11 operating sessions which were available during the Convention.

The Convention calendar was packed with clinics on a wide variety of subjects. Presenters included past RMC editors Tony Koester and Bill Schaumburg. Clinics ran from 9:00 in the morning until 9:30 in the evening. I

was able to attend several clinics and they were all interesting and I learned a lot.

The model contest has a number of very well done models. I was completely awe-struck by

Barry Roth's G scale model of V&T Water Car No. 2, which took Best of Show. The workmanship and details were outstanding! PCR Contest Chairman Gueseppe Aymar will summarize the



Best of Show Model. V&T Water Car #2 by Barry Roth Also received Merit Award

contest results in another article.

The Convention featured two new activities which I don't think have been part of any regional or national convention before. One was the Boy Scout Train Merit Badge program which was very successful with 15 Boy Scouts and it is hoped that this program will be a regular event of future PCR Conventions. There is also a Model Building Merit Badge which can be partly satisfied by participating in layout



Best of Show, Arts and Crafts. Rose Tote by Karen Evans

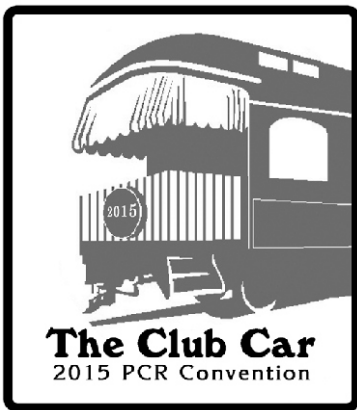
building and other model railroad related construction.

The other new activity was the day-long Maker Train with demonstrations of a variety of hands-on activities including learning how to solder, better understanding 3D printing and scanning, and learning about Arduino, Raspberry Pi, RFID, and C/MRI electronics.

The Convention wrapped up Saturday evening with the Awards Banquet. After a wonderful dinner and the various awards, attendees were treated to a great after-dinner talk by Tony Koester.



Best of Show Photo Semaphores by Stanley Keiser



President's Report

by Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

Welcome to my very first column as PCR President. As such, I feel a need to communicate to you all how this new responsibility is affecting me and what my intentions and aspirations are for filling this important role.

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to all those who encouraged me to accept a nomination for this job and for all those who voted for me. It is a tremendous honor and I intend to do my best to do a decent job for you. I also want to thank our past President, Pat LaTorres, and all the Board members, Department Managers, and appointed officials I have had the pleasure to work with during my four years as Vice President. You have all been

effective at introducing me to how our organization works and providing ongoing inspiration and support. And I have to say I was humbled when I scanned the last quarterly roster report and found

there are 1005 members in our region, including five organization/club memberships. That's a thousand model railroaders to serve!

One of my initial impressions of the job is that people seem very relieved that someone (else) is doing it. There also are a lot of little angles and issues that keep

coming out of the woodwork. None of them are overwhelming, but they just keep on coming. Who knows what kind of surprises are lurking around the corner for me! Fortunately, I have a number of people to call upon for advice and information, people who know a lot more about the inner workings of PCR and NMRA than I ever will. Fortunately, most members don't have to worry or be aware of some of these issues. That's what we're here to take care of for you.

Which brings us to the subject of what this job is really about, or at least what I think it's all about. Some of these points I have already made in my past role of Vice-President.

This all comes back to the reasons we join the NMRA. We love the hobby and we enjoy the company of other modelers who share this passion. We like to share ideas and learn from others who have gained expertise in areas of modeling we would like to be better at. We want to share what we have done with fellow modelers and get feedback to be able to do better. Some of us have a competitive spirit and want to enter our creations in contests, with the blue ribbon representing the ultimate compliment and respect from our peers. A large and growing number of us have participated in operating model railroads in a prototypical fashion,

something that by definition requires assembling a group of model railroaders together in the same room at the same time. Most of us enjoy visiting other modelers' layouts, just to look and be inspired.

If it seems like I'm hitting on one theme, you're right. This is basically a social organization, whose job it is to facilitate the social networking and group activities of model railroaders. Yes, there are other functions, important ones that the NMRA performs, for example setting standard and recommended practices. Can you imagine building a layout without your trusty NMRA standards gauge? Or install a DCC system without standardization of how everything is supposed to work, regardless of manufacturer? But we're talking here about what happens on the local level, the Region and Divisional level. Those other things are best handled in a centralized fashion, as they always have been.

As we all know, not everyone who enjoys model trains is interested in any of these things. It may be that being a member is not worth it for those folks. Some modelers belong to a club but don't see the need for anything more. That's okay too, although PCR provides things that no club can provide. I'm specifically thinking of diversity, not in the modern political/social sense, but in terms of

Continued on Page 8



We love the hobby and we enjoy the company of other modelers who share this passion.

meeting and mingling with modelers from outside your immediate neighborhood, town, or club.

NMRA, of course, has its detractors, like any organization does. Some modelers, or so I've heard third hand, see the NMRA and its components as a clique of some kind, where only those who toe the line (in other words, are interested in the "correct" kinds of railroad modeling) are welcome. I don't know how widespread this attitude is, or even if there is a longer list of sins we have committed over the years. One of these years, if I get around to it, I would like to do a well-designed survey of non-NMRA modelers to get more of a handle on this. But for now I suggest that we focus on getting as good at what we do as we can, and that we continue our evolving outreach efforts.

Given all this, I'm going to go out on a limb and state that the most important thing that PCR does is to hold our annual Convention and to encourage and support our Divisions to press on with their own schedule of meets and events. Thus we can provide the platform for all those things I mentioned above plus as many more as we can come up with to take place.

And now we come to the problem section of the column. Just as the social nature of PCR points us to our priorities, it also provides us with our greatest challenge today. We PCRs are by and large an old group, mostly

advanced middle age (I love that adjective!) and elderly. That makes our peers less than ideal candidates to ensure the survival of PCR/NMRA over time. So when we have events, they are mostly social occasions for our age group. When we are encouraged to bring people in as guests to events, with the hope of recruiting them as members, they are likely to be in our age group. Modelers who are younger (but still mature adults – we're not talking about teenagers or young adults as that is another topic) may not be real excited about spending a lot of time with their parents.

Yes, there are exceptions, but the data clearly show that our average age keeps going up with the membership numbers going down with attrition. Modelers in their 40s and 50s may be less than enthusiastic about hanging out with us as opposed to attending other non NMRA railroad events where there are more of *their* peers. Thus, we have engaged in extended discussions and ruminations about how to revamp what we do to appeal to younger potential members without turning off the people we already have. And these efforts must continue.

These thoughts, in a nutshell, lead to my goals as President. One, to make sure we carry on the good things we do for you members such as interesting and fun conventions and meets, and two, to continue to encourage networking with outside organizations such as

modular groups, Sig groups, and so on, where modelers who have been shying away from the NMRA are active. Fortunately, good steps in both directions were taken during President LaTorres's tenure, and I hope to keep the ball rolling.

For those of you going to the NMRA National this August in Portland, I hope to see you there. My prediction is that Doug Auburg and his committee will provide an outstanding week of model railroading for us. Portland is a beautiful place that merits a visit for any excuse we can come up with, let alone an exciting occasion such as this one. I will brazenly insert a little advertisement as well. I will be presenting the latest in a series of clinics on my HO rendition of the Northwestern Pacific, this time focusing on the agony and ecstasy of trying to adhere to a prototype. Catch it if you can! 🚂

The most important thing that PCR does is to hold our annual Convention and to encourage and support our Divisions to press on with their own schedule of events

PCR Membership Gauge

As of May 31, 2015

May 31, 2014—	1,022
June 30, 2014—	1,008
July 31, 2014—	1,013
August 31, 2014—	1,007
September 30, 2014—	1,005
October 31, 2014—	1,001
November 30, 2014—	991
December 31, 2014—	969
January 31, 2015—	983
February 28, 2015—	998
March 31, 2015—	996
April 30, 2015—	1,004
May 31, 2015—	1,007

Vice President's Report

by Carol Alexander, Vice-President, PCR/NMRA

Gratitude.

That's a word I think about a lot. At our house we're dedicated to trying to live our lives with "an attitude of gratitude." So, the subject comes up a lot. What does that have to do with model railroading? For me it has everything to do with it.

Over the years I've messed around with building plastic models, woodworking, photography, radio control boats, electronics and other hobbies but it is model railroading that I always come back to. So I'm grateful for this hobby of ours. For the opportunity to include most of those other hobbies in one pursuit. Of course you already know why it is a great hobby and I'm not trying to preach to choir.

What I want to talk about is the one aspect of the hobby that I am most grateful for – people. That's right, people. People who have innovated, invented, and designed new

control systems, accessories, techniques, and methods. We have seen amazing changes in the hobby in the years that I have been participating because people have been there sharing their time and ideas.

But the people I am most grateful for are volunteers. The ones who run

for office or help with an event or convention. People who take leadership roles and the ones who stay in the background and keep the processes running. Whether it is in the NMRA or a non-affiliated group or club it is the volunteers who make this a great hobby. Some of us think we're really lone wolves making it all on our own, but we're not. Most of the innovation and change in

What I want to talk about is the one aspect of the hobby that I am most grateful for – people

the hobby comes from modelers who get together and share their ideas. PCR, NMRA, clubs, round robins, and SIGs are groups that make it

possible to get together and share our enthusiasm for trains. Volunteers in those groups plan activities, set up and break down and carry out the administrative task that make it all work.


So to you, the volunteers, past, present and future, I give my most profound gratitude for the efforts you have put in.



PCR Membership Tracker

Division	# Members
Coast	469
Sierra	265
Redwood Empire	136
Daylight	126
Hawaiian	11
Total PCR Members	1007






HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

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

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

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

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



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

Then, get that popcorn ready.

Have you changed your address or other membership information?
 Notify Headquarters
 Email: nmrahq@nmra.org
 Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am—4pm ET)

Achievement Program - Master Builder - Motive Power

by Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department

Given the continuing release of new super-detailed diesels and steam engines which flow into our hobby each year, it would not be surprising if the amount of scratchbuilding of locomotives continually decreases in direct proportion. The Master Builder – Motive Power certificate includes a requirement to scratchbuild a locomotive and that requirement may mean that this certificate is one of the

hardest to earn. (Although I'd say that earning Association Volunteer certificate is much more time consuming!) Like the other certificates, the full requirements for this category are available on the web at www.nmra.org.

You can also get a copy of the requirements by calling me.

Motive power refers to any type of steam, diesel, or electric locomotive, traction unit, maintenance vehicle, or other type of self-propelled vehicle that runs on track. That definition therefore includes everything from speeders and streetcars to the newest diesels. Not included are powered models of prototypes that were not powered (vehicles such as a powered hand cars) or unpowered models of prototypes which were powered.

The requirements for Master Builder - Motive Power follows the same general format as the other Master Builder certificates. To qualify for this certificate, you must build three models of railroad motive power. If desired, these models can be of different gauges and/or scales. They must meet the following criteria:

1. All of the models must be capable of self-propulsion.
2. Each of the models must score at least 87½ points in an NMRA contest or under the AP Merit Judging program.
3. Each of the models must be super-detailed with either commercial or scratchbuilt parts.
4. In addition to being super-detailed, at least one of the three models must be scratchbuilt.

Currently, one of the favorite aspects of our hobby is kit-bashing/super-detailing diesel locomotives. Such a modeling project, if it scores the minimum 87½ points, would meet the requirements for the two non-scratchbuilt models.

To qualify as scratch built, the model must contain the following scratch built items:

1. Steam locomotives - Frame, boiler, cab, tender frame and body, and either valve gear or main or side driving rods.
2. Other motive power -

Body, frame, cab, truck side frames, and pantograph or trolley poles if applicable.

3. Items such as the motor, gears, drivers or wheels, couplers, trucks, etc. are all excluded from the requirement for being scratchbuilt.

Note that the term “scratchbuilt” implies that the modeler has done all of the necessary layout and fabrication that produces the final dimensions, appearance, and operating qualities of the model. This is a good statement of the intent and spirit of the “scratchbuilt” requirement. Notice that it does not say that the use of a few commercial detail parts will disqualify the model as being “scratchbuilt”. In general, the same standard applies that is used in contest judging: “Completely Scratchbuilt” means that 90% or more of the model was scratch built. (But you still need to scratchbuild the specific items listed above.) This means that in contest or merit judging, the model you are claiming as “scratchbuilt” should have earned at least 11 points in that category out of a possible 15 points.

Once you complete these requirements, submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) that identifies the models and the commercial parts used, etc. The easiest way to do this is to enter the model in a Divisional, Regional, or National modeling contest and simply attach a model contest form which includes this information and also documents your score. Send



Note that the term “scratchbuilt” implies that the modeler has done all of the necessary layout and fabrication that produces the final dimensions, appearance, and operating qualities of the model.

Merit Award Winners at PCR 2015

Photos by Giuseppe Aymar, MMR



Clyde Queen, Jr., Freight Car, D&RGW Stock Car #5751 - Also 1st Place Freight Car Open



Dan Smith, Freight Car, MP 60' Waffle IFR Boxcar - Also 1st Place Freight Car Kit



Earl Girbovan, Structure, Yehuda's Heating - Also 1st Place Structure Kit



Clyde Queen, Jr., MofW, GP&M Bunk Car - Also 1st Place MofW Open

Mike Blumensaadt, Display, "N" Scale Diorama, July 1861, Manassas Jct. VA Also Popular vote and 1st Place Display Open (Photo on Page 13)



Jack Burgess, Structure, Bagby Hotel on the Yosemite Valley Railroad - Also 1st Place Structure Open

the completed SOQ to your Divisional AP representative, along with a photocopy of your NMRA membership card and you are on your way toward another certificate!

I am happy to announce that a Golden Spike Award has been given to Theodore Stephens.

In addition, there were 13 contest entries at the recent PCR Club Car Convention which received Merit Awards for model which scored 87½ or more points. Some of those models are shown in the accompanying photos. Those without photos are Frank Markovich, Structure, Logging Truck; Don Hanley,

Structure, 46' Skewed Through Plate Girder Bridge and another for his 57' Bridge; Dave Croshere, Structure, Pile Trestle Bridge (Also 2nd Place Structure Open); and Clyde Queen, Jr., Structure, O Scale Sawmill.

Congratulations to all 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 on Page 2. 🚂

Barry Roth, MofW, V&T Water Car No. 2 - Also Best of Show, Model (Photo on Page 6)



Frank Markovich, Display, Sawdust Burner - Also 1st Place Display Open

Contest Report

by Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Chairman, PCR Contest Department

We are all obliged to extend a sincere thank-you to all who contributed to the success of Contest. Our Conventions are a composite of presentations, layout tours and various other activities. Contest has been historically at the center of these activities and, thanks to your participation, it remains a focal point. All who volunteered in the Contest room and all the judges need to

be given a hearty hand clap. Nothing would have been done without their generous participation. So, Carol Skold, you took possession of the registration desk Thursday pm through Saturday, certified all the scores, helped with tabulations of points and prepared all the plaques to be presented at the Banquet. Carol Alexander, you took care of the registration desk on Thursday am, helped with score tabulations, helped with taking pictures of entries and participants, all the while preparing the power point presentation shown at the Banquet. Dave Grenier, you took on the responsibility of printing all the Certificates of Appreciation and Participation plus all the myriad of tasks we imposed on you. Dave Croshere and Bill Scott you helped setting up the Contest room and photo racks. Earl Girbovan

and Ed Slintak, you skillfully managed organizing and procuring all the necessary details like room assignment and the judge's lunch. More importantly, all of you did all the above with a serene joy and a sense of humor that made the entire experience so delightful and unforgettable.

Our judges need to be commended also, in as much as they willingly gave up half a day on Saturday to volunteer their time to essentially make sure judging of all the entries would be conducted fairly and professionally.

Dave Croshere, Earl Girbovan and Steve Wesolowski judged Construction.

Dennis Drury, David Grundman and Pat LaTorres judged Detail.

Tom Vanden Bosch, Jim Whaley and Carol Alexander judged Conformity.

Bob Schott, Jim Collins and Stu Benson judged Finish & Painting.

Dan Smith, Lee House and Barry Roth judged Scratch-building.

Mary Moore Campagna, Steve Wesolowski and Donna Hamilton from PNR judged Arts & Crafts.

Stanley Keiser and Bill Scott judged Photos.

I am remiss if I forgot one or two names. If so, please accept my apologies; let me know who you are and I will include your

participation in my next column.

All of you are the heroes and we all appreciate your devotion and effort. The success of Contest rests totally on your shoulders and you all came through.

We had a total of one hundred and eleven entries. Fourteen were assigned first place in Models, seven were first place in Photos and three were first place in Arts & Crafts. We assigned Thirteen Merit Awards (see Achievement on Page 10).

A list of the winners of the Arts and Crafts Contest are listed on page 13, along with photos of the first place entries.

See pages 13 and 14 for the Model Contest winners, along with first place photos.

The Photo Contest winners and first place photos are on page 15.

There is also a group of Popular Vote winners for Arts & Crafts, Model and Photo categories. These winners and photos are on page 15.

PCR definitely is home to very talented people and that was exhibited at this year's Contest. Let's continue on this tradition and make next year's even better.

Thanks to those of you who shared a "latte" with me, and especially Darlene Ferguson who made sure I did have a "latte" to sip and share.

These are some of the rewards of belonging to NMRA/PCR/Divisions. Good stuff.



All who volunteered in the Contest room and all the judges need to be given a hearty hand clap. Nothing would have been done without their generous participation.

For Best of Show winners See 2015 Convention Highlights on Page 6

Contest - Arts and Crafts / Popular Vote

Arts & Crafts Winners:

General Pattern:

1st place- Carolyn Weber- Oragami skirt

2nd place- Carolyn Weber- 49rs hoodie

Needlework Original:

1st place- Nancy Stokley- Monogrammed table runner

Needlework pattern:

1st place- Diane Crawford- 49rs fireworks

2nd place- Carol Skold- Felted yarn bowl

3rd place- Diane Crawford- Patchwork heart table runner



Photos by Giuseppe Aymar, MMR

Popular Vote:

Arts & Crafts:

Carol Skold- Felted yarn bowl

Model:

Mike Blumensaadt - N scale diorama of Civil war

Photo:

Tom Van Horn - Sierra RR tire





Diesel & Other Locomotive Kit:

1st place- Dan Smith- SP GP40M 7110

Diesel & other Locomotive Novice:

1st place- Stewart Benson- CNW Alco Century 430

Diesel & other Locomotive open:

1st place- Giuseppe Aymar- EMD F59PHI B unit- "what if "



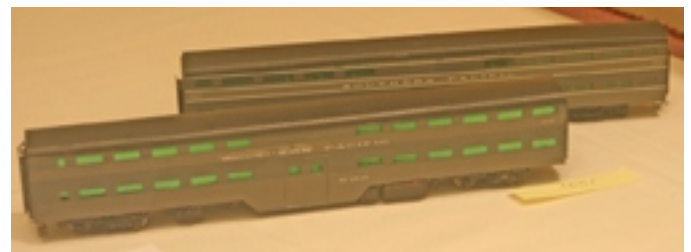
Photos by Giuseppe Aymar, MMR

Module Individual:

1st place & Merit Award – Mike Blumensaadt - N scale diorama of Civil war - Also received Merit Award (Photo on Page 13)

Passenger car kit:

1st place- Stewart Benson- SP double deck commute (Car in foreground of photo)



Maintenance of Way Kit:

1st place- Steven Wesolowski – prophylaxis RR MOW Sponge Bob track cleaner

Maintenance of Way Open:

1st place & Merit Award – Clyde Queen Jr. - GP&M Bunk car - Also received Merit Award (Photo on Page 11)



Photos by Giuseppe Aymar, MMR

Caboose kit:

1st place- Frank Markovich - Caboose West Side #6

Caboose Open:

1st place- Steven Wesolowski - RGS 401



Freight Car Kit:

1st place- Dan Smith- MP 60' Waffle boxcar - Also received Merit Award (Photo on Page 11)

Freight Car Open:

1st place & Merit Award- Clyde Queen Jr. - D&RGW stock car 5751 (Photo on Page 11)

2nd place- Robert Schott - Hooker chemical tank car

3rd place- Robert Schott - 54' flat car with timber load

Display open:

1st place & Merit Award- Frank Markovich - Sawdust burner - Also received Merit Award (Photo on Page 11)

Structure Open:

1st place & Merit Award- Jack Burgess- Bagby Hotel Yosemite Valley RR (Photo on Page 11)

2nd place & Merit Award- Dave Croshere- Pile trestle bridge


3rd place & Merit Award- Clyde Queen Jr. - "O" scale sawmill

Honorable mention & Merit Award- Frank Markovich - logging truck

Structure kit:

1st place & Merit Award- Earl Girbovan - Yehuda's Heating (Photo on Page 11)

2nd place & Merit Award- Tom Vanden Bosch - Coaling tower

3rd place- Frank Markovich - Stone Engine house 

Forums and Clinics Available On-Line

by Ben Sevier, Manager, NMRA IT Department

Thanks to the efforts of Kristy Wilson at NMRA HQ and Scott Povlot of the NRMA web team, we are in the midst of making streaming videos of the NMRA National Convention clinic video set available on the NMRA website - member's only. They are not all up yet, and descriptions are in the works so only the presenter is shown at the moment. I expect we'll have them all up in about a month (there are 50 of them in the set). To check them out, log into the website (if you have never logged into the NEW NMRA website, you will need to register on the site using the email address we have in your membership record), which will put you on the Member Home page, and click on the blue box that says "Watch Clinic Videos", or to up to the Education menu and select them there.

These videos are conversions of the DVD's that were made to send out to the Regions for use by members, and the DVD's were made from several different sources (VHS tapes, etc.) and were taken both professionally and by attendees, so quality varies, but they are all interesting and pertinent today. Please mention in your publications.

Also, for those that haven't noticed or didn't see my posting a while back, the NRMA Forums are open on the website for members - these are open to any registered (and logged in) member, not the public.

Feedback welcome. 

Model black & white:

- 1st place: Carol Skold – Stop at a small station
- 2nd place: Frank Markovich – The line-up. 3 engines, #3 leading
- 3rd place: Gus Campagna – Roundhouse interior

Model color:

- 1st place: Carol Skold – into the woods
- 2nd place: Pat LaTorres – Oh Shay can you see
- 3rd place: Carol Skold – Headed into the mill



Prototype black & white:

- 1st place: Stanley Keiser – Crossing signals
- 2nd place: Stanley Keiser – Steam engine
- 3rd place: Pat LaTorres – Train time



General Rail Subject:

- 1st place: Ronnie LaTorres – Cemex
- 2nd place: Stanley Keiser – Through the rotary's window
- 3rd place: Ed Merrin – Connection



Photos by Giuseppe Aymar, MMR



Tracks & Structures:

- 1st place: Ed Merrin – Graffiti bent
- 2nd place: Ed Merrin - Serene timber
- 3rd place: Tom Van Horn – Sierra RR tie

Working on the Railroad:

- 1st place: Ronnie LaTorres – Robert Dollar
- 2nd place: Ronnie LaTorres – Setting the brake.
- Working @ Rice

Pacific Coast Region SIG Report for Second Quarter 2015

by Seth Neumann

The big Spring activity in the PCR was the SIG program at the PCR “Club Car” convention headquartered in Newark at the Doubletree, May 13-17. We had a very successful clinic program with many Design and

Operations oriented topics, including an update by Keynote Speaker Tony Koester on his Nickel Plate Road, and a great presentation on the salt mining industry by another former RMC editor, Bill

Schaumburg. There were many other great clinics, all of which seemed to be up against my clinics or other commitments. The good news is that I am working with Modesto clinic Chair Mary Moore-Campagna on next year’s SIG clinic program and I’m hoping we can get many of the presenters to come back with new material!

We had an active Operations program, organized by Club Car Chairman David Parks (who evidently didn’t have enough to do). Eleven layouts participated, including a couple of new ones, with 50 participants (some participating in more than one session). I hosted a session on Wednesday with 7 visitors, who seemed to enjoy themselves, and then got back to Bill Kaufman’s State

Belt on Sunday, for the first time in years, and found it as challenging and enjoyable as ever! Fifty layouts were on the tours and many have significant design and operations features. It’s hard to visit a Coast Division layout and not learn something useful.

One more note on the convention: our long-time SIG Meet Webmaster David Grenier received a richly-deserved John Allen award for his service to many groups within the PCR and a special John Allen award was given to Tony Koester for his contributions to the hobby. Our congratulations to them, both!

In out of town operating action, several of us were able to participate in major events in the Midwest. The land of long winters and big basements (Chicago and the Twin Cities) presents some fantastic operating opportunities and great sessions with operators from all over the country. It seems the people in the Cities are big California fans as their event featured two switching layouts based on the Central Valley and one Sierra RR. Ray deBlicek and I were able to connect with a group from Chicago and Kansas City who toured the Iron Range of Michigan and Northern Wisconsin, ending up in Duluth/Superior before heading down to the Cities, so we got quite an education

on iron ore and taconite!

We receive invitations, either as individuals or as a block to be distributed among Bay Area operators, to operating events all over North America, so if you’d like to participate let me know at the email below or talk to me at one of our events!

As I mentioned last quarter, we are very fortunate to have the NMRA national convention within a (long) day’s drive in August. The Portland group which put on the very successful 1994 meet has come out of retirement to organize the 2015 convention. Our own Bill Decker, a recent returnee (as an Oregon State man) to the Willamette Valley from Silicon Valley is the SIG Coordinator and has organized a great LDSIG layout tour (Wednesday) as well as a fine operating program (layouts available every evening). There will be an “Advance Section” of operating sessions in the Puget Sound area the weekend prior to the convention. Slots are going very fast, but check in at www.opsig.org if you want to op. In general, these are SoundRail (the Puget Sound equivalent of BayRails) layouts and from my experience they range from very good to awesome. If you, like me, intend to drive you’ll find a number of layouts available for touring and operations on the way up and back. More details to follow. 🚂



Fifty layouts were on the tours and many have significant design and operations features. It's hard to visit a Coast Division layout and not learn something useful.

Coast Division Report June 2015

by Frank Markovich, MMR, Coast Division Superintendent

Next Event will Be:

September 27, 2015 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, [Coast Division](#) Event/Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. Please don't park in handicapped unless you have the right to. Below are the directions.

From the North: Take Highway 880 south. Take exit #39B/23rd Avenue/Alameda onto Kennedy St. Turn right onto 23rd Avenue, and then bear right onto 29th, which becomes Park. Turn right on Santa Clara.

From the South: Take Highway 880 North. Take Exit 38, High St. Turn left on High St.

Bear right on Gibbons. Turn right on Santa Clara. The Elks Lodge is on the right.

We met at the Elks 2 meetings ago and the people there really liked the facility.

Come meet other local model railroaders during our free quarterly meet and enjoy two free clinics, model, photo & switching contests/displays, videos, etc.! Bring YOUR questions to modeler's roundtable for answers. You may win a door prize! Enjoy our lively auction of model railroading items & more!

It will start at 9:30 AM. There will be two

clinics – at this time Mike Blumensaadt will do a clinic on Civil War Railroads and we will have another clinic – tentatively on painting figures.

At the June meet: We had about a dozen models and the same for photos. There were over 400 items in the Auction. There were 108 in attendance with a number of new members. There were over 20 door prizes. Two great clinics – one on the Clayton Branch and one of



Scale and Gauge. Charlie Getz spoke briefly on Portland and other things related to national organization.

We expect the auction



to be large again. Again the auction in December made a sizeable amount as we had close to 500 items. We had two clinics and the room was packed for both of them. One was on car cards for modules and the other was the final build a memory clinic. We also had just over 100 people sign in. This was about 20% more than the number that we had for the previous meet.

The Business meeting was rather short but here are some of the highlights: Lots of information but here is just a sampling. Charlie Getz talked about changing our meets to be called events,

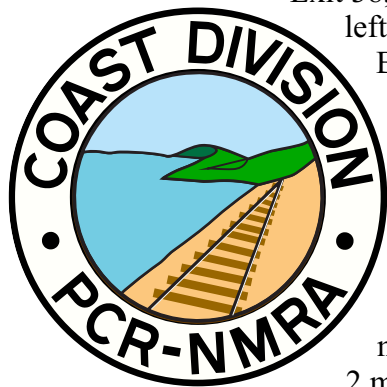
also about progress at the Sacramento Train Museum on the Scale Model Railroading exhibit. By the time you get this the Ops Session will be over. I understand that it was the best ever. I couldn't go as I started teaching that week and had

to work on Friday evening and Saturday day.

Also coming up is O Scale West: **February 5 – 7, 2015**, [O Scale West / S West Meet](#), Hyatt Regency, 5101

Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA. I will have my layout open on Friday night. Even if you don't go to the convention you are welcome to come visit my layout at 1904 Chula Vista Dr, Belmont, Ca 94002. I will be open on Friday February 6, 2015 from 7:00 PM until

Photos by Frank Markovich, MMR



10:00 PM.

I have taken over the West Side Reunion and this year the West Side Reunion and the Sierra Seminar will be the same day for the presentations and on Sunday we have great activities

scheduled for the Seminar. See at the end of my article.

Pete Birdsong has taken over the Coast Website, if you haven't looked lately please do. Much improved. Pete is a great addition to our board.

Dates and locations for next year are all set – mark your calendars:
Sept 27th Elks
Dec 6th back here San Leandro Boy Scouts.



Photos by Frank Markovich, MMR

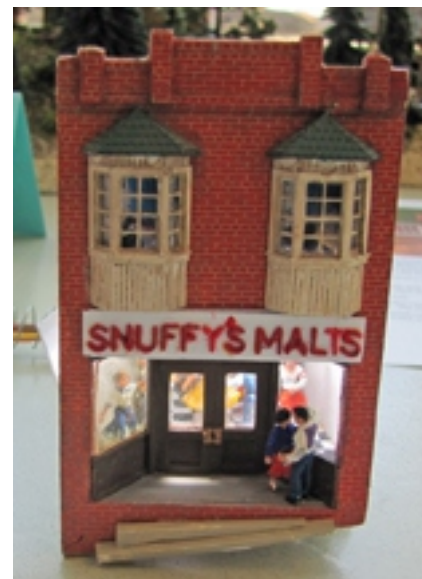


Meeting



Auction Items

Model Contest Entries



Model Contest Entries



Photos by Frank Markovich, MMR



Opting Out of Branch Line Subscription

by Gus Campagna, PCR Publications Manager

If you subscribe to the PCR Branch Line Magazine, now \$8.00, you can opt-out of receiving the printed version. Just write to me at campgus@earthlink.net and I will add you to my list. When I get notification that the Branch Line is at the printer I send out an e-mail to the members who have opted-out.

If you are a life member, you automatically get the printed version of the Branch Line, but you can also opt-out if you'd like.

Remember the Branch Line is available to everyone on-line!

In Memoriam

Member	City,	State	Date Joined	
Coast Division				
Robert Dupont	San Mateo	CA	1/1/1959	Honorary Life Member
Sierra Division				
Robert Crawford	Riverbank	CA	1/1/1973	Life Member

Redwood Empire Division Report

by Dick Foster, Superintendent (emeritus)

RED has a lot to shout about this quarter. Two of our hardest working members have been elected to President and Vice President of the PCR division. Congratulations to Ed Merrin, PCR's newly elected president and Carol Alexander, our new Vice President. (A round of applause can be heard in the background.) Both of these people have years of experience in the PCR and RED and will bring new ideas and energy to the group. Please give them all your support and your input for new directions.

One of the exciting events on the horizon for the Empire division is the opportunity to

operate on the newly reconstructed Western Pacific layout at Ron Kaiser's new home in West Santa

Rosa. Members of the High Ballers and others have worked over the winter and spring months to move and make the newly expanded layout operational. All of us remember two years ago at the picnic at Ron's old home, that the WP was soon to be moved to a new location. I think all of the members will be quite surprised at this new design and greatly expanded WP layout. Information and directions for this 2015 event

will be published in the Call Board and also on-line at the RED website. All PCR members and even non RED model railroaders are invited to Ron's new layout in August.

In Healdsburg, the Sonoma County Model Railroad Society is making good progress on their layout in the old NWP freight house, which the North Coast Railroad Society hopes to evolve into a museum. The HO layout depicts the NWP trackage from Novato to Hopland is now operational. To celebrate this accomplishment the SCMRs' are planning an open house for RED members to showcase their progress.

On a more local level, since Dick Foster had to give up the "Super" job, due to some long term medical issues (hips/broken leg etc - don't ask!) Peter Barnes, all around "good guy" and multi-talented model railroader has taken over the "Superintendent" job along with Ed Zakareckis as new Chief Clerk, replacing Verne Alexander. Our hats are off to these two retiring volunteers who have guided RED along very well for the past several years. Peter says thank you to Dick for putting this report together as he gets started in his new role.

Don't forget the New WP Layout Picnic event at Ron Kaiser's on August 15th. Be looking forward to the NMRA Convention in Portland at the end of August.



Peter Barnes and Gus Campagna review the fine art of using a screwdriver on Ron Kaiser's new WP layout. Photo by Dick Foster

Sierra Division Report

by Chip Meriam
Photos by Chip Meriam

May 2 was the Sierra Division's second "event" for 2015. The morning found us at the home of Tom Milam for a tour and operation of his beautiful Wolf Creek Railway. Tom began construction of the Wolf Creek in 1980 and moved it to its present location in 1989. The Wolf Creek has since expanded into two other portions of Tom's basement.



Tom Milam Provides a Little History of the Wolf Creek



The layout features intricate geared locomotives, hand laid dual-gauge track work, scratch-built turntables, and tons of custom structures and scenery.

Tom not only offered the Wolf Creek for an operation session, he also provided bottled water and homemade cookies for our refreshment. What a host!

The afternoon session was held at the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church where we held a brief business meeting before we were treated to two "how to" presentations, a knowledge contest (guessing game?), and a door prize drawing. Chip Meriam narrated a slide show about how he scratch built a unique California Water Service Company pump station. Rod Smith demonstrated his modification of a Harbor

Freight Bug Zapper to create a static grass applicator. Bob Cable quizzed all of us on the names of North American steam locomotive wheel arrangements (*Pacific, Mikado, Mountain, Atlantic, etc.*). Current Superintendent Jim Collins and immediate Past-Superintendent Scott McAllister drew winning door prize tickets.

The Contest Chairperson was unable to attend this event so the photo and modeling contests were postponed until the next event to be held in Reno. The contest categories will be Photo: Black and White Prototype; and Modeling:

Non-Revenue Car.

The next event will be August 1 in Reno, where we will visit Jim Petro's layout and hold our contests, presentations, and meeting at the Sparks Public Library.



Rod Smith Shows Us His Re-Purposed Bug Zapper

Sierra Division



Members Examine the Pump House Construction Display

Photos by
Chip
Meriam



Bob Cable Chuckles As We Try to Come Up With the Name




Brian Booth, from Lafayette, Won the Wheel Contest For a 4-10-10-4



Scott McAllister and Jim Collins Awarding Door Prizes



Dual-Gauge Handiwork



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Board of Directors May 13, 2015 Board Meeting Highlights

by Lisa Gorrell, Past Secretary, PCR

The PCR Board of Directors met on May 13, 2015 at 1:00 PM at the Doubletree by Hilton in Newark, California.

President LaTorres outlined the successes of the in the past 8 years. V.P. Merrin encouraged everyone to think about how to replenish the ranks with folks under 55.

Treasurer Altbaum reported we are financially healthy, although expenses continue to exceed income. We should do all we can to increase our membership and increase our income. Michael Coen has agreed to take over the Treasurer's position.

Each of the four Division Directors reported on successful meets/events

they had the past half year.

In Committee Reports, committees reported on their successes. The convention handbook is being worked on by Carol Alexander and she is looking for input from everyone. A new Storekeeper is needed. Non-Rail committee is looking for volunteers from each of the divisions.

Under New Business, an upgrade to the FormSite.com account was approved from the Pro1 level to the Pro2 level which will enable up to 5 users. This program is used for online registrations.

The next Board Meeting will be Saturday, Oct 11, 2015 at 1 PM at the Doubletree in Modesto. 🚗

Branch Line Deadlines for 2015

OCT-NOV-DEC 2015 Issue
Articles due by
September 10, 2015

JAN-FEB-MAR 2016 Issue
Articles due by
December 10, 2015

APR-MAY-JUN 2016 Issue
Articles due by
March 10, 2016

JUL-AUG-SEP 2016 Issue
Articles due by
June 10, 2016

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

PCR Honors Awarded

by Dave Connery, MMR

During this year's Awards Banquet on Saturday evening of the Convention in Newark the annual awards were presented to a number of exceptional members. This year's awards are again a wonderful Mike Kotowski print, generously framed and plated.

The recipients are:

President's Award - Giuseppe Aymar
Division Member of the Year Award
Coast – Frank Markovich
Daylight – Doug Wagner
RED – Dave Grundman
Sierra – Larry & Judy Champlin

The prestigious John Allen Award was presented to Dave Grenier and Tony Koester. See the Historian's Report on page 29 in this issue for information on the John Allen Award. 🚗

Web Announcement

By Gus Campagna,
Manager, PCR Publications
Department

New pages added to the Website. We are in the process of adding a page to display Layout Stories. We are seeking submissions from layout owners to tell the story of their layout. Details are on the page about what we are looking for. Check out the Layout-stories page on www.pcrnmra.org

In Memoriam - Bob Dupont

In early May an important part of PCR passed with the death of Bob Dupont at age 85. Bob was a powerful force in model railroading, both locally and throughout the nation. He owned Peninsula Hobbies for 15 years and over that counter helped several generations of shop visitors become avid model railroaders. He was instrumental in introducing the joys of O Scale modeling to many in the San Francisco Bay Area.



But Bob was far more than a friend at the hobby shop, he was universally regarded as personable, thoughtful, friendly, a supportive leader and a friend of great integrity. Much more than just a booster of the hobby in some of its “golden years”, Bob was an accomplished modeler in both HO and O and was renowned for his exceptional Maintenance of Way models and open loads.

Bob’s dedication to the hobby ran deep and he served as PCR Vice-president in 1973-1974 and as our Region President in 1975-1976. He went on to serve the NMRA as National Vice-president 1982-1986 and National President 1986-1990. In 1986 Bob was awarded the NMRA President’s Award and in 1991 NMRA Honorary Life Member #30. Bob was Chairman of the 1981 NMRA National Convention held in San Mateo and the 1986 O Scale National Convention in Burlingame.

He was a key member of the team that produced O Scale West from its second year in 1992 through this year’s event, taking responsibility for the outstanding lineup of layouts for attendees to visit. Visitors to Bob’s Tall Pine Timber Company home layout were in for a special treat – a chance to see a great deal of our hobbies history in the many vintage models Bob had on display both on his layout and in cases mounted on many walls in his home. Visitors also got a chance to meet his gracious wife Diane and devoted German Shepherd, Harli.

Bob was recognized within the region with the PCR President’s Award in 1972 and his presentation of the John Allen Award in 1982.

More than just a model railroader, Bob was an

equally consummate leader in the many aspects of his life, having proudly served as a US Marine during Korea and was a leader in his other hobby of vintage automobiles, especially Fords. We lost an integral part of our history with Bob’s passing. “The lights are all green Bob, Highball!”

The following members contributed to this obituary – Eric Bracher, Bob Brown, Neil Chichizola, Dave Connery, Ray deBlieck, Charlie Getz, Jenny Hendricks, Paul Ingraham, Frank Markovich, Rod Miller and Rod Smith. 🚂

Membership

By Doug Wagner, PCR Membership Manager

Well, I hope all of those of you who attended the annual Pacific Coast Region Convention, *The Club Car*, in Newark, had a great time. I know I did! With all the great clinics and layout tours, I am now motivated to get back to laying track on my home layout—The Porterville-Orosi Branch, of the Santa Fe Railroad.

All the layouts I visited gave me inspiration to get back to work on my home layout. One layout that stood out to give me some ideas for my home layout was Seth Neumann’s UP Niles Canyon layout, that had some un-coupling tools made from Styrene tubing and #14 tapestry needles. We have already put these into operation on our Bakersfield Model Train Club GEHAMS N scale layout. Another layout, the Livermore Valley Lines, gave me an idea on how I was going to install track lighting on my home layout.

So, I am proof-positive that you can get ideas from attending a PCR convention! If you have not attended a PCR convention, you don’t know what you are missing out on! So, plan on attending the 2016 PCR convention, in Modesto, the *Taking It to the Streets*, April 20 – 24, 2016. You will ALWAYS find something that you will like and to give you ideas and learn something! And to those who have NEVER attended a PCR convention, what are you waiting on? Sign up now for the 2016 Modesto convention!

Now on to Pacific Coast Region membership stuff. We have increased our membership to 1,007 members. For a few months, we went below 1,000 members to 969 members as of December 31st. But by May 31st, we are once again above 1,000 members to 1,007! We had 15 new members sign on for the NMRA, in the last 3 months! Keep up the good work! Invite a model railroader to one of our meets—or is it events—to show them we aren’t snobbish model railroaders. 🚂

The Answers Are Out There - Convention Clinics

by Robert Pethoud, Daylight Division Member
Aide Chairman

Regional conventions are a major benefit of membership in NMRA. Model railroad publications, both paper and online, can inspire and educate to a degree, but where else but at a convention can you take your own photos of members' layouts, question clinic presenters, ogle contest models, and get together with friends having similar interests who live hundreds of miles away from you?

The 2015 PCR convention, The Club Car, is now history and I am back at home, but now enriched with new tools, techniques, and ideas to try out on my modeling (not to mention some hobby shop and swap meet purchases). What follows are just a few of the many things I took away from the clinics I attended. PCR has an especially strong clinic program featuring world-class presenters and I benefitted from every one I took in.

Tony Thompson presented well-researched information on tank car operations and on "signature" freight cars, those cars which constituted a major portion of a given railroad's fleet and which were distinctive in design. You can access Tony's notes for the operations clinic at <http://modelingthesp.blogspot.com/>; look for the waybill series (and check out the many other topics of interest as well). Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine featured Tony's articles on the signature freight cars in the April 2013 and March 2015 issues; find them at <http://www.mrhmag.com>. To make your model railroad's waybills look like they were filled out in the 1950s, Tony suggests you try one of the following fonts available for your computer: Mom's Typewriter, Bell Gothic, or American Typewriter.

Bob Chaparro described a very complete tune-up procedure for your freight cars. He pointed us to an online demonstration created by the La Mesa

Model Railroad Club. A 10-minute clip can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=brSGhEbQBmM, which will then direct you to a longer 60-minute version if you so desire; they are well worth seeing. Two techniques I had not previously considered were (1) putting the car on a surface plate to see whether all of its flanges touch and (2) building a test fixture to tilt the car 35° from vertical to see whether it rights itself.

Dave Connery elegantly demonstrated step-by-step structure modeling in styrene and wood. He touted a useful scribe for styrene which can be purchased from Micro-Mark (item #82131, called a Plasticutter) and a stain for weathering both styrene and wood, which you can make by adding a couple of teaspoons of india ink and a few more of brown leather dye to a pint of isopropyl rubbing alcohol. Dave also recommends Formula 560 Canopy Glue for attaching window glazing and for gluing together dissimilar materials.

Dave Biondi inspired me to try my hand at landscape painting in acrylics. As we watched, he created from scratch a beautiful backdrop section and in the process made it look so easy that I came away convinced that—with some practice—I could do the same myself. Of course, to get the full effect, you had to be there, but Dave recommended some books which are readily available and which should get you inspired and started on your own painting: Landscape Painting: Essential Concepts and Techniques for Plein Air and Studio Practice, by Mitchell Albala (Dave says this is the best for beginners) and Painting Better Landscapes, by Margaret Kessler (Dave says this is his all-around favorite).

I could go on, but you get the idea—many good clinics. I took the photo at the head of this column on Jim Dias' highly realistic Western Pacific Railroad, built in HO scale to depict the Feather River area in the spring of 1938. If you missed The Club Car, you can see that you missed a lot. Be sure to sign up early for the 2016 PCR convention, which will arrive in Modesto next April. I hope to see you then, if not before! 🚂



Jim Dias' Western Pacific Layout

Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

by Jim Providenza
Photos by the Author

It Was at Newark That...

... I had a great convention! Our editor asked for columnists to write about stuff from our region's The Club Car 2015 convention when he sent out his Branch Line article deadline email. And at first I didn't think I had anything to offer. But then I realized that I really learned a lot, found neat stuff, had a good time with old friends, and made some new ones. In essence, that's what a convention should be all about. If you didn't attend, and maybe never have attended a PCR convention, follow along and see if maybe you don't want to register now for next year's convention: Modesto - Taking It to the Streets on April 20-24th... I'm sure there is a reg form somewhere in this issue... and before I go any further, a big thanks to David Parks and his convention crew!

So anyhow, I arrived Thursday late morning and was immediately accosted by six different folks I haven't seen for a while when I picked up my registration package. Good to say hello and catch up a bit. Bill Kaufman and I shared a room at the Doubletree. It had been a while since we had done that and it was good to spend more time together.

Three clinics stood out for me, each for a different reason. Harvey Lanier's clinic featuring SP Dispatching and Tower Operations video from the 1980's was very informative – very nice to see the sort of Dispatcher – Train Order Operator – Train Crew interaction we try to replicate on the SCN. Having Dave Bayless sitting next to me and giving me commentary (“I used to work with that engineer”, “It was all yard limits there and they didn't need an order until...”, and “I might have been the fireman on that Amtrak train”) just added to the enjoyment – and the knowledge base.

Bill Schaumburg's clinic on the American Rock Salt Co. was, as usual, highly informative and gave an in depth look at an industry that I would otherwise have known little about.

Jack Burgess' Sketchup / 3D printing clinic provided the spark to get back to learning the program so that I can have some parts made from designs I draw.

Seth Neumann and I wrapped up Thursday evening co-hosting the annual LD / OpSIG Forum. Who's in charge here anyhow? Well if I'm standing

up front and Seth is sitting, I think we're discussing layout design issues. If Seth is standing and I'm heckling him, its operations. Good folks, interesting issues and discussions, some of which carried on both later in the evening and even after the convention!

The Maker Train room on Friday was fascinating; this should come as no surprise given the tech hotbed we live in here in the Bay Area. One of many items to see or put your hands on there: Kermit Paul's 3D printer at work, and producing a part that I could envision using, brought a smile to my face. Adding that to Jack's Sketchup clinic was like frosting on a cake.

Swap meet! Sometimes you walk in and walk out, money still in your pocket. Sometimes you walk out with an armload of stuff you have no idea what your will use it for, and with a significantly lighter wallet. This time I spent \$12 and came away with several meaningful things. At one of the tables displaying all sorts of RTR plastic freight cars for sale for \$5 each, one car caught my eye immediately. It was a model of the distinctive AT&SF Bx3 boxcar. A resin kit hiding out with the hoi poloi? It had a \$5



sticker on it. I picked it up, and almost dropped it. No resin kit this! Cast metal, with sprung trucks and Kadee No. 4 couplers no less. I said I was buying it to the guy behind the table, handed him a five dollar bill, and only then asked if he knew the car's provenance. Maybe a late 1940's – early 1950's Model Die Casting metal kit at a guess. In the SCN backshop after I got home, I added cut levers, end reporting marks and weathering. ATSF 118905 will, I suspect, bounce back and forth between Bill's State Belt and the SCN. On the State Belt it will be perfectly at home in revenue service; on the SCN it will be consigned to MofW or Company Stores or some other

Continued on Page 28

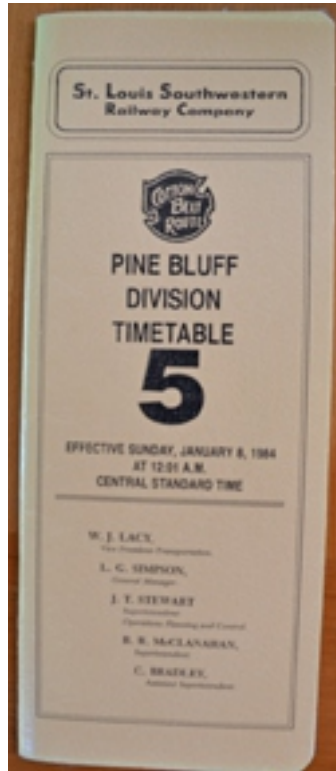
July-August-September 2015

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Tales of the SCN (Continued)

non-revenue use.

Clark Stewart of WW Hobbies had a box of employee timetables for sale. One of my favorite books is Fred Frailey's Blue Streak Merchandise which tells the story of the 60 year history of that famous SSW / SP freight train. When I found two Cotton Belt timetables from 1981 and 1984 for \$2, I couldn't resist. Now I can add some further meat to the bones the next time I reread Fred's wonderful and insightful prose.



Taking time to closely examine the contest room with truly spectacular modeling and photography!

Lunches and dinners, as is always the case, were a time for making the convention a real personal experience built around friendships. Oh, breakfasts too...

especially the Hobo Breakfast Saturday morning. It was a different but very special treat at the Saturday evening banquet to join Seth Neumann in presenting Dave Grenier with this year's John Allen Memorial Award. During the no host cocktail hour before I got a chance to thank Jack Hamilton for his "Tool Junkie" column in the NMRA Magazine. Always inspiring, if sometimes a bit intimidating! That man has tools I didn't even know existed. Tony Koester's after dinner speech about personalities he has known in the hobby was truly not to be missed.

I left after the banquet Saturday evening for church on Sunday morning. But Sunday afternoon I was back over at Bill Kaufman's for one of the convention operating sessions. A great way to round out 4 days of model railroading. The only problem is that it is impossible to argue with Bill about the way something should be done on the Belt – after all, he wrote the book!

And then there were the things I missed... prototype and layout tours I somehow didn't get to, clinics I couldn't attend (Tony Thompson's Tank Car clinic was one, but I did get to his one on freight cars), folks I saw only in passing. Our PCR conventions are such a rich and varied experience; you really have to ration yourself. You can't do it all. Mark on the calendar for next year (repeat as needed): 'to be missed only under extreme circumstances'. 🚂


Welcome Aboard! - PCR's Newest Members

Member	City, Sate	Date Joined
Daylight		
Dave Smith	Fresno CA	3/4/2015
Terry Schneider	Clovis CA	5/15/2015
Coast		
Bob Simpkins	Santa Cruz CA	3/23/2015
William Schneider	Sunnyvale CA	5/1/2015
Charles Hakkarinen	Belmont CA	5/4/2015
Ken Adams	Walnut Creek CA	5/11/2015
Frederick Cloyd	San Francisco CA	5/15/2015
Sierra		
Terry Crowley	Elk Grove CA	3/16/2015
Steven Hill	Glendale CA	3/23/2015
Kathy Delevati	Woodland CA	3/30/2015
Prince Flores	Woodland CA	3/30/2015
William Cruickshank	El Dorado CA	5/13/2015
Andrew Riggsbee	Reno NV	5/27/2015
Redwood Empire		
Robert Jenson	Eureka CA	3/30/2015
Lori Pola Hoard	Windsor CA	4/20/2015


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Looking Back

The History of the John Allen Award

by Dave Connery, MMR, PCR Historian

In 1973 the John Allen award was developed by Bob Dupont and others to recognize special contributions to our hobby while simultaneously commemorating PCR's well-known modeler, John Allen, "The Wizard of Monterey". The first recipients of the award were the Gorre & Daphetid Operators and they became the initial selection committee. Here is the current "charter" for the award.

The John Allen Award is presented annually to the individual(s) who the selection committee feels:

Best exemplifies John Allen's support for the model railroad hobby through personal involvement and willingness to assist others in their pursuit of the hobby. This support may include, but is not limited to, work in model railroad organizations; leadership of activities for model railroaders; authorship of or in model and prototype railroading publications; presentation of model railroad clinics and classes and sharing of techniques.

The award is jointly sponsored by The Pacific Coast Region/National Model Railroad Association and the Coast Division PCR/NMRA, and managed by the PCR Honors Committee. The award is made to any person deemed to be deserving by the selection committee, without regard to membership in any organization.

The selection committee consists of all living recipients of the John Allen Award. Past awardees are:

1973	Gorre & Daphetid Operators
1974	Carl "Tiny" Carstens
1975	Lou Queyrel MMR *
1976	Chet Tayloe *
1977	Dorothy Keeler *
1978	F. W. "Phread" Henderson
1979	Steve & Carol Skold
1980	Jerry Drake * & Whit Towers *
1981	Cliff Grandt * & Linn Westcott *
1982	Bob DuPont *
1983	Paul Shimada *
1984	Jim Fitzgerald *
1985	John Dennis *
1986	Hal Riegger, MMR *
1987	Jim Tangney MMR
1988	Jerry White MMR *
1989	Chuck Harmon, MMR



The John Allen Award is a Unique Miniature Switch Stand
Photo by Dave Connery, MMR

1990	Ernie Mattschei *
1991	Gene Mayer
1992	Jack Wall*
1993	Greg Austin
1994	Harold Mentzer *
1995	Ray deBlieck
1996	Lisa Gorrell
1997	Bob Ferguson
1998	Bill Scott
1999	Russ Clover
2000	Bill Swindell
2001	Bill Burket
2002	Allan Fenton * & Glenn Joesten
2003	Dave Connery, MMR
2004	Gus Campagna
2005	Larry Altbaum
2006	Dwayne Coate*
2007	Jim Long*
2008	Jack Burgess, MMR
2009	Anthony Thompson
2010	Bob Brown, MMR
2011	Mary Moore-Campagna & Charlie Getz
2012	Ed & Gay Liesse & Bill Schaumburg
2013	Richard Hendrickson *
2014	Seth Neumann & Jim Providenza
2015	Dave Grenier & Tony Koester

*Deceased



Welcome to the InfoNet News (Infoblast) For April, 2015

by Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA, Director –
Support Services

NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) for June, 2015

by Steve August, NMRA Regional Advisory
Council Director

Results of the 2015 NMRA Elections

The following candidates in the 2015 NMRA elections were elected to the positions shown:

President – Charlie Getz
VP – Administration – Clark Kooning
VP – Special Projects – Gerry Leone
Pacific District Director – Mike Bartlett
Eastern District Director – Joe Gelmini
At Large North America Director – Peter

Youngblood

From John Stevens, NMRA Secretary

In Memoriam

June 16, 2015, Donald B. Manlick, 1937-2015.

Donald B. Manlick, National Model Railroad Association Master Model Railroader no. 56, died on February 7, 2015. He was 77 years old.

Don produced decals (Herald King and DM Custom Decals); scratchbuilt HO scale freight cars, structures, and car ferries; and was active in railroad historical societies. In addition to Don's hobby activities, he spent more than 32 years working for the Chicago & Northwestern as a clerk, telegrapher, and switchman.

From Model Railroader Magazine

Positive Train Control implementation date may be extended

U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) introduced a bill on March 4 to extend the deadline for positive train control (PTC) rollout in the U.S. to at least December 2020. The current law requires all railroads that carry passengers or that haul hazardous-by-inhalation material on main lines to install a PTC system by Dec. 31, 2015. Senators referred bill S.650, the Railroad Safety and Positive Train Control Extension Act, to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Sens. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), John Thune (R-S.D.), and Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) joined Blunt as co-sponsors for the bill.

From Trains Magazine

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in the NMRA Magazine. 🚂

What is the RAC director? Recently I was asked to write the article to tell the readers about the position I hold on NMRA Board of Directors. I am the RAC Director or Regional Advisory Council Director. I am the Board Member who represents the Region Presidents and or their delegate.

The purpose of the RAC is to:

Convey Region opinion to the Board of Directors and other officers within the NMRA national level.

Comment on any dues increases beyond index which comments shall be considered by the Board of Directors prior to the adoption of said dues increases.

Receive the agenda, motions, and reports electronically at the same time as the Board of Directors receives them; and may, but need not, as a body comment on said materials through and by their representative on the Board.

The RAC, acting as a nominating committee, shall nominate, with the goal of at least two candidates for its position, and elect by a majority vote, the RAC position to the Board of Directors.

The RAC may also propose Regulations changes and by two-thirds vote place matters by way of initiative or referendum on the next available NMRA ballot in accordance with provisions set forth in Article XII of the NMRA Executive Handbook.

The Board of Directors of the NMRA shall establish, with the assistance and concurrence of the Regions, a Regional Advisory Council (RAC). This position was created some time ago and I am third Director to act in this capacity since its inception.

It shall not serve as a level of governance of the NMRA, but shall provide input to the Board of Directors representing the different perspectives of the Regions.

The body shall consist of one representative from each Region, who normally would be the Region President or such other representative that the Region designates for said purpose, as well as an alternate in case the Region representative is unable to participate.

Continued on Page 31

There shall be a position on the Board of Directors for a representative of the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) as established under the provisions of Article VIII, Paragraph 10 of the Regulations.

Representatives on the Regional Advisory Council should have electronic communications access available and shall meet on a periodic basis, in a manner and under circumstances to be developed by the RAC.

In accordance with Article VIII, Section 10, Paragraph E, the Regional Advisory Council shall select candidates for a representative to serve on the Board of Directors and said representative shall not be subject to membership vote. Each Region shall have one vote exercised through the Regional Advisory Council, and the Council, acting as a nominating committee, shall, as a goal, try to nominate two candidates for secret balloting by the RAC representatives.

This in the nutshell is what the RAC is, how they are elected and what they do as part of the National Organization known as the National Model Railroad Association.

In Memorium

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Walter J. Mundschau, who led Kalmbach Publishing Co. as its president from 1987 to 2000 and also served as TRAINS' publisher for several years, died May 31 at age 80.

A native of Sharon, Wis., "Walt," as his colleagues knew him, was hired by Kalmbach as controller in 1968. He was promoted to executive vice president in 1984 and named president in 1987. After his retirement in 2000, he served for several years as chairman of Kalmbach's board of directors.

Mundschau presided over Kalmbach during an era of significant growth, as the company moved beyond its original fields of railroading and model railroading and into new special-interest markets such as astronomy, bird-watching, and jewelry-making.

But Mundschau also kept close ties to the original magazines, TRAINS and MODEL RAILROADER. He became publisher of TRAINS in August 1987, upon the retirement of longtime Editor David P. Morgan, and served in that capacity until the February 1991 issue, when he was succeeded by Russ Larson.

From Trains Magazine 

2015 Events

July 31 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

August 1 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Daylight Division Summer Meet, Oceano Depot, 1650 Front St, Oceano, CA. Clinics start at 10:00 AM. Registration fee: NMRA: \$4.00; Non-NMRA: \$5.00. Contest Categories: Model: Structures; Photo: Model B&W.

August 1 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Tri-City Society of Model Engineers & Niles Depot Historical Foundation, Third Annual Model Railroad BYOT Swap Meet, 37592 Niles Boulevard, Niles Plaza, Fremont, CA. Info: 650-207-4397 / 510-325-2092, mtctrains@sbcglobal.net or bobcz007@comcast.net.

August 1 & 2 - Tri-City Society of Model Engineers & Niles Depot Historical Foundation, 4th Annual Public Open House, 37592 Niles Boulevard, Niles Plaza, Fremont, CA.

August 8 & 9 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Autumn Model Train Show, Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club, West Park at the Tehachapi Recreation and Park District, 410 West "D" Street (off Mill Street), Tehachapi, CA.

August 15 - 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Swap Meet and Open House, Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. \$2.00 for adults. Vendor table info: David Putnam, (661) 753-6006.

August 23 - 30 - Portland Daylight Express, NMRA 2015 Convention and National Train Show, Portland, OR.

August 28 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

September 2 - 5 - 35th Annual National Narrow Gauge Railroad Convention, Houston, TX.

September 4 - 6 - Friday: 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, Lompoc Valley Model Railroad and Historical Society, 428 North I Street, Lompoc, CA. (southeast of Vandenberg Air Force Base in Daylight Division).

September 16 - 19 - Scottsdale Express 2015, Pacific Southwest Region 2015 Convention, The McCormick Scottsdale at Scottsdale McCormick Ranch, 7401 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Arizona.

September 19 & 20 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Weekend Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

September 25 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

Time Table (Continued)

September 27 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA. Contest (Popular Vote): 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM: Model - Steam, Diesel/Other Locomotives, Passenger Cars; Photo - Caboose; Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15).

October 1 - 4 - Central Coast Railroad Festival, San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties, CA. Hosted by San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum.

October 10 & 11 - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Open House, Carquinez Model Railroad Society, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. Donation: \$4 Adults, Under 16 Free with an adult.

October 24 - 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Swap Meet and Open House, Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion, 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. \$2.00 for adults. Vendor table info, contact David Putnam, (661) 753-6006.

October 24 & 25 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Fall Train Show, Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. Fares: Adults: \$3.00 - Seniors (60+): \$2.00 - Children (6-12): \$2.00- Children under 6: Free Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com.

October 30 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

October 31 & November 1 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Fall Train Show, Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. Fares: - Adults: \$3.00 - Seniors (60+): \$2.00 - Children (6-12): \$2.00 - Children under 6: Free. Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com.

November 7 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Daylight Division Fall Meet, Gary Siegel's home, Santa Barbara, CA. Clinics start at 10:00 AM. Registration fee: NMRA: \$4.00; Non-NMRA: \$5.00. Contest Categories: Model: Displays, Photo: Model Color.

November 7 & 8 - Saturday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Fall Train Show and Open House, South Bay Historical Railroad Society, Santa Clara Caltrain Station, Santa Clara, CA. (408) 243-3969. Admission: \$5 all persons 18 and over.

November 14 & 15 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Autumn Model Train Show, Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club, West Park at the Tehachapi Recreation and Park District, 410 West "D" Street (off Mill Street), Tehachapi, CA. For more information, call Mike @ (661) 821-5271 or Linda @ (661) 822-7777.

November 14 & 15 - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Open House, Carquinez Model Railroad Society, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. Donation: \$4 Adults, Under 16 Free with an adult.

November 20 - 22 - Friday: 8:00 to 10:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Holiday Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

November 27 - 29 - Friday: 2:00 to 10:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Holiday Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

December 4 - 6 - Friday: 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, Lompoc Valley Model Railroad and Historical Society, 428 North I Street, Lompoc, CA. (southeast of Vandenberg Air Force Base).

December 6 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, 1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA. (at SF Bay Area Council Office of Boy Scouts of America). Contest Theme Categories (Popular Vote): 9:30 AM - 1:15 PM: Model: My Favorite Model and/or My Current Project Photos: My Favorite Train Picture, Model or Prototype. Clinics: TBA.

2016 Events

January 29 to 31 - Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sponsored by Pacific Coast Region-NMRA, Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Groups.

March 12 - 9:00 am to 10:00 pm, Winterail 2016 Railroadiana Show and Sale, Corvallis, Oregon.

April 20 to 24 - Taking It To The Streets 2016 PCR Convention, DoubleTree Hotel, 1150 9th Street, Modesto, CA.

June 15 - 19 - Selkirk Express 2016, Pacific Northwest Region 2016 Convention, The Prestige Harbour Front Resort & Convention Centre 251 Harbourfront Drive, NE, Salmon Arm, British Columbia, Canada.

July 3 - 10 - Highball to Indy, NMRA 2016 National Convention and National Train Show, Indianapolis, IN.

July 4 - 10 - 2016 National Garden Railway Convention, proudly hosted by the Bay Area Garden Railway Society (BAGRS), Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA. The convention hotel is the adjacent Hyatt Regency Hotel. There will also be pre-convention self-guided layout tours starting July 2, 2015.

September 7 - 10 - 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Augusta, ME. Info: info@nngc2016.org.

2017 Events

January 27 to 29, 2017 - Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sponsored by Pacific Coast Region-NMRA, Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Groups.

July 30 - August 6, 2017 - Orange Blossom Special, NMRA 2017 National Convention and National Train Show, The Rosen Plaza Hotel, International Drive, Orlando, FL.

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. BDL has been in continuous operation since 1981. We meet Tues. & Fri., 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Formal Operating Session on the 3rd Friday of the Month, but visitors can always find trains running every club night. For more information, e-mail info@blackdiamondlines.com or visit us on the web at www.blackdiamondlines.com and we can be found on Facebook and YouTube.

Bay Area Ntrak Model Railroad Club

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

Bay Area 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 RR Club

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

Carquinez Model Railroad Society

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: Jack Jensen, 707-845-2823, 3313 Union St., Eureka, CA 95503 or Ron Plies, 208-229-7107, 12818 N. 11th Ave., Boise, ID 83714.

Elsie

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

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, we also have a reasonable size yard operationally working well. Work days are Saturday and during summer on Wednesdays. Our retired members also show up on occasional weekdays. The club site is located at 3318 School St Oakland, Ca Call Charles at 510-917-5790 or Ted at 510-749-7099 for an invite to see/chat/join. Please visit our website http://www.ebmrc.org.

European Train Enthusiasts

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

Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society

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

Golden State Model Railroad Museum – East Bay Model Engineers Society

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

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Clubs (Cont.)

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.

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 HO N3 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. 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. Web: www.sbhrrs.org

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BRANCH LINE
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Clubs (Cont.)

South Coast Society of Model Engineers

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

Siskiyou Model Railroad Club

Currently we are meeting at a member's home on the first Thursday evening of the month. Contact Tom Brass at 530-842-4921 or Glenn Joesten at 530-842-2359 for current info. The layout is still in the Yreka Western freight room, but is inoperable due to no power in the building. #19 was still in the engine house last we saw, but in "kit form." No further info. Currently a few members have been getting together on Tuesday mornings for various activities.

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

Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society

The WCMRS, located at 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, is open 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. "Like Us" on Facebook, www.facebook.com/WCMRS. 2013 week-end schedule: Mar 16-17, May 18-19, Sept 14-15. Holiday Open House schedule: Nov. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, Dec. 1.

West Bay Model Railroad Association

Meets at the former baggage building at 1090 Merril St., near the Menlo Park train station and Ravenswood Ave. We are currently constructing a new 2-level HO layout designed for operations. Scheduled work sessions are Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Our monthly business meeting is held at 8 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. We are seeking new members with an interest in layout design and construction, model train operations, and/or who just love trains. Contact: Lauren Mercer at 650-322-9335, Tom Vanden Bosch at 650-369-8305 or visit the club website at wbmra.ning.com. 