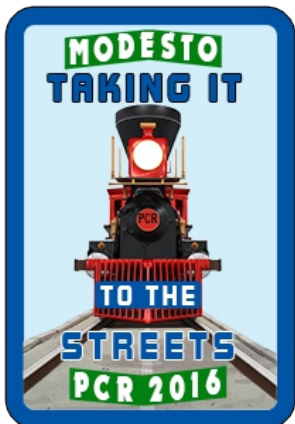
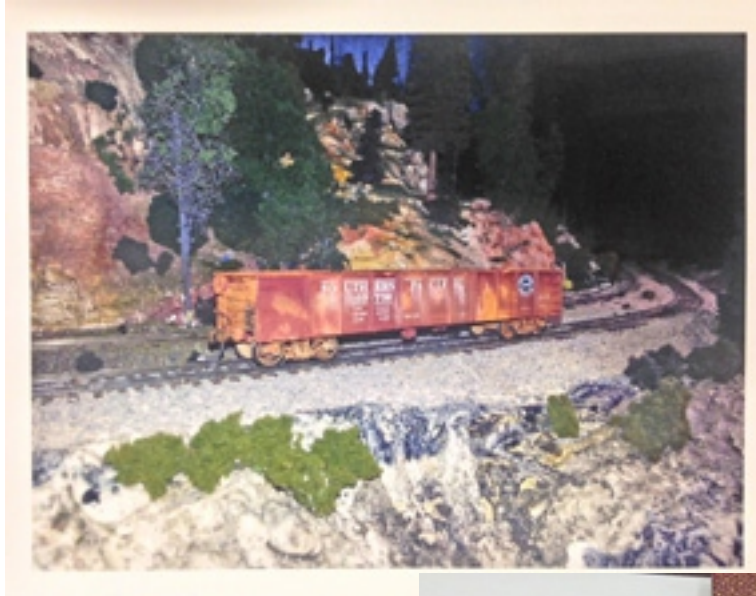


BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



Best of Show - Model
Miner's Cabin
By Earl Girbovan



Best of Show - Photo
Weathered SP
Gondola
by Walt Schedler



Best of Show - Arts & Crafts
Bargello Bag
by Nancy Stokely



USPS 870-060
ISSN 07449771
Volume 73 Number 3
July-September 2016



Modesto Contest Results
2017 Convention in Bakersfield

Page 4
Page 7

PCR Call Board

PCR Officers, BOD	President	Ed Merrin	707-542-3620	edmerrin@comcast.net
	Vice-President	Carol Alexander	707-484-5428	pcrVicePres@pcrnmra.org
	Treasurer	Bob Osborn	925-420-6880	brakemanbob@yahoo.com
	Secretary	Tom Swearingen	707-953-3070	tswearingen@gmail.com
	Director, Daylight	Dave Grenier	559-297-1345	grenida@pacbell.net
	Director, Coast	Frank Markovich, MMR	408-505-2727	frank@frankmarkovich.com
	Director, Sierra	Tom Van Horn	209-626-0352	tomvca@aol.com
	Director, RED	Steve Skold	707-539-1782	sandcskold@att.net
	Director, Hawaiian Div.	(Vacant)		
Administration	Manager	Ed Merrin	707-542-3620	edmerrin@comcast.net
	Budget and Finance Committee	[President, Vice-President and Treasurer]		
	By-laws and Manual Committee	Steve Skold	707-539-1782	sandcskold@att.net
	Ballot Committee	Jim Providenza	415-472-6715	rrijim@aol.com
	Honors Committee	Ray deBlieck	510-521-9778	RaydBCS@aol.com
	Storekeeper	Ted Moes	510-749-7099	ted@tjmoes.com
	Audit Committee	Vic Cavali	925-553-7484	VicCavalli@comcast.net
	Historian	Dave Connery, MMR	925-735-0134	dgconnery@sbcglobal.net
Non-Rail Manager	Mary Moore-Campagna	415-672-4806	marycmoore@campagna.com	
Membership	Manager	Doug Wagner	661-589-0391	CarlDW@aol.com
	Member Services	Bob Ferguson	925-228-6833	BobPCRC@aol.com
	Promotion	(Vacant)		
	Member Aid	Rod Smith	510-657-3362	Railgeezer@aol.com
	Education	(Vacant)		
Pubs.	Special Interests	Dave Parks	650-961-7644	bearwestern@comcast.net
	Manager	Gus Campagna	707-664-8466	campgus@earthlink.net
	Editor	Chuck Harmon, MMR	559-299-4385	harmonsta@yahoo.com
	Webmaster	Dave Grenier	559-297-1345	grenida@pacbell.net
Conv.	Social Media	Chris Palermo	650-208-3150	chris_palermo@yahoo.com
	Manager	Ray deBlieck	510-521-9778	RaydBCS@aol.com
	2017 Bakersfield	Chris Palermo/Doug Wagner	650-208-3150	dx2017chair@pcrnmra.org
Contest	2018 Rohnert Park	Guisepe Aymar, MMR	707-291-0701	Giuseaymar@aol.com
	Manager/RED	Guisepe Aymar, MMR	707-291-0701	Giuseaymar@aol.com
	Daylight Division	Chuck Harmon, MMR	559-299-4385	harmonsta@yahoo.com
	Coast Division	Jim Eckman	650-996-6728	jim_eckman@roninengineer.com
Achievement	Sierra Division	Gary Ray	530-873-0626	gerber1926@gmail.com
	Manager	Jack Burgess, MMR	510-797-9557	jack@yosemitevalleyrr.com
	Daylight Division	Dave Grenier	559-297-1345	grenida@pacbell.net
	Coast Division	Kermit Paul, MMR	925-935-1859	(no e-mail)
Daylight	Sierra Division	Dave Bayless	530-887-8880	davebayl@pacbell.com
	RED	Guisepe Aymar, MMR	707-291-0701	Giuseaymar@aol.com
	Superintendent	Neil Fernbaugh	559-805-4520	marmot47@sbcglobal.net
	Clerk / Paymaster	Bob Sexton	559-325-7528	rdsexton@gmail.com
	Editor	George Pisching	559-275-0199	gmpisching@netzero.com
	Membership	Doug Wagner	661-589-0391	CarlDW@aol.com
Coast	Member Aid	Bob Pethoud	559-438-7705	pethoud@comcast.net
	Webmaster	Dave Grenier	559-297-1345	grenida@pacbell.net
	Superintendent	Frank Markovich, MMR	408-505-2727	frank@frankmarkovich.com
	Clerk	Doug Smith	925-362-8974	funrun27@yahoo.com
	Paymaster	Bob Ferguson	925-228-6833	BobPCRC@aol.com
	Editor	Tom Crawford	510-790-0371	tom@thecrawfordfamily.net
Sierra	Membership	Ronnie LaTorres	510-317-7456	veronicashadlow@yahoo.com
	Member Aid	Rod Smith	510-657-3362	Railgeezer@aol.com
	Webmaster	Pete Birdsong, MMR	859-552-5467	rrpeteb@gmail.com
	Superintendent	Jim Collins	209-566-0935	jimcol@charter.net
	Clerk	Jim Firehock	916-505-9692	amtrakmanjim@hotmail.com
RED	Paymaster	Al Rowe	916-961-9911	hofunar@aol.com
	Editor	Chip Meriam	530-899-2609	chipmeriam@comcast.net
	Membership	RJ Myers	775-337-9162	ri@a2dreno.com
	Webmaster	Gus Campagna	707-664-8466	campgus@earthlink.net
	Superintendent	Peter Barnes	707-539-6746	pwbarnes@comcast.net
Hawaiian Division	Clerk / Paymaster	Ed Zakareckis	707-330-8948	ezak@castles.com
	Editor	Dick Foster	707-935-6215	gatefive@comcast.net
	Membership	Gus Campagna	707-664-8466	campgus@earthlink.net
	Webmaster	Gus Campagna	707-664-8466	campgus@earthlink.net

Hawaiian Division All offices are currently vacant

Contents

The Branch Line The Official Publication of the Pacific Coast Region/ National Model Railroad Association

Vol. 73, No.3 3rd Qtr, 2016

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.

Copyright 2016, Pacific Coast Region, National Model Railroad Association. Permission to reprint granted to all affiliates of the NMRA. Others may request permission to reprint from the Editor:

Chuck Harmon
1644 E. Goshen Ave.
Fresno, CA 93720
Phone (559) 299-4385
e-mail: harmonsta@yahoo.com

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Branch Line (USPS 870060, ISSN 07449771), is issued four times a year in the months of January, April, July and October. Deadline for all materials is the first of the month preceding publication. No material will be returned unless requested and sufficient postage is provided. Membership in the PCR is included in NMRA dues. A subscription to the BRANCHLINE is \$8.00.

The BRANCH LINE is published by the Pacific Coast Region, 530 Fig Tree Lane, Martinez, CA 94553.

Periodical Postage paid at Martinez, CA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to - BRANCH LINE, 1915 William Drive, Penngrove, CA 94951.

All comments about materials contained in the BRANCH LINE should be mailed directly to the PCR Publications Manager, 1915 William Drive, Penngrove, CA 94951.

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

Reports

President's Message	9
VP Report	12
Achievement Report	12
SIG Report	13
Coast Report	13
RED Report	16
Sierra Report	19

Features

Modesto Contest Winners	4
Bakersfield 2017	7
more Contest Winners	24

Regular Stuff

Call Board	2
Statement of Publication	3
Member Tracker	8
Opting Out of BL Subscription	10
Web Announcement	11
BL Deadlines	18
Welcome New Members	18
In Memoriam	20
Membership Gauge	21
PCR 2017 Convention Registration Form	26
Membership Report	29
Time Table	31
Club Info	33

Model Contest Winners



Steam Locomotive - open
1st Place - #17 Ten Wheeler
by Dave Croshere

Diesel Locomotive - Open
1st Place - Sp1336 S4
by Robert Schott



Freight Car - Open
1st Place - UP 911 000 Trainscaer Safety Training Car
by Giuseppe Aymar, MMR

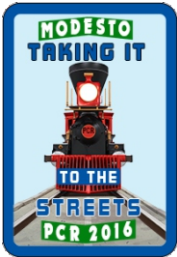
2nd Place - Blue Creek & Glory Reefer #34
by Vittore Cavalli

3rd Place - Nn3 Disconnect Logging trucks with Load
by Thomas Knapp

Structure - Open
1st Place - Surry Parker Log Loader
by Frank Markovich, MMR



Display- Open
1st Place - Hart's Transfer
by Earl Girbovan



All Photos are First Place Winners

More contest results on page 24

Photos by Carol Alexander



Maintenance of Way - Open
Yosemite Valley RR Side Dump 010
by Jack Burgess, MMR

2nd Place - Westside Water Car
by Frank Markovich, MMR



Continued on Page 5

Model Contest (Cont.)

Passenger Car - Open
1st Place - SP Observation Lounge 29
by Scott Inman



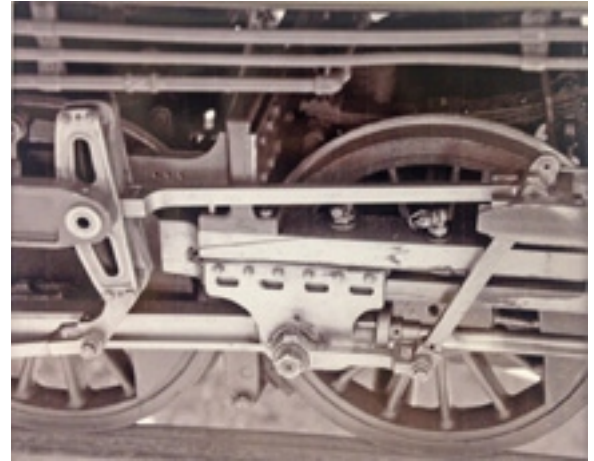
Photo Contest Winners



Working on the Railroad
1st Place - Fixin' the Air Pump
by Walt Schedler

2nd Place - Caliente
by Karen Evans

3rd Place - Engineer driving Sierra RR #3
by Jim Collins



Model, B&W
1st Place - SP 4-6-2 Valve Gear
by Tom Van Horn



Model, Color
1st Place - Shay #5
by Pat LaTorres

3rd Place - Union Ice and Fish Co.
by Ronnie LaTorres



California Western M80 at Northspur - August 1964

All Photos
are First
Place
Winners

More
contest
results on
page 24

Photos by
Carol
Alexander

General Rail Subjects
1st Place - Californis Western M80 at Northspur
by Steven Wolfe

2nd Place - Engine #22 Through the Port
by Edward Schaezner

3rd Place - Wp #706 Waiting for action at Keddie
by Steven Wolfe

Continued on Page 6

July-August-September 2016

Photo Contest (Cont.)

Track and Structures
1st Place - Roaring Camp Trestle
by Ronnie LaTorres

2nd Place - Parker, AZ RR Bridge
by Daniel Evans

3rd Place - Starlight on Stenner Creek Trestle
by Neil Fernbaugh



Trains in Ation
1st Place - Pickering #2
by Pat LaTorres

2nd Place - Corvallis Hauler
by Pat LaTorres

3rd Place - Portland Morning
by Ed Merrin



More contest results on page 24

Prototype, B&W
1st Place - Cab Forward Fireman's Side
by Stanley Keiser

2nd Place - SP&S 700
by Tom Van Horn

3rd Place - UP Display, Laramie, WY
by Dan Mahoney



Arts and Crafts Contest Winners

All Photos are First Place Winners

Photos by Carol Alexander



Needlework - Pattern
1st Place - Dale (Dolly)
by Nancy Crawford



General
1st Place - Turned Wood Bowl
by Jim Martin

Welcome to Bakersfield!

by Chuck Harmon, MMR, Publicity Chairman,
Daylight Express 2017

Come join us at Bakersfield April 19th through 23rd, 2017 for Daylight Express 2017, the annual convention of the Pacific Coast Region, National Model Railroad Association. There will be lots of model railroad displays, a full schedule of clinics, model, photo, arts and crafts contests, a Saturday-morning

swap meet and lots of opportunities to meet and learn from other modelers.

Lots of Convention Activities!

One of the highlights of the week will be a series of make-and-take clinics, including

Modeling with the Masters put on by Master Model Railroaders. Other clinics will be presented by well-known modelers on modeling techniques and prototype railroads and history. All clinics will be scheduled twice so you can attend the ones that interest you.

There will be a full Layout Design Op-SIG (Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Group) program, including operating sessions on area layouts.

The hotel facility provides ample room for modular layouts to set up and operate, and Robert and Sylvia Pethoud have agreed to bring and operate their Fall Creek Branch layout that was recently featured in *Model Railroader*. This layout has proved to be a favorite for young people wanting to discover the fun of operation as well as an inspiration to modelers who think they don't have room for a layout.

Outside Activities to Boot!

Self-guided layout tours will include the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (GEHAMS) club layouts in both HO and N scale, Larry Saslaw's indoor HO layout and outdoor G-Scale layout, and others to be added later. Layouts in the Tehachapi area will also be on tour.

Since Bakersfield is a railroad town, there are many interesting and historical sights to see, including the

Kern County Museum, the Bakersfield Museum of Art and the Country/Western Museum at Buck Owen's Crystal Palace. A short 30-minute drive will take you to the famous Tehachapi loop in the nearby Sierra mountains. (Currently a bus-tour of Tehachapi is being planned.)

April is an ideal time to visit Bakersfield, with average temperatures in the mid-70's and low 80's. Bakersfield is easily accessible by freeways from both Northern and Southern California. Air and rail passenger service are available.



Robert and Sylvia Pethoud have agreed to bring and operate their Fall Creek Branch layout that was recently featured in *Model Railroader*.



SP 2914 Resides at Kern County Museum
Photo Courtesy Kern County Museum



MWTM Clinics are extra-fare activities where the participants take home a finished model.

Registrations Now Being Accepted (See page 26)

Full-fare registration includes contests, clinics (except MWTM and other make-it-take-it clinics, and the possible Tehachapi bus tour), self-guided layout tours, exhibits and swap meet. Also included is the Saturday night PCR awards banquet and Sunday morning PCR membership meeting/breakfast.

Continued on Page 8



Fall Creek Branch Layout was a recent MR Feature

Photo by Robert Pethoud



DoubleTree by Hilton Bakersfield features beautiful gardens surrounded by Palm trees and seasonal flowers.

The “early Bird” rate of \$105 is in effect until November 30, 2016. Family members get a break: registration for a non-rail is \$95.00 and Youth registration is \$65.00. Family registrations include all the

regular registration benefits, registration, banquet and breakfast. A youth is 12 to 18 years old, or a full-time student. See WEB site for registration form.

Hotel

Convention headquarters will be the DoubleTree by Hilton, Bakersfield. Centrally located near the junction of freeways 99 and 58, the hotel is just minutes from a wide choice of restaurants and local attractions. The following

description is from the hotel web-site: *Welcome to the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel in Bakersfield. Begin your stay at this inviting hotel with a delicious fresh-baked DoubleTree cookie and allow our attentive staff to cater to your every need. Situated in acres of beautiful landscaped gardens, this Bakersfield hotel offers a resort-like oasis. Ideally located only 10 minutes from Meadows Field Airport by complimentary shuttle and just off the Rosedale Highway and Highway 99, the hotel provides easy access to all that Bakersfield has to offer. Visit local attractions such as Kern River and The Fox Theatre, or remain in the hotel and lounge by the outdoor pool or work out in the fitness center.*

All rooms feature modern amenities including WiFi and 42-inch flat-screen TVs.

Indulge in a delicious meal at The Café, open daily for breakfast, lunch and

dinner.

Room reservations will be open at a later time, to be announced on the PCR web site and in the Branch Line. Do not call the hotel for reservations yet.

Everyone Come!

Plan now to be part of this great adventure in the South Valley! Hope to see you then. 🚂



Larry Saslaw Will Open his Indoor HO layout and his outdoor G-Scale layouts

Photo by Bob Chaparro



The “early Bird” rate of \$105 is in effect until November 30, 2016.



GEHAMS Feature Both HO and N-Scale Layouts

Photo by Bob Chaparro

PCR Membership Tracker

as of 5-31-16

Division	# Members
Coast	452
Sierra	257
Redwood Empire	139
Daylight	122
Hawaiian	11
Total PCR Members	981

President's Report

by Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

Let's get back to membership, age, and the future of NMRA.

We have generally accepted the fact that we have an aging membership and we struggle to recruit younger members into our organization. There have been a number of proposed factors responsible for this situation, which, if it persists for too long, threatens our ability to function as we do now. These include the ideas

that (a) fewer of the "younger" (which has various definitions) people are interested in trains now because trains are less likely to be parts of their lives, (b) even if they are interested in trains they are not prone to join

organizations, and (c) they are more inward and preoccupied with video games and online activities than they are in building things. Another explanation – that potential modelers wait until the kids are out of the house and they retire – has floated around, although our ranks are stuffed with long-term members who did not follow that pattern. Finally, some of us have described our growing realization that our group, the PCR, is a nation of old grandpas who, hard as we try, don't understand what it is these younger folk would want to do with their railroad time anyway.

Whatever the causes are, the fact is that as we age, our membership is slowly sinking. PCR membership was 1005 at the end of March 2014, but dropped to 996 the following year and by this year was down to 978. Three members were reported deceased in 2014-2015 but twelve this year. Finally, 33 failed to renew their membership in 2014-2015 but that figure increased to 75 this year. It's not that we aren't finding new members (27 in 2015-2015, 45 in 2015-2016), but we lose more than we gain.

Fortunately, rather than grumble about the fact that younger generations aren't just like us, a number of enterprising PCR members have taken active steps to be present at a variety of events and venues where hobbyists of all stripes may be lurking. For several years former PCR President Pat LaTorres has been representing PCR/NMRA at the annual Bay Area Prototype Modelers meet in the East Bay. This event is swarming with modelers showing off their impressive creations, and many are not NMRA members and are younger than our membership average. But their event doesn't resemble a PCR meet. There's no structure other than a few clinics in a side room, just lots of sharing. Nonetheless, PCR has a table there and in fact is a sponsor of the event. Coast Division Superintendent

Frank Markovich and Coast member Mike Blumensaadt have carted around their layout building display (9art of the NMRA "Build a Memory" program) to all kinds of community events where they are the sole representatives of NMRA. Various members, like Steve Wesolowski and untold others pitch camp at train shows and similar gatherings waving the PCR/NMRA banner.

A grass roots movement has been growing on the PCR Yahoo Group to establish a PCR presence at the "Maker Faires" sprouting all over Northern California, four scheduled in PCR territory between now and the end of the year. Turns out there are already a number of railroad themed things going on there, but never anything officially NMRA. In addition, the events are teeming with hobbyists and modelers working in other venues. PCR being in such an environment might be like it was in my earlier academic life, when our boss would purposely put people in neighboring offices to see if collaborations would arise. See Dave Grenier's calendar listings on our website for upcoming Maker Faires.

Now there are most likely naysayers among you, of course. They will point out that our efforts to reach out in this manner have failed to produce any surge in new membership. The folks that chat with us at these events are never heard from again,

Continued on Page 10



PCR membership was 1005 at the end of March 2014, but dropped to 996 the following year and by this year was down to 978.

the wide-eyed youngsters who drag their parents over to our displays are merely teasers. Yes, this is technically true. We do not have the means to check in, say, ten years to see what happened. But common sense tells me that good marketing practice involves staying in the public eye instead of hiding out in our own restricted meetings and publications. Let's not let then forget, if they ever knew, that we exist.

Meanwhile, a thread appeared on the PCR Yahoo group that may have some relevance to our ability to reach out. It has to do with what kinds of miniature railroading hobby activities are serious enough to warrant NMRA approval.

The NMRA has a mission statement on its website that reads as follows:

"The National Model Railroad Association, Inc. advances the global scale model railroading community through education, advocacy, standards, and social interaction."

The key phrase is "scale model railroading." But what does that exactly mean and what does it exclude? Most people would agree that Brio trains are simple toys and have nothing to do with scale modeling. I think that the majority would consider Lego trains very creative but not scale modeling. But there is a lot of in between stuff.

Again, from the NMRA site, "The trains that we commonly refer to as

'Tinplate', 'Hi-Rail' or 'Scaleplate' run on track that doesn't scale out to the real thing for the size of the trains. Many times, the train cars and locomotives are shortened versions of scale. There is nothing wrong with building a layout around this equipment and there are a large number of layouts around the country using 3-rail track and 'Tinplate' or 'Scaleplate' type of equipment. They are model railroads. They are just not 'scale' model railroads in the same way that HO and N are." Does anyone else note that O and S were left out in the last sentence?

O Scalers in general may be more tolerant than us smaller gauge folks, since the road from Lionel sets to O Scale can have an intermediate step, taking the Lionel equipment and track and building a ¼ inch scale diorama for it to operate in. In my own case, when I was twelve or so I got ahold of a paperback called "Model Railroading" published by

Lionel. This book had a 5th edition in 1990, which I purchased out of nostalgia. It reviews all the scales and gauges, has lots of tips on scratchbuilding structures and covered doing scenery and operations. Of course the main thrust was focused on using Lionel equipment. It was a bridge for me and eventually led to my trading my stuff in for HO.

Well, not everyone went on to HO or O Scale, or whatever, but they did as the book suggested. Does this mean that these practitioners of "Hi-Rail" (or 3 rail Scale as some call it now) model railroading don't belong in the NMRA? That NMRA will not sponsor events that feature such models? What about Garden railroads? A large proportion of the outdoor garden layouts I have seen take quite a few liberties with car length and so on.

And are HO, N, and other "scale venues" so pure? Are they accurately

Continued on Page 11

The key phrase is "scale model railroading." But what does that exactly mean and what does it exclude?

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. ■■■

reproducing the exact track gauges of the prototype, or the correct prototypical rail height? What about the sizes of couplers? Wheel flanges? How about the visible gear housing between steam engine driving wheels? Apart from a very few very large layouts, aren't our curve radii way too sharp? And the list goes on.

The question here is if whether by defining what "real" model railroading is supposed to be too narrowly, are we excluding and alienating too many potential members, including younger ones. After all, the name is National Model Railroad Association, not National Scale Model Railroad Association.

There's a lot of emotion around this issue. On the one hand, there is concern that to blur the boundaries defining what is basically a two-caste system of model railroading will dilute and potentially damage the great work that NMRA has done in defining standards and recommended practices. Without this model railroading would have never evolved into what it is today. On the other side, there are plenty of "anti-NMRA" modelers I've met who see us as elitist and condescending.

With that, I'll end my column for this time. Perhaps I'll hear from some of you about where the NMRA is or should be going. 🚂

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 🚂

Vice-President's Report

by Carol Alexander, Vice-president, PCR-NMRA

I've been thinking. Yes, a high risk activity at best, but I still persist. What I've been thinking about are you, the members of the PCR. I was flattered at the response I received at the Annual Business Meeting when I announced that Janette and I were not going to be moving out of state after all.

One of the popular themes that comes up when

discussing why one should belong to the NMRA is the people you meet; at least that seems to be true for most of us. I've had the pleasure of being associated with the Sonoma County Highballers for twenty-eight years. Not only have we shared this wonderful hobby but we've shared the human cavalcade of births, graduations, marriages, divorces and death. Friendships that have expanded far beyond just the hobby that I treasure and always will.

I always like to attend the PCR convention because I know I'll come home with lots of ideas and techniques for having even more fun with model trains. I'll also

come back with updates about the people I haven't seen since last year. I get to hear about their kids and their grand-kids and where they have traveled. I look forward to these visits as much as I do the clinics and the contest.

At our most recent convention I became ill and after I got home I was getting dressed when I passed out and fell, striking my head and injuring my back. Along with my wife, it was one of my railroading friends that was checking up on me and helping when needed. I am well now and there were no lasting problems; I just wanted to express my gratitude for the best part of this hobby of ours – the people we meet along the way. 🚂



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Master Model Railroader

by Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department

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

seven certificates, you must have received one from each of four areas:

Railroad Equipment

Master Builder - Motive Power

Master Builder - Cars

Railroad Scenery

Master Builder - Structures

Master Builder - Scenery

Master Builder - Prototype Models

Railroad Construction and Operation

Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical

Chief Dispatcher

Service to the Hobby and NMRA Member

Association Official

Association Volunteer

Model Railroad

Author

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

hobby.

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

I am also pleased to announce that Mike Blumensaadt has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Volunteer. Congratulations Mike!

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 of this issue of the *Branch Line*. 🚂





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)

Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann

The big news for SIGs in the second quarter of 2016 was the operating program and SIG clinic track at the PCR Convention in Modesto, April 21-24. We had a good turnout and many excellent clinics. Thanks to all the hosts and presenters!

The NMRA National Convention in Indianapolis July 3-9 promises to be very good and LDSIG President Ron Burkhardt is



coordinating the LDSIG activities and the Operations SIG ops program is continuing to add sessions. Check their web page.

We've had a number of great out of town operating opportunities:

In March many Bay Area operators visited the Seattle Area for SoundRail.

The La Mesa Club in San Diego with its massive Tehachapi Pass layout hosted Timetable and Train Order sessions in May (modern equipment) and June

(Transition era).

Pretty much the same group from March headed to Southern California for SoCalOps the second weekend in June.

Many of us will be attending the NMRA Convention in Indianapolis and operating in Indiana and Ohio.

There continues to be an embarrassment of riches in the out of town ops meet area, so please contact me if you are interested in participating.
sneumann@pacbell.net 🚂

Coast Division Report

by Frank Markovich, MMR, Coast Division Superintendent

There were 90 in attendance at our June 5, 2016 event (meet). We also had 531 items in the auction. This was by far the most we have had in some time.

There were 25 items donated to the division and we raised over \$100 for those items. I saw items in all of the major scales (N, HO and

O scale). Even a few narrow gauge items. Not so much brass – just a few – but lots of other cool items.

Two clinics were given and

both were well attended. Mike Blumensaadt and I did the next steps on “Build a Memory”. This is an ‘N’

scale project layout that is just 2 feet by a little less than 4 feet. It will fit in the back seat of most cars and is totally built on foam. We will do part 3 at the next Coast event. Part 3 will cover electrical, structures and misc. towards building and moving the layout. One person can move this layout by themselves.

The second clinic was by Bill Swindell on “Power on Board” or “Dead Rail”. The room was packed and Bill gave lots of information on putting the

receiver and batteries in locomotives (HO scale and Larger).

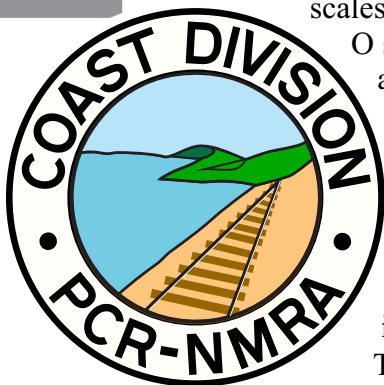
The Roundtable, led by Howard McKinney was also well attended. About 10 people there including NMRA President Charlie Getz. Topics were on events around the area and other various topics. I really enjoyed the lively discussion.

We had over 20 door



There was a total of 531 auction items

Continued on Page 14





The business meeting was well attended



NMRA President Charlie Getz spoke



Mike Blumensaadt presented a clinic on scenery techniques

Photos by Frank Markovich, MMR



prizes.

We announced starting a special clinic series on hands on building. The first one will be building a wood structure kit. Below are some of the announcements made:

1. Awards going forward will be plaques.
2. Schedule of contests will be online soon.
3. Special Clinics – outside of regular meets and a hands on.
 - a. First one will be in October. It will be Structures
 - b. Next one will be on building cars.
 - c. At our next meet

Jim Eckman will do part 2 of building paper structures.

4. Achievement
 - a. Not much activity until recently.
 - b. Have judged 4 more in the last month and helped submit another one.
 - c. You can talk to me or call me about judging.
5. PCR has a new Treasurer - Bob Osborn.
6. Trying the PA again – this went well and we will purchase one for the next meet.
7. Need help for the National Garden Railroad table that the NMRA will have there. Will be able to get volunteers in for free. Please talk to Moe about that (he runs the switching contest).

Today we had a brief slide show on the models in the contest. Richard Brennan is preparing that. This went well. I



Full house at Bill's clinic

want to thank him for this as it really added to our event.

We ended at 3:45 even with a very large auction. Our next meet is September 25th back at the Elks club in Alameda. Please note the contest categories and bring a model to enter or for show and tell.

Kenneth Martin's C&S Caboose took first place in the RTR Caboose contest. Ken designed and printed a 3D interior for it, he used Tinkercad. A great demo of

Continued on Page 15



RTR Caboose (Special Contest) - First place - Kenneth Martin's C&S Caboose

Coast Division (Cont.)

how simple 3D can be and still add complicated details. Doug Smith donated a special prize.

A number of people brought their award winning models from the PCR contest in Modesto.

Earl Girbovan's models including his best of show from the PCR. (See photo on page 1) 🚂

Doug Smith took first place in Structure with "The Dining Car"



Photos by Frank Markovich, MMR

Here are more of Earl Girbovan's models that were displayed at the meet. Hart's transfer, shown on the right, was awarded first place in the display-open category at Modesto. In the left photo are the second and third place winners in the structure - kit class.



Pat LaTorres brought his Saw Filer's Cabin that won first place in the Structure - kit category at Modesto



Tom Knapp's Nn3 Shay won first place in the Steam Locomotive - kit category at Modesto



Frank Markovich, MMR showed these two models. The tank car had taken first place in the MOW - kit category at Modesto and the water car placed second in MOW - open



RED REPORT

by Verne Alexander, Designated Keyboard Knocker

Our spring meeting took place May 21 at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. It was well attended. Following greeting and conversation over lunch (as provided by Mary Moore Campagna—thanks), the business meeting was called to order by Superintendent Peter Barnes.

Steve Skold will be our next Director, as Dave Croshere has timed out.

Dave reported the progress made toward the 2018 PCR Convention. A meeting has been held with the Northwestern Pacific Historical Association, Convention co-hosts, and the

results have been very positive. They are anticipating a large attendance at the Convention.

When business was concluded,

Dave presented the Member of the Year award to

Peter Barnes.

Contest Chairman Giuseppe Aymar then conducted our Show and Tell segment, which consists of members explaining stories and methods behind the models, photos and artifacts they have brought to share.

Ron Kaiser talked about moving his WP layout, and the challenges and opportunities provided by that experience.

Mike Ernst, who won the Jill Poke kit that was the raffle prize, explained how he rebuilt two steam engines.

Ron Learn shared his experience of building a Timberline Craftsman house kit.

Frank George told about building two Sn3 20'

ore gons (he cut his own wood from a 2 X 4 on his table saw), showed us the frames he assembled for another 10 cars and introduced us to Elmer's Wood Glue Max—strong and stainable.

Roy Anderson talked about his adventures building his first plaster kit—a warehouse.

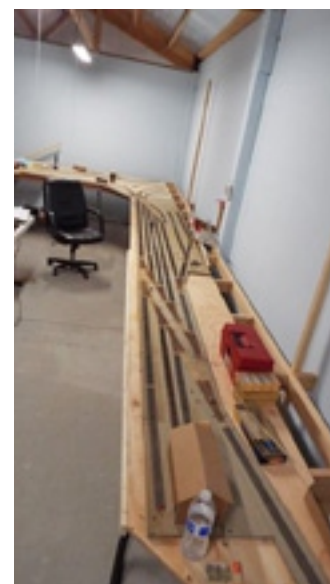


On 7-17-15 this truck arrived beside the prepared ground with everything except the concrete needed for the construction of Gus' officially large garage and shop.



By 12-1-15 the interior had been insulated, walled, painted and lighted, and was ready for bench work.

Track laying began in Ft Bragg, and this is what it looked like on 3-9-16. Most of the yard trackage for the mill is in, as is the trackage around the depot, the engine house and the log pond. The wye is also in.



Continued on Page 17

Dave Grundman talked about the issues involved in planning his GN layout using Rail Cad, and then surprised everyone when he said that the Hillyard yard is done.

Dave Croshere explained how he reworked one of Don Cabrall's steam engines into a prize winner at the PCR contest,



the most interesting facet being how he used the firebox flicker function and fiber optics to allow the engineer to be smoking a cigar!

Giuseppe went over the construction steps in building his prize winning contest model of a tank car used in training, the key bit being to focus on adding each



By 4-13-16 the benchwork for the lower deck is all built, and homosote roadbed is being installed in the area of Ranch. The helix to the second level is seen in the far background.

thing at a time to the model so that the project does not seem overwhelmingly complicated and difficult.

Dave Turner showed his excitement over how he kitbashed an SP&S chip gon in exactly the same manner as the SP&S did, starting with removal of the roof of a USRA box car.

I used two motor cars and a caboose to tell the fictional back story about how my Colville, Republic and Palouse Railroad came into being, and how it got its herald.

Gus Campagna invited those in attendance to come see the current state of construction on his huge, multi-deck California Western layout. These pictures will give you some idea of the magnitude and quality of this emerging layout. A lot has been accomplished in the first six months since the building interior was completed.

On 4-9-16 this was the state of what will be the crew lounge. Mary's books will be shelved on the right. There is a refrigerator behind the photographer on the left, filled with what Gus considers to be the essentials of crew satisfaction—beer, hard cider, sodas, water and ice cream! The mineral brown wall on the left will be lettered to simulate a box car, and will feature a top-hung sliding door across the opening into the layout room.



On 6-3-16 this work train was seen coming off the Ten Mile Branch trestle and approaching the lift-out section across the opening between the layout room and the crew lounge. It would be a log train during Operations. Gus has put together four separate trains to use for testing his track work. Each has particular characteristics of its own, *vis a vis* car type, length, weight, etc. He runs them fast, slow, forward and backward through new track work. Then he tweaks any trouble spots until all four trains stay on the rails though all of their tests. Then the rail is ready for service!

Continued on Page 18



Three days later track has been laid to the entrance of the helix, and MDF sub-roadbed is installed coming out of the helix and ready to support second deck trackage. The beginnings of the logging yard may be seen below the left side of the helix. This yard will be the end of the 10 mile branch out of Fort Bragg. The homosote roadbed in the left center is a link from the main line to the end of the 10 mile branch, and its sole function is to enable a continuous run when such is desired. It will not be used during Operations.



This is the herald on the "boxcar wall" of the crew lounge.



Welcome Aboard ! - PCR's Newest Members

Member	City, Sate	Date Joined
Daylight		
B Mollo	Fresno CA	3/29/2016
Bryan Le Gare	Fresno CA	4/4/2016
Simon Leonhardt	Miramonte CA	5/2/2016
Coast		
Vicki Newcomer	Alameda CA	3/1/2016
Terry Walker	Alameda CA	3/1/2016
Leslie Smith	San Jose CA	4/7/2016
Sonia Reed	Danville CA	4/14/2016
Joseph Delgman	Concord CA	5/2/2016
Dennis Rittiman	Santa Clara CA	5/2/2016
Pat Camara	San Juan Bautista CA	5/11/2016
Sierra		
Bill Dillon	El Dorado Hills CA	3/18/2016
Gabe Berg	Chico CA	4/5/2016
Linton Beroldingen	Davis CA	4/6/2016
Diane Raley	Auburn CA	5/16/2016
Redwood Empire		
Joseph Muller	Healdsburg CA	3/4/2016
Ted Unruh	Penngrove CA	4/6/2016
Allie Foster	Santa Rosa CA	4/8/2016
John Castle	Sonoma CA	5/12/2016

Branch Line Deadlines for 2016-17

OCT-NOV-DEC 2016
Issue
Articles due by
September 10, 2016

JAN-FEB-MAR 2017
Issue
Articles due by
December 10, 2016

APR-MAY-JUN 2017 Issue
Articles due by
March 10, 2017

JUL-AUG-SEP 2017 Issue
Articles due by
June 10, 2017

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

Sierra Division Report

by Jim Collins, Sierra Division Superintendent

The Sierra Division held its spring meet, on May 7, 2016. The meet was split between two locations. In the morning we met at the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society (SMRHS) for an operating session and then, after lunch, convened at The First Christian Church on Folsom Blvd in Sacramento. We had 18 people for the operating session and 20 at the meeting.

The SMRHS has both an HO-scale layout (modeled on the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific railroads between Oakland and Keddie, CA) and an HO_n3 layout (which models a mix of western and CA narrow gauge prototypes). We operated with them on their magnificent HO-scale layout. All Sierra Division members

that wanted a chance to operate were assigned to various yards or trains along with an SMRHS member to guide and help them. Everyone said it was a great time and we all learned a lot as the trains are run



Getting ready for lunch

prototypically with signals (mostly but not quite all completely installed) and phone communications with the dispatcher.

This is the second time in recent history that we have visited and operated on their layout. As both times were resounding successes and both sides enjoyed themselves so much, I suspect this will become a regular event every year or two.

Around noon operations wound down and we all enjoyed a delicious barbeque lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs with chips and sodas that SMRHS people provided (for a small fee).

After lunch we then moved to the First Christian Church.

A brief business meeting was held first. At the previous meeting, a point had been raised that we needed to decide on a standard process for meal payment. A committee of Jim Collins, Scott McAllister, Al Rowe, and Chip Meriam met by phone to discuss options. A process was

discussed and agreed on by the committee and presented at the meeting. The process was voted on and unanimously approved. Short version – the division pays for all items that meet our purpose (room fees, guest speakers, etc.), the members pay for all meals and individual items (such as the BBQs this month and next).

Continued on Page 20



Action at Keddie

Jim Zeek box-factory presentation





Sierra and SMRHS members working in and around Oakland yard

Jim Zeek provided a fascinating presentation on operation and modeling of a box factory. Jim worked at the one in Placerville and had many photos from his time there along with sample boxes and one of the band saws blades used. He

also had information on the factory layout and how the whole process worked.

Having worked there, he had plenty of interesting and funny anecdotes. I'm sure OSHA and similar folks would have



heart attacks over the way things were done back then.

After Jim's excellent presentation, we held the model and photo contests.

Model Contest: Diesels. There were no entries for the model contest.

Photo Contest: Model Scene. Tom Van Horn swept

the field taking first, second, and third for the photos from his N-scale railroad.

As always, the meeting ended with a raffle for various door prizes.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2016. We will hold the



SMRHS Keddie Wye



SMRHS Marysville



The Dispatcher's Office

In Memoriam

Member	City, State Coast	Date Joined
Leroy Bertsch	Palo Alto CA	1/1/1954
John Marshall	Pleasanton CA	1/1/1972
Lester Cuff	San Lorenzo CA	1/1/1972
Sierra		
Ronald Mihordin	Sacramento CA	7/19/1997
Louis Mayer	Carmichael CA	1/1/1962
Redwood Empire		
Philip Miller	Mendocino CA	8/14/1998

Continued on Page 21

Sierra Division (Cont.)

clinic/contest/raffle portion of the meet at Fair Oaks library in Fair Oaks and then move to Hagan Community Park in Rancho Cordova (about 7 miles apart) for a barbeque and rides on the Sacramento Live Steamers steam train.



Tom Van Horn - 1st place Photo contest




Tom Van Horn - 2nd place Photo contest



Tom Van Horn - 3rd place Photo contest





NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION®
 4521 CROWWELL RD., CHATTANOOGA, TN 37421
 PHONE: (423) 892-2046 FAX: (423) 892-4859

They never expire unless you do. It shows below as an indicator of our ability and is verified in its own right by the NMRA membership and the expiration date of the card.

Membership number 123456 00	Expiration date 01/08/12
Bob R. Kabuse	
Member since: 01/08/11	


The best gift card you'll ever give.

(Or receive!)

When you give the gift of an NMRA membership, you're giving someone a gift they can use all year long. From accessing our online photo archives to getting special deals on books, to attending Division and Region meets, an NMRA member has a wealth of benefits to take advantage of.

We'll send your new member a membership card, then bill you separately. Call HQ for details and ordering. Allow 4 weeks for processing.

Perfect as a gift for holidays, birthdays, graduations, Fathers Day, Mothers Day...even Valentine's Day!



We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org
 423-892-2846

PCR Membership Gauge	
As of May 31, 2016	
May 31 2015	1,007
June 30 2015	1,013
July 31 2015	1,010
August 31 2015	1,012
September 30, 2015	1,010
October 31, 2015	1,009
November 30, 2015	1,007
December 31, 2015	1,000
January 31, 2016	1,003
February 29, 2016	989
March 31, 2016	978
April 31, 2016	980
May 31, 2016	981

The Answers Are Out There: Inglenook

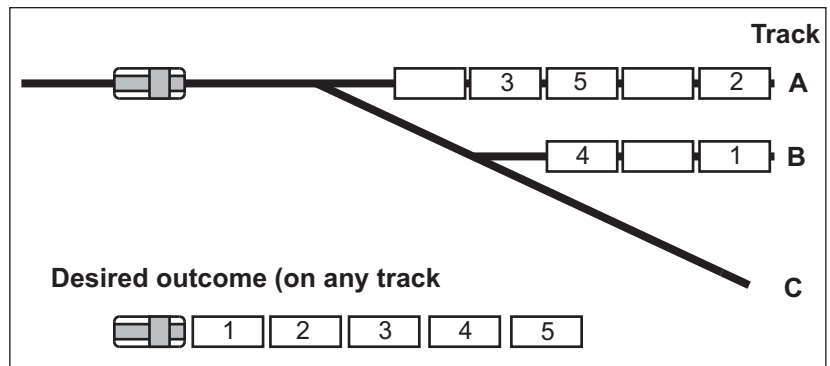
by Robert Pethoud, Chairman, Member Aid, Daylight Division

Switching puzzles fall into at least two categories: realistic situations which might actually occur on a railroad sometime and contrived logic problems which incidentally use freight cars as props. Normally, I adore the former and despise the latter, but some actually fall on a spectrum between those two extremes. One such is a switching puzzle I came across recently which is very popular in the UK, but is virtually unknown in the US. It's called Inglenook, and it's much simpler in design than John Allen's famous Timesaver, which also falls on that spectrum between realistic and contrived. Inglenook employs just two turnouts and can fit into a space a few inches wide and no more than about a dozen model freight cars in length.

Here's the formula: a switching lead serves three stub-ended spurs through two turnouts (see the illustration above); 8 freight cars rest on the spurs, which hold 5, 3, and 3 cars, respectively; five of those cars are chosen at random, using dice, cards, or some other method; and a locomotive, starting on the switch lead, must put together a train consisting of those cars in the order in which they were chosen. What makes the situation unrealistic is that the switching lead holds a maximum of 3 freight cars

plus the locomotive.

To try to grasp the appeal of Inglenook, I tried it out on my kitchen table. I cut out 16 identical little rectangles from a 3x5 index card and colored them with felt pens, two each of eight different colors. Then I sketched the track arrangement on a sheet of paper and laid out eight of the "cars," one of each color, on two of the spurs. Next I chose five of the remaining duplicate cars at random and placed them in a line on the table beside the "yard" with its cars, to represent the desired order of the cars in the train. Then I set about switching the cars in the yard to build the required 5-car train.



Switching the yard at Inglenook

I found the task to be surprisingly addictive and I suddenly understood why so many Brits build versions of Inglenook for their homes and to display at train shows. Try it for yourself—I think you'll like it. It's challenging enough to be intriguing, but

not so difficult as to become frustrating—in short, it's a recipe for fun.

I doubt you'll need any help solving the illustrated problem, but here's my solution anyway:

1. Pull track A, uncoupling behind car #5, and set car #5 on track C.
2. Pull car #4 from track B and set cars 3 and 4 against 5 on C. (Notice that C is now full.)
3. Pull remaining cars from B and shove them onto A against the two already there.
4. Uncouple ahead of car #1, then pull A and set the two unnumbered cars onto B.
5. On A, cut ahead of #2 and set the unwanted car behind #1 against the cars on B.
6. Pull #2 from A; set 1 and 2 against the cars on C to form the train, ready to depart.

Next time, we'll take a look at an American version of Inglenook which has no

unrealistic restrictions on the length of the switching lead and which employs just one turnout! Until then, you can reach me with comments and questions at

pethoud@comcast.net 🚂

PCR Honors

by Dave Connery, MMR, PCR Historian

During the awards banquet on April 23rd at the "Taking it to the Streets" PCR annual convention in Modesto a number of awards were presented to PCR members.

President Ed Merrin presented the "President's Award" to **Frank Markovich, MMR**. Frank is currently Superintendent of Coast Division and has just



The John Allen Award was presented to Jim Vail by PCR Honors Chairman Ray deBlieck, NMRA President Charlie Getz and Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette Editor/Publisher Bob Brown.

been seated as the PCR Director from Coast Division. In addition, Frank runs the annual West Side Reunion held each spring in Sonora, CA. He regularly opens his On3 layout for visitors at PCR activities and during O-Scale West.

Each Division Director presented a Division "Member of the Year" award and the recipients of these awards are:

Coast Division – **Seth Neumann**

Redwood Empire Division – **Peter Barnes**

Daylight Division – **Bob Pethoud**

Sierra Division – **Jim Dieckman**

Congratulations to each of these well deserving members. Our divisions and PCR would not function

without the efforts of these award winners and their many fellow volunteers. The awards were a framed Mike Kotowski print with an engraved plaque.

The prodigious John Allen Award, presented by Coast Division and the NMRA 2000 Convention Committee was not revealed as the chosen recipient was not present. The award is presented to someone who exemplifies the service to the hobby shown by the late John Allen. The selection is made by all past John Allen Award winners and this year the award went to **Jim Vail, MMR**. The award was presented to Jim by PCR Honors Chairman Ray deBlieck, NMRA President Charlie Getz and Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette Editor/Publisher Bob Brown subsequent to the end of the convention. 🚂

Hands-On Workshops

By Earl Girbovan

The Coast Division is sponsoring the first of what is planned to be a number of hands-on workshops to teach and improve skills. These will be small group workshops focused on a specific project or technique.

The first workshop will be building a wood structure kit with Frank Markovich and Earl Girbovan. In this 4 hour workshop attendees will build a small craftsman structure kit applicable to most any era. Many

techniques will be covered, such as multiple methods for aging wood, creating peeling paint, weathering and detailing. Although this will be a wood kit workshop, the techniques are applicable to plastic and resin kits as well. Some of the very basic priming of kits parts will be done ahead of time, so that attendees will be able to leave with a mostly complete structure. The workshop will conclude with an overview of LED lighting, and techniques for installing the structure in

a scene.

The goal is for the attendees to have an enjoyable time, leave with something they can take home and use on their layout, and have the confidence to tackle larger projects.

The structure workshop will be limited to 12 people. The price is expected to be \$40 per person to cover the cost of the kit and some of the materials. An announcement will be made on the PCR Yahoo Group with details on time, location and registration once all the details are worked out. 🚂

More Contest Winners

Caboose - Kit
1st Place - Tower Lumber Co. Caboose #35
 by Pat Latorres

2nd Plase - Caboose On3
 by Frank Markovich, MMR



Steam Locomotive - Kit
1st Place - Nn3 Mich-Cal SHM#2
 By Thomas Knapp

2nd Place - JNR US Army Transportation Corps B20
 by Thomas Knapp

3rd Place Shay
 by Frank Markovich, MMR



Maintenance of Way - Kit
1st Place - Tank Car
 by Frank Markovich, MMR

2nd Place - On30 Water Car
 by Tom Callan



Structure - Kit
1st Place - Saw Filer's Cabin
 by Pat Latorres

2nd Place - Main Street Warehouse
 by Earl Girbovan

3rd Place - Mainstreet
 by Earl Girbovan



All Photos
 are First
 Place
 Winners

Photos by
 Carol
 Alexander

Diesel Locomotive - Novice
1st Place - BAR Bicentennial
 by Tom Callan

2nd Place - Pittsburg & Showboar Pier Tender
 by Tom Callan

3rd Place - Tom Callan



More Contest Winners

Freight Car - Novice
1st Place - C&O Steel Hopper
by Steve Harvath

2nd Place - Woochip Car Kitbash
by Dan Mahoney

3rd Place - Weathered SP Gondola
by Walt Schedler



Passenger Car - Novice
1st Place - Combine EBT #16
by Steve Harvath

Structure - Novice
1st Place - Oil House
by Steve Harvath



Display - Novice
1st Place - Hood's Creamery
by Dan Mahoney



All Photos
are First
Place
Winners

Photos by
Carol
Alexander

Photo - Track and Structures
Popular Vote - Sierra Motor 8
by Tom Van Horn



Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern - Model Railroadania

By: Jim Providenza

I don't know about you, but paper seems to stick to me. I mean, no matter how hard I try I always seem to come home from a convention, or an operating weekend, or even a visit to a friend's layout with stuff. Almost always paper stuff.

Copies of employee timetables are a favorite, but convention programs and clinic handouts are a strong second and third. In a separate category are napkins – with track plan sketches of course. Black and white

prints, duplicate slides, prototype paper such as specific timetables – all are grist for the mill, it seems. I cry 'More research materials!' and,

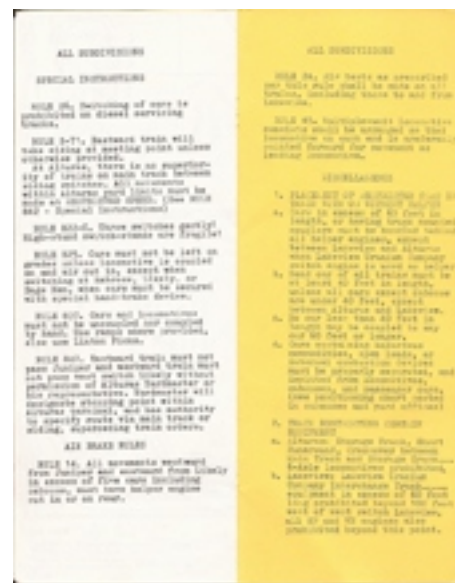
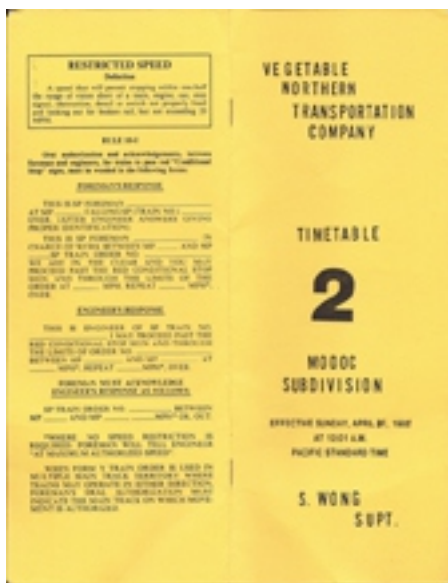
floor will do... Some of this stuff seems to float around, defying logic and laws of nature, popping up at unexpected times and places – didn't I put that away already? I currently have a Milwaukee Road Empty Car Order Form from an operating weekend a year ago – I want to use it as a resource for making a new such form for the SCN. I will use it as an example. When will I get around to it? Not sure, but in the mean time it doesn't seem to have a place to be put. I guess I should be glad it keeps resurfacing!

And some of stuff just... disappears. Gone from sight, gone from mind. Filed, stuffed, misplaced, 'put in a safe place'. Maybe tucked away in a drawer just to get it out of sight before an op session.

Finding a pile / folder / box / drawer of such relics of an earlier age becomes an archeological dig of sorts and if you are lucky a time machine to one's past. I recently delved into a pair of folders while looking for something totally unrelated to what I eventually spent several hours digging through. The most challenging were two old, stained, stuck together teletype printouts – clearance forms with slow orders for two trains on the

Southern Pacific up in Oregon from the days I used to go up to Eugene to visit Rick Kang, Steve Gust and Garry Greenhaw who were dispatchers on the Oregon Division.

And buried deeper – amazing! Vegetable Northern Employee Timetables No. 1 and No. 2 for Rick's model of the Espee's Modoc Subdivision centered on Alturas. Fond memories for sure. This is where I first learned about operations. And just as Rick has always been my mentor when it came to operations, so I realize that his timetables provided the impetus and format for my own series of Santa Cruz



sometimes, the 'whateveritis' does get put to use in short order.

But, then again, most such railroadania, prototype or model, does not get used quickly. Some sits in a pile by my bedside table until I just can't stand it any more. Then it gets spread out on the bed and sorted. Or carried to the living room coffee table and spread. Sometimes only a

Northern timetables. VN Timetable No. 2 consists of two 8.5"x11" pieces of paper, folded in half lengthwise. The outer page is printed on goldenrod paper and the inner, on white. Photocopied, of course. But the text, where it isn't a straight copy of pages from an SP timetable, is

Continued on Page 28

typewritten, not computer generated. The track plan is hand drawn. Not surprising; looking at the front page the timetable was effective (dated) April 31, 1985. Over 30 years ago!

The text itself is a fascinating combination of [model] railroad humor and strict prototype rules as applied to a 1/87th scale railroad. Sam Wong, Rick's semi-mythical 'everyman' on the VN is variously listed on page two of the timetable as holding some dozen positions on the railroad, including General Manager, Superintendent, and more tongue in cheek: 'General Assistant', 'General General' and 'Vice Manager'.

Applying prototype rules to the model, Special Instructions deal specifically with placement of long and short cars in a train, tracks where certain equipment is restricted, placement of

helper locomotives. In instructions that we would now describe as 'adding to the play value' Rick includes several additions to Air Brake Rules. For example, the addition to Rule 24 states that air brake tests will be performed on all trains (forms for proper procedures were provided in the train packets).

My favorite though, is the additional special instruction for Rule 837: "Cars and locomotives must not be uncoupled nor coupled by hand. Use ramps where provided, else use Linton Picks." Yes, Rick, that is a pet peeve of mine too – and something I stress in my briefing before any operating session on the SCN. Even more interesting though is the confirmation that the ubiquitous picks or skewers that we have come to use to uncouple Kadee@ style couplers were in fact known

as "Linton Picks" among the operations oriented model railroaders in the Eugene, Oregon area in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Linton von Beroldingen himself says that he does not know if he was the first person to use a skewer or similar tool regularly to uncouple Kadee style knuckle couplers. But he certainly popularized their use in the Pacific Northwest Region and I brought the practice to the first version of the SCN as it began operations in the late 1970's. Linton wonders if the use of picks to uncouple Kadee style couplers developed independently elsewhere in the country. Nice to know, if we could ever figure it out. In the meantime I'm pleased to have copies of some VN railroad paper – it means as much or more to me as any of the prototype 'stuff' I have accumulated. 'Nuf said. 🚂

From The Membership Manager

By Doug Wagner, PCR Membership Department Manager

I hope everyone that attended the *Taking It To The Streets* PCR convention, in Modesto, had a great time. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend, but I guarantee I will be in attendance at the next one, as it will be held in Bakersfield, April 19-23, 2017. But more about that later.

For those of you that are on the PCR's Yahoo Groups list, you have probably seen the many emails concerning membership problems in the NMRA and PCR. The jest of

the emails was looking for and discussing solutions to stemming the tides of memberships not renewing their current memberships and recruiting new members. Since this definitely comes under my department — *Membership Department Manager* — I thought I'd better get involved in the discussion. And one of my favorite quotes from the Disney-Pixar movie, "*It's A Bug's Life*", is where Hopper is giving advice to the Queen Ant, Atta, on how it is to be

in a position of leadership, where he tells her, "The first rule of leadership:

Everything is your fault." So, I'm going to plead guilty here on that count.

So what's gone wrong? If you ask 50 people that question, you'll get 50 different responses. We had them here, but couldn't keep them. There are several reasons why folks decide not to stay or join the NMRA. We can sit here and discuss it—either through emails or at meetings—but we need to do something. Well, there is something that we can do about it, and since the

Continued on Page 29

discussion has been going on this subject, through emails on the PCR's Yahoo Groups list, a handful of members are in the planning process of doing just that. The Coast Division has a group of members that will begin setting up booths at *Maker Faire*, in the Bay Area. Now, I'm not familiar with the *Maker Faire*, but the jest of it is that it involves several displays of folks creating stuff (I hope I guessed that correctly). Coast Division will begin setting up displays at these events to demonstrate to the "non-railroading" crowd, exactly what us model railroaders actually do, other than play with, "those cute little trains." The first *Maker Faire* that they will be involved in will be in September. So we can hope that this will be successful in

getting out into the public to show them that us model railroaders aren't that weird. This discussion got me to thinkin

g about what I may be able to do, down here in Bakersfield. Now, we don't have *Maker Faire* in Bakersfield, but we do have monthly events held in downtown Bakersfield that

we can get involved in. So, I'm looking into those events to see if it would be a viable option to getting out into the public. Some of you other folks may look into your local events to see if those might be an option to go with as far as exposing the public to model railroading. An excellent example is the *Central Coast Railroad Festival*, which takes place every October, in the San Luis Obispo area, and the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, who have organized it, is doing an excellent job on educating the public about railroading — both prototype and modeling. There are several events of this type, which are too numerous to list here, but you can always keep up with these type of events at the PCR's Master Calendar, located on the PCR's web site <http://pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/calendar.shtml>.

Now, on to the begging and pleading part of this article. I volunteered to be the Membership Department Manager several years ago, when the then PCR President, Gene Mayer, asked for volunteers and had no luck with anyone volunteering for the Membership Department Manager. Sound familiar? So, I thought I'd give it a shot. Being the Membership Department Manager, you get to see all the membership figures that come in from the NMRA HQ. I've seen the high of 1,372 members, when the 2011 NMRA National Convention was held in


Sacramento, to where we sit at now with 981 PCR members. That's just an astonishing figure of 391 members less than what we had 5 years ago. As many of you know me, I'm not really a people person, and as far as me getting out and pressing the flesh for new members, well, to put it bluntly—I stink! If any of you do take a peek at the Branchline's *PCR Callboard*, you will notice that there are a lot of positions that are listed—and many with the same name listed—and some with nothing but *VACANT* listed. Well, one of those positions that is listed that has had *VACANT* listed for several years is the position of *Membership Promotion Chair*. That's because I have not had any luck in getting anyone to consider taking on this position. Sure, it falls under my department, which means I guess it falls back on me doing it, which I have with limited success (see I stink, above). It would be nice to have someone that has some fresh ideas about membership, other than some old goat like me—and with better organizational skills. Oh sure, I can send out all the membership stats to the respective divisions, but when it comes to promoting the NMRA membership, I fall flat on my face. If someone out there has any organizational skills that they could use to help the PCR in promoting NMRA membership, please don't keep it a secret. **WE NEED**

Continued on Page 30

Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

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

The Achievement Program is modelers helping modelers become better modelers and get the most out of their hobby. And it's yet another benefit of NMRA membership.



Visit www.nmra.org. Then improve your skills. And your hobby.

We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org
423-892-2846

YOUR HELP!!! I always see the statement, “*someone needs to do something about it.*” Well, as it usually turns out to be, that someone is **ALWAYS** someone else. It’s easy to list stuff that is wrong, but it does take some elbow grease and “boots on the ground” to really get things accomplished.

What does the **Membership Promotion Chair** actually do, you may ask? Well, according to the PCR’s Manual of Operations, it says this, “*The MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION COMMITTEE shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the Manager in consultation with the*

President, and the Membership Chairperson of each Division. The Committee shall coordinate the work of the Membership Promotion Committees of each Division.

OK, I will admit I’m the best guy for this position, and I’m not the best person at organizing stuff. We **ALWAYS** need your help! As you can also see on that PCR Callboard, many positions are listed with the same person doing the job of 2 or even 3 positions. Some of those guys would love to have a break and get some help! And I’m one of those guys and I need your help! Won’t you please consider taking on the position of the PCR

Membership Promotion Chair? If you would be willing to give it a shot, or need some info on the position, please contact me at carldw@aol.com or by phone at (661) 589-0391. **WE COULD USE THE HELP!!!!**

Even if you are not interested in the position of PCR Membership Promotion Chair, please consider contacting your Division Superintendent about the many listed vacant positions in your own Division.

We now return to your regular broadcast, already in progress. 📺

Calendar

2016 Events

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

July 4 - 10 - 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, 2016.

July 9, 2016 - 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, Reno Mini Maker Faire, Idlewild Park, Reno, Nevada. Maker applications will be accepted until Friday, June 10 at 11:49pm.

July 16 & 17 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, San Leandro Historical Railway Society, Summer Open House & Train Show, 1302 Orchard Ave (in Thrasher Park), San Leandro, CA. Admission is Free; Donations Appreciated! 4,000+ feet of indoor HO Scale Track

modeling the Overland Route from San Leandro, CA to Sparks, NV G&O Garden Railway with interactive Children’s Display, Bake Sale & Porch Sale, Photo Souvenirs of the Kids. Info: info@slhrs.org.

July 23-24 - California, San Carlos- European Train Enthusiasts (<http://ww.ete.org>) EuroWest XX at Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos Airport. Layouts, clinics, vendors, raffle. Admission (<http://www.hiller.org>) includes Air Museum and free parking. Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4. 601 Skyway Rd. San Carlos 94070.

July 29 - 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.

July 30 & 31, 2016 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, The Great Train Expo, Fairplex, 1101 W McKinley Ave, Pomona, CA. Adults: \$7.00 Good for both days! Kids under 12: Free!

August 13 & 14 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model

Continued on Page 31

For more details on these events go to the Calendar at the PCR web site.

For more details on these events go to the Calendar at the PCR web site.

Train Show, Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club, West Park Gymnasium at the Tehachapi Recreation and Park District, 410 West "D" Street (off Mill Street), Tehachapi, CA.

August 26 - 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 27, 2016 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Daylight Division Fall Meet, Goleta Depot, 300 North Los Carneros Road, Goleta, CA. We hope you can join us for a fun-filled day of activities, including clinics, model and photo contests and layout tours. Clinics start at 10:00 AM: Registration fee: NMRA: \$4.00; Non-NMRA guests: \$5.00. Contest Categories: Model: Diesel and other locomotive. Photo: Model Black & White

August 27 - Swap Meet: 7:00 am to 10:00 am; Open House: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. Donation \$2.00 for adults, kids are free. All scales are welcome. Railroad related books, magazines, art and memorabilia will also be available for purchase.

August 27 & 28, 2016 - Saturday: 10:00 am to 9:30 pm; Sunday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Model Train Show during Stone Soup Music Faire and Festival, San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association, Ramona Garden Park Community Center, 993 Ramona Ave, Grover Beach, CA. Featuring trains in N and HO scale. Free admission!

September 4, 2016 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, San Jose Mini Maker Faire, History Park, San Jose, CA.

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

September 17 & 18 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

September 18 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. Come meet other local model railroaders during our free quarterly meet and enjoy 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!

September 21-24 - LA Junction, Pacific Southwest Region 2016 Convention, DoubleTree Hotel Los Angeles - Westside, 6161 West Centinela Avenue, Culver City, California.

September 21-26 - Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society Annual Conference, Palm Springs, CA.

September 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 1&2 - 10:00 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 3, 2016 - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Rocklin Mini Maker Faire, Sierra College, Rocklin, CA. Parking is FREE! (Thank you, Sierra College!)

October 7 - 9 - Central Coast Railroad Festival, San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties, CA., Hosted by San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1940 Santa Barbara Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA.

October 22 - Swap Meet: 7:00 am to 10:00 am; Open House: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. Donation \$2.00 for adults, kids are free. All scales are welcome. Railroad related books, magazines, art and memorabilia will also be available for purchase.

Continued on Page 32

For more details on these events go to the Calendar at the PCR web site.

October 22 & 23, 2016 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, The Great Train Expo, Sonoma County Event Center at the Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA. Adults: \$7.00 Good for both days! Kids under 12: Free!

October 23, 2016 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, East Bay Mini Maker Faire, Park Day School & Studio One Art Center, 360 42nd Street, Oakland, CA.

October 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.

October 29 & 30 - 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.

November 5 & 6 - 10:00 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 5 & 6 - 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.

November 5 & 6 - 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. Two museum-quality model railroad displays, running multiple trains (HO- and N-scale). All-Day Lunch Counter.

November 12, 2016 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Shasta County Mini Maker Faire, Redding Civic Auditorium, 700 Auditorium Drive, Redding, CA.

November 12 & 13 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, 40th Annual International Railfair Model Railroad Show, Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All American City Blvd, Roseville, CA. Co-sponsored by PCR Sierra Division.

November 12 & 13 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Train Show, Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club, West Park Gymnasium at the Tehachapi Recreation and Park District, 410 West "D" Street (off Mill Street), Tehachapi, CA.

November 18 - 20 - Friday: 8:00 pm 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 19 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Daylight Division Fall Meet, Oceano Depot, 1650 Front St, Oceano, CA. We hope you can join us for a fun-filled day of activities, including clinics, model and photo contests and layout tours, Clinics start at 10:00 AM: Registration fee: NMRA: \$4.00; Non-NMRA guests: \$5.00. Contest Categories: Model: Passenger Car, Photo: Model Color.

November 24 & 25, 2016 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, The Great Train Expo, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA. Adults: \$7.00 **Good for both days!** Kids under 12: Free!

November 25 - 27 - Friday: 2:00 pm 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 3&4 - 10:00 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.

December 4 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, 1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA. (at SF Bay Area Council Office

Continued on Page 33

For more details on these events go to the Calendar at the PCR web site.

of Boy Scouts of America) Enjoy free clinics, model, photo & switching contests & displays. Free door prizes. Buy raffle tickets for modeling prizes, enjoy silent and live auctions of model railroading stuff.

December 10 & 11 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, San Leandro Historical Railway Society, Winter Open House & Train Show, 1302 Orchard Ave (in Thrasher Park), San Leandro, CA. Admission free. 4,000+ feet of indoor HO Scale Track modeling the Overland Route from San Leandro, CA to Sparks, NV G&O Garden Railway with interactive Children's Display, Bake Sale & Porch Sale, Photo Souvenirs of the Kids.

2017 and Beyond 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.

March 18, 2017 - 9:00 am to 10:00 pm, Winterail 2017 Railroadiana Show and Sale, Corvallis High School, 1400 NW Buchanan Avenue, Corvallis, Oregon.

April 19 to 23, 2017 - Daylight Express 2017

PCR Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton, 3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308. Come join us for 5 days of clinics, contests, layout tours, operating sessions, prototype tours, and more!

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

August 30 - September 2, 2017 - 37th Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention, Denver, Colorado.

July 30 - August 6, 2017 - NMRA Convention, Orlando, FL.

April 4 to 8, 2018 - PCR 2018 Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton, Rohnert Park, CA. Save the date! Come join us for 5 days of clinics, contests, layout tours, operating sessions, prototype tours, and more!

August 5 - 12, 2018 - NMRA Convention, Kansas City, MO.

July 7 - 14, 2019 - NMRA Convention, Salt Lake City, UT.

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you.

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 S Scalars

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

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.

Continued on Page 34

July-August-September 2016

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you.

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) HO_n30 group invites anyone interested to join us. We use existing standards for module construction but are not merely a modular group. Contact: Al Sandrini in Bakersfield, 661-664-8614 or Ken Lunders in Cupertino, 408-777-9572.

Empire Builders Model Railroad Club

Starting over after a warehouse fire destroyed our layout, we are a small friendly group now constructing an HO layout of no specific origin based in the early 50's era. The mountain division is laid and operating, 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.org

Golden State Model Railroad Museum – East Bay Model Engineers Society

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

Humboldt Bay & Eureka Model Railroad Club

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

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

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

Continued on Page 35

Enjoy the
fellowship
and
learning
experiences
of a club
near you.

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 HOn3 layouts. HO layout is being rebuilt to depict SP/WP prototype. Open Tues. and Fri. nights, 7:30 P.M. Contact: 916-927-3618 E-mail: d.megeath@comcast.net Web: www.smrhs.com

Sacramento Modular Railroaders

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

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 e-mail: 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.

Sonoma Short Line (SSL)

A group of model railroaders has formed a DCC, HO 100% NMRA club, Sonoma Short Line (SSL). The club is building a modular layout with a Sonoma County theme inspired by the period 1900-1950s. Private ops sessions and public shows are scheduled. SSL is looking for new members with skills in all aspects of model railroading and a desire to actively participate in the club. Contact Steve Lewis (707) 527-0396 or Peter Barnes (707) 539-6746 for further information.

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,

Continued on Page 36

July-August-September 2016

BRANCH LINE
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

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 Merrill 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. 