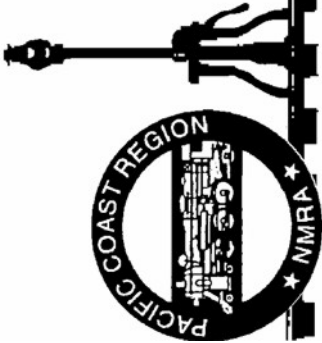


# BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



USPS 870-060  
ISSN 07449771  
Volume 73 Number 4  
October-December 2016



2017 Convention  
in Bakersfield

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Michael Gross  
Banquet Speaker

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**Notice! Register by September 30 and  
be entered in a drawing for a \$100.00  
Gift Certificate...See Page 7**



Tehachapi Loop  
Tour

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Local Layouts Open  
for Visiting Page 9



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Hawaiian Division All offices are currently vacant

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

Vol. 73, No.4                      4th 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](http://www.pcrnmra.org).

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## 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.

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# Welcome to Bakersfield!

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

PCR's 2017 convention will be held in Bakersfield, California on April 19 through 23 at the Double Tree by Hilton hotel, located right off of freeway 99 at the Rosedale Highway off-ramp.

## Banquet speaker

The Daylight Express 2017 PCR Convention Committee is pleased to announce that actor Michael Gross has accepted our invitation to address the convention as banquet speaker on Saturday, April 22.



Mr. Gross is a model railroader, a railroad historian with a large collection of railroad antiques, and part owner of the 1:1 scale Santa Fe Southern Railway, a

former branch line of the AT&SF which operates between Lamy and Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is spokesman for the "World's Greatest Hobby" campaign, Operation Livesaver, and the B&O

Railroad Museum in Baltimore. He is a member of the Santa Fe Railway Historical Society. In 2016, he narrated Kalmbach's DVD release "20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited," about the famed New York Central train

which ended service some 50 years ago. He also appeared in the 2016 documentary "Model Citizens". The hobby is lucky to have someone from the entertainment industry so active in our organizations and programs.

Mr. Gross has been active in film and television since 1975. He starred as Steven Keaton in the TV situation comedy "Family Ties" for seven seasons, and played Burt Gummer in five motion pictures in the "Tremors" franchise. He has appeared in "Anger Management," "Suits," "How I Met Your Mother," "Law & Order," and many other productions.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Gross to our convention, and make plans now to attend by visiting the convention website at <http://www.pcrmmra.org/conv2017/>. Thanks for your support.

## 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.

## Clinics

Clinics Co-Chairmen Bruce Morden and Mike O'Brien have been busy arranging the clinics. Bruce provided the following report:

"Mike and I have both been busy getting clinics.

Continued on Page 5



Mr. Gross is a model railroader, a railroad historian and part owner of the 1:1 scale Santa Fe Southern Railway



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

## Welcome to Bakersfield! (Cont.)

Mike has been working on locals. I have obtained a few industry related clinics. Bob Chaparro has volunteered to do two on the Citrus Industry. Jim Lancaster will cover packing houses from South of Fresno to the Bakersfield area. Neil Fernbaugh is working on a clinic on super-detailing your orange grove - Wind Machines, smudge oil tanks, equipment and storage sheds, irrigation pipes. Chris Palermo has volunteered to do a LED light strip clinic. We are trying to follow-up on Layout Command Control. I have still not sent out a broadcast for clinics. I have a list of "usual suspects" I am

about done with all my other heavy responsibilities and will start concentrating on the clinics for Daylight Express 2017. There is still lots of space for more clinics.

Volunteers and suggestions are welcome."



### Boy Scouts of America Railroading Merit Badge



This special clinic, conducted by adult Scouters of the PCR at the Daylight Express 2017 PCR Convention, is a presentation of the Railroading Merit Badge requirements.

At the conclusion of this clinic, Scouts will have completed all of the requirements necessary to earn the Railroading Merit Badge.

### Outside Activities

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. Convention co-chairman Doug Wagner has lined up several excellent layouts for tour. See Story starting on page 9 for descriptions and photos.

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. A bus tour to the "Loop" will be available. (See page 7)

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.

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.

### Tehachapi tour

Convention Co-Chairman Doug Wagner has made arrangements for a bus tour to the Tehachapi loop. See story on page 7.

### Contest

The contest room will be in full swing with categories for models, photos and arts and crafts. In addition to the judged contests there will be an area for display only, where you may show your in-process project, what-if or levity models. For more information on the contests, see the article by Guisepe Aymar, PCR Contest Chairman on page 19.



SP 2914 Resides at Kern County Museum

Photo Courtesy Kern County Museum

### 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*

Continued on Page 6

## Welcome to Bakersfield! (Cont.)

*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, and surrounded by palm trees and seasonal flowers, 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.*

*Host a meeting, conference, special event or wedding at this hotel*

*with over 14,500 sq. ft. of flexible function space, including the largest ballroom in Bakersfield. Business is easy with our fully equipped business*

*center, WiFi, and an excellent range of high-tech equipment.*

*Retire to a spacious guest room or suite at the hotel and enjoy stunning views overlooking the landscape from your private balcony. 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. Club Odyssey is an ideal place to spend the evening. Enjoy the weekly line-up of entertainment, including salsa dancing, sports and live music, or simply unwind at the bar with your favorite drink.*



Mechanical Reefer, or an ATSF Wood Reefer with map. Depending on the availability of these cars (some are out of stock and would require Accu-Rail to make a production-run), we may be able to offer a three-car set. The convention decal would be a separate item to be applied by the modeler. An N-Scale car is not planned. Monitor the convention web site for updates

<http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2017/news.html>

### Registrations Now Being Accepted!

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

The “early Bird” rate of \$105 is in effect until December 31, 2016. (Note extended availability, deadline was November 30, 2016). Family members get a break: registration for a non-rail is \$95.00. 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.

Starting in 2017 full-fare registration will be \$115.00.



### Convention Car

This year’s convention car will be an HO-Scale reefer model produced by Accu-Rail. Arrangements are still being made, but the car will be either a PFE Mechanical reefer (R40-26), an ATSF



The DoubleTree’s Front Entry will greet you when you arrive at the hotel

## Welcome to Bakersfield! (Cont.)

First Timer Registration, **\$95.00**, for PCR members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions, includes registration, Saturday Awards Banquet, Sunday PCR Breakfast.

Non-NMRA Member Surcharge, **\$15.00**. A refund of \$10.00 is available to those who apply for NMRA membership before the end of the convention. A completed application, with payment by check or credit card for all then-current NMRA fees, must be provided to Registration staff before the end of Registration Desk

hours on Saturday, April 22, 2017, per the convention program. (Subject to change without notice.) Registration staff must retain and

mail the application form with your payment as a condition of refund. This is a great way to try out NMRA before joining. Or, avoid the surcharge and join now at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org).


Got to the web site at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/convention2017/register.html> to register on line. If you prefer to register by mail, the registration form is reproduced in this issue of the Branch Line on page 31.

### Early Registration Drawing

*(Note: This applies to those who view the Branch Line on line before the end of September. Mail-only subscribers will not be eligible because the Branch Line will not be delivered until mid-October.)*

From now until September 30, 2016, when

you register for the Daylight Express 2017 convention, your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate from MB Klein. If you have already registered, your name has already been entered into the drawing for the chance to win the gift certificate. The gift certificate will be presented to the winner at the Daylight Express 2017 convention.

The \$100 gift certificate is from one of the Internet's premier model railroad dealers, MB Klein, also known as [ModelTrainStuff.com](http://ModelTrainStuff.com). ModelTrainStuff is a great Internet source for model trains in HO Scale, N Scale, Z Scale O Scale and HOn3 Narrow Gauge. Locomotives, rolling stock, track, train sets and more to build your model railroad empire. 



## Tehachapi Loop Tour

by Doug Wagner, Co-Chairman, Daylight Express 2017

Trains etc. is Kern County's only model train shop

What would be a trip to Kern County be without a visit to one of the most iconic rail-fanning destinations—the Tehachapi Loop? If you like

railroading history, then you will not want to miss this tour. On this tour, you will not only be able to visit the World Famous Tehachapi Loop, but you will have lunch inside a former apple packing shed converted to a restaurant/gift shop, visit the Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum—and to top off the trip—you will be able to visit Kern County's only model train shop.

To transport you on this rail-fanning trip, you will be boarding a 50-passenger

bus, that will depart from the hotel at 10:00 AM, and will transport you from the convention hotel to The Shed Restaurant, in Tehachapi, where you will be able to enjoy either their impressive buffet of all you can eat soup and salad, or their signature chicken pot pie and salad meals. Meals include your soft drinks and gratuity. And since the Shed is adjacent to the Union Pacific mainline, you're sure to catch some trains rumbling by while you enjoy your meal. At the adjacent shop inside The

Continued on Page 8



## Tehachapi Loop Tour (Cont.)

Shed, you will be able to browse a selection of locally made goods that include jams, barbecue sauce, wine and gifts.

After lunch, 2 docents, from the Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum, will join you for the trip back down the hill to “The Loop”. As the bus travels to the The Loop and travels back toward Tehachapi, the docents will point out various areas and history of the Loop.

At the conclusion of “The Loop” portion of the tour, the bus will return to Tehachapi so that you can

enjoy the Tehachapi Loop Depot Museum. This depot replaces the one that burned down June 2008. It was originally built in 1904. It is a type 23 Depot owned by the Southern Pacific which has been fully

restored and is now operated as a museum by the Friends of the Tehachapi Depot. The Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum houses several large collections of historic railroad artifacts, including

antique railroad maintenance equipment, signals and tools, dinnerware, signs and other railroadians, plus stories and photographs of the men and women who built the railroad and whose lives were affected by it. The depot is not only one of the best places in the area to watch trains; the depot property is now a city park and has been set up as a 24-hour train-watching park! A deck surrounds the depot, complete with benches, picnic tables and a great view of the railroad.

After you’ve had time to enjoy the museum, just a walk across the street will put you inside Kern County’s ONLY model train store, Trains Etc. The store has been in Tehachapi for approximately 17 years. They carry scale model trains, toy trains for all ages, train themed books, puzzles, Thomas wooden trains, T-shirts and various souvenirs and etc. They also carry paints and plastic models and some small tools.

After this 6-hour Tehachapi Loop-tour extravaganza, you will then be transported back down the hill to the convention hotel. This trip is schedule to start at 10:00 AM and have you back to the hotel at 4:00 PM, on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The cost of this tour is \$65.00 per person, and this registration fee includes your meal of either a chicken pot pie and salad, or the all-you-can-eat

soup and salad buffet bar, soft drinks and gratuity at The Shed Restaurant. This tour will be limited to the first 50 convention attendees who register for this trip. You must register for this trip by no later than April 13, 2017.



Tehachapi Depot photos by Nick Smirnoff



If after we fill up the first 50 spaces on the first bus, and if there is enough interest, we will contract a second bus, but we must have this information by no later than April 13, 2017. For further information, please contact Daylight Express Co-Chairman Doug Wagner at carldw@aol.com, or by phone at (661) 589-0391. 🚂

### PCR Membership Tracker

as of 8-31-16

Division	# Members
Coast	444
Sierra	255
Redwood Empire	143
Daylight	121
Hawaiian	12
<b>Total PCR Members</b>	<b>975</b>



## Layout Tours

by Doug Wagner, Co-Chairman, Daylight Express 2017  
All photos by Bob Chaparro

### John Drazin's Oakcreek and Western

The Oakcreek & Western is a fictional branch of the CB&Q, which John remembers well from growing up in the Chicago area. This is a large two-level layout inside its own dedicated 25 foot x 70 foot building. The mainline alone is twelve scale miles long and there are over 1,000 cars on the layout.

John likes realistic track so he employs a three-step process to weather every tie. You can imagine with a twelve-mile long mainline, sidings, spurs and yard tracks there are a lot of ties to be

weathered. The sections he has completed look really great. John also experimented with anchor bolt cement, using this to cast some bridges. The result is concrete bridges in true concrete color.

The scenery reaches down to the floor in areas where it is completed. John is using very large Bragdon rock molds for this. These

require a two-man team to position and hold the molds in place.

John uses the NEC DCC system and Tortoise turnout motors. In addition to NCE throttles he is tweaking the system to use cell phones to operate the trains and turnouts.

John also has a nice collection of railroad signal and signs outside the layout room to add atmosphere to the surroundings. 🚂

Layout Tours continue on Page 10



This overhead view of the peninsula gives a perspective of how large this layout is.

John's signal collection greets you as you approach his train building



John's ore dock shows what is possible on a large layout



The mountain and storm cloud actually across the aisle behind the roundhouse.

Behind the bridge is an example of John's superb background work



## Layout Tours (Cont.)

### Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (GEHAMS) Layout

This club boasts two large layouts, one each in HO and N scale.

The Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (GEHAMS) HO layout occupies a 37 X 110 foot room on the third floor of a commercial building in downtown Bakersfield. The layout has over 848 feet (14 scale miles) of mainline track that cross mountains, valleys,

river canyons, and hillsides between the large classification yards and engine facilities located at “Bakersfield” and “Mojave”. Two large yards are located at each end of the layout, with several

facilities such as petroleum refineries and loading racks, packing sheds, lumber yards, cattle pens, warehouses, and manufacturing businesses.

There is a one mile branch line that serves the rich agricultural town of Norman. Operations are point to point over a single-track mainline that has 5 passing sidings and return loops that allow continuous

running. The layout is designed to run along two-sided peninsulas so that the trains traverse separate scenes along the way. The railroad has 160 spotting points to serve 44 customers during operating sessions. There is a strong Santa Fe and Southern Pacific influence to the railroad property.

The layout has been under construction since 1997 and was expanded in 2010 to include a large 7-track passenger station with REA Express, US mail and LCL freight station facilities.

A passenger yard was also constructed to service trains between runs. In 2013, intermodal and automobile yards were added near Bakersfield to operate these

high priority trains.

Additional improvements and upgrades are ongoing. The layout uses a Digitrax radio command system, supported by 4 NCE 10 amp boosters and home built power



supplies. Digitrax’s Digital Command Control powers the layout, as on the N scale layout. There are many loconet plugs located around the layout to allow both tethered and radio control of trains.

GEHAMS’s N scale layout is approximately 18’ X 80’, in size, and has 17.4 scale miles of mainline track. The current layout has gone through several makeovers, to the current “freelanced” Bakersfield to Mojave, layout that it is today. Mojave, the original staging yard, has



industries located in between. The scenery depicts the landscapes typical of southern California with citrus orchards, oilfields, small towns and industrial

All photos by Bob Chaparro

## Layout Tours (Cont.)

### GEHAMS (Cont.)

over 10 tracks to set up trains on. The northern staging yard was added in 2005, and has 10 tracks. This staging yard represents locations to the north of Bakersfield. The layout also has our rendition of the Tehachapi Loop, which was constructed to look very similar the real Tehachapi Loop, by using Google Earth measurements, as best that we could get in about 7 feet!

The city of Bakersfield, located at the north end of the layout, has a passenger terminal. Yeah, we know—Bakersfield did not have a passenger terminal—but, heh,

its model railroading! The other large part of the N scale layout, is the Bakersfield



classification Yard, complete with turn table and engine servicing facilities. Just east of Bakersfield, is Edison. Railroaders operating in Edison have their job cut out for them, with the numerous packing sheds and other agriculture related industries.

After leaving Edison, the train makes it way, up the

mountains, through Bena, Caliente and Cliff, arriving at the Tehachapi Loop. After the Loop, is the town of Tehachapi, where a branch line operation begins (heh, like I said, it's a model railroading!), that takes you into the town of Kernville, where a local can spend hours sorting cars out at the various industries located there.

If you continue on the mainline, east from Tehachapi you will pass by the Monolith Cement Plant. Then the double track starts at Cameron, where it will take you into Mojave, where you can either use the return loop, to head back to Bakersfield, or park your train in the Mojave staging yard. Eastward, from the Mojave staging yard, is the latest addition to the layout, where the Trona Branch is being constructed.

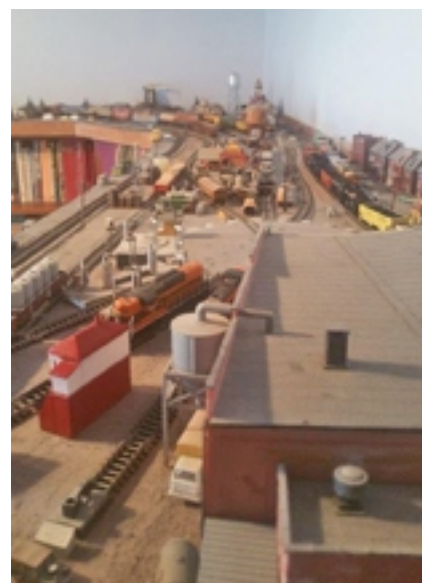


All photos by Bob Chaparro

### Kevin Birkbeck's N-Scale Layout

This is an N scale freelanced shelf layout from the late 50s to mid 60s time frame. It is DC powered with about 125 feet of mainline

and is well scened. It is an eye-level layout about 55 inches in height. The layout is well maintained and utilizes an operator of one. The locale is lower Western Canada or upper western United States. Industries include logging, coal and barging with some passenger and general express freight.



Layout Tours continue on Page 12

## Layout Tours (Cont.)

### Larry Saslaw's HO Layout

Larry's HO scale layout is based on Southern Pacific's Dunsmuir engine facilities and Shasta Division, circa 1954 (and last day of Southern Pacific operations on Sept 11, 1996). Larry has used plans of the roundhouse, machine shops, mallet shed, sanding tower and station from *Mainline Modeler* articles of the early 1980s. The layout is built within the third stall of his garage and measures 12 feet x 21 feet.


The concept is based on a railroad climbing out of the Sacramento River

from lower Dunsmuir yard, through the engine facilities, up the canyon past Shasta Springs, across Hotlum (Dry Canyon) up to a second level



to what could be the summit at Siskyou (Larry has used artistic license to switch lines) up to a helix and down, or reverse loops on top and bottom.

The layout climbs twice around the room, from the helix and Dunsmuir yard and shops located on the center peninsula, around the room twice, back onto the peninsula to the top of the helix. Larry's intent is to portray the scenery and feeling of railroading in the Shasta Route.

Larry uses Digitrax Radio DCC and has a sample of SP steam and diesels, the Shasta Daylight and the Cascade and Klamath lumber trains of the 1954 era. He also can switch out the whole power and rolling stock to portray the last days of the SP with the Coast Starlight. 

Layout Tours continue on Page 13



All photos by Bob Chaparro



## Layout Tours (Cont.)

### Doug Wagner's N-Scale Layout

The N scale Porterville-Orosi District/ATSF Valley Division is a work in progress. It represents the East San Joaquin Valley area between Bakersfield and the Porterville, Lindsay and Exeter areas in the late 1940s to early 1950s.

At this time there is no scenery on the layout and much is to be completed. The layout eventually will have rolling hills for the citrus groves that were prevalent in the area's agriculture industry.

The layout is 10 feet x 20 feet with 1.6 scale miles of an all branch line route. This route is operational as are the industrial sidings in Porterville. There is a middle peninsula that serves as a classification yard, which represents both Bakersfield and Fresno Yards. There is a separate staging yard which will represent off-line trains coming into the Bakersfield/Fresno area.


The benchwork is

made from cantilevered shelving material with 3/4" plywood and 1/2" Builder's Board for the sub roadbed. The layout room has a duck-under at the door that is removable for any visitors that may have difficulty entering the room.

Doug plans on using car cards for operations which will run point-to-point. The track plan also allows for continuous show running. The layout is controlled by Digitrax's DCS 100 command station system.



All photos by Bob Chaparro



**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](http://www.nmra.org) and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.

Then, get that popcorn ready.



**We make it even more fun.**  
[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)

## President's Report

by Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

Ah, the lure of Trains – how they captivate the young (we are hoping) and the old alike!

This summer I had the opportunity, which I took, to attend two Divisional summer events, each offering the opportunity to ride on live steamer type trains, and spaced on consecutive weekends.

The Sierra Division hosted the first, on August 13th. After a morning meet, members adjourned to nearby Hagan Community Park in Rancho Cordova, where the Sacramento Live Steamers have an elaborate live steam railroad. Dan Moody provided barbecue food and we ate under a large

covered picnic area (thank goodness – it was hot!) and took turns riding the train. The route began by the full size depot and continued on through two large loops through wooded parkland. Of course, nearly all of us riders were middle-aged and older model railroaders and significant others. But we sure felt like a bunch of kids.

A week later came the Redwood Empire Division Annual Picnic. The RED doesn't mess around with meetings and such; it goes right to the chase. In this case the chase took place at the Youth Community Park in Northwest Santa Rosa, where

the Redwood Empire Live Steamers have been working to establish a relationship with the City of Santa Rosa to establish a permanent rail empire through similar wooded parkland. In this case we had a "diesel" pulling through a shorter but equally fun right-of-way (more extensive trackage is under construction) and we learned a lot about the politics of getting a home for that type of railroad venture. The dedication of the small group of hobbyists working on this is amazing and outstanding.

But we had a reminder about where the future of railroad modeling might lie. While the train was waiting for the next batch of riders to gather a mother and two small children engaged in a conversation with the fellow operating the locomotive. It seems that the little boy desperately wanted to ride the train but the engineer had to explain that this was a private party and not open to the public. He went over the days and hours they have set for public riding and the mother was very reasonable and understanding about this. It was clear from his facial expression, however, that the little boy was dumbfounded and didn't understand why he couldn't have a train ride right then and there. I toyed with the idea of intervening in this little scene I was witnessing, but I was reluctant to go bumbling in to

something when I didn't know what the backstory issues might be. As it turned out, later a couple of other kids did get a ride, perhaps because some second thoughts came into the picture.

Why am I bringing this up? Once again, we're looking at the distant future of our hobby, not this or next years membership numbers. Kids are captivated by trains today as they always have been. Does that mean that they will become model railroaders in the future? We don't really know, do we? And even if they do, does that mean they will join and/or support the NMRA? Or even care if there is such a thing as the NMRA? We don't know.

As we ponder these great cosmic issues, we may get some more food for thought from a recently produced documentary about model railroaders and model railroading. Sara Kelly, a journalist, journalism professor, and film maker, released this film earlier this year. As far as I know it's only available on Amazon. If you have Amazon Prime you can see it for free. If you don't have access to Amazon video you may be out of luck.

If you can find the film, you will be treated to a riveting hour plus that does the best job I've seen in illustrating facets of the hobby such as prototype modeling, weathering for realism, operations, and so forth. It portrays the diversity



**Kids are captivated by trains today as they always have been. Does that mean that they will become model railroaders in the future?**

of interests in the hobby and includes interviews with a number of modelers of varying interests. Some even get to present their bios, at least as far as how they came to be train "nerds," a term that gets some attention in the film, as well as the OCD elements of the hobby, including "rivet counting." A number of well-known modelers appear, including NMRA President Charlie Getz. We are also given the impression that the hobby is not just for old gray haired white guys, although there are certainly plenty of them in the film.

I'm bringing this up because aging and the survival of both the hobby and NMRA surfaces as a topic. And I was aghast at the honesty of one of the featured modelers who proclaimed that he really didn't care about the future as long as he

personally was able to have fun now. Maybe there are more of us that feel that way than I had appreciated. I suppose that by now you could predict easily that I just plain disagree with that.

Meanwhile, one featured modeler who gets a lot of screen time is Michael Gross. Not only is he obviously an impressive modeler, he is an established screen and television actor. And, to top it off, Doug Wagner informs us that he will be the featured speaker at the upcoming Daylight Express PCR Convention in Bakersfield. Another reason to attend what is shaping up to be a great event, and organized on relatively short notice.

I have a one final note before closing. Your Board of Directors approved a major change in the structure of PCR last April that will be

implemented as soon as we finalize the changes in the all-important paperwork next month. There will no longer be a Hawaii Division and all of its twelve members will then be members of the Coast Division. If you are unaware, there just haven't been enough members there to run a Division and after many years it was time to make the change. I have personally contacted all former Hawaii members to let them know that they are still PCR members and will in fact get a lot more NMRA support this way. I have heard back from three who expressed their comfort with the move and who expressed a high level of enthusiasm for NMRA.

If you aren't at the Board meeting in October (remember, all members are welcome) I hope to see you all in Bakersfield. 🚗

**There will no longer be a Hawaii Division and all of its twelve members will then be members of the Coast Division.**

## 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](mailto: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. 🚗

## 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](http://www.pcrnmra.org)

## Vice-President's Report

by Carol Alexander, Vice-president, PCR-NMRA

### Crisis and Opportunity

There is an old comedy routine where a man tells his friend about a trip on an airplane.

Comic: I recently took a trip to the East Coast to visit my family.

Straight Man: Oh, that's good.

Comic: Well it's not too good, the plane caught fire.

Straight Man: Oh, that's awful!

Comic: Well, it not too bad, I was able to jump out.

Straight Man: Oh, that's good.

Comic: Well, it not too good, I didn't have a parachute.

Straight Man: Oh, that's awful!

And so it went until the final punch line – each opportunity begat

another crisis which begat another opportunity, etc., etc.

My life recently has felt like a series of crisis and opportunity spinning in an ever tightening spiral. First we were going to have to move to the east coast and then we weren't. Then it was somewhere else in California and then not that place but somewhere else and so on. Then the British did something wonderful – they withdrew from the European Union and plunged American Markets into a downward direction an incidentally caused mortgage rates to plummet. Janette and I were able to refinance our home and stay right where we are in Santa Rosa.

So what has all this to do with model railroading? Crisis and Opportunity. A crisis caused me to have to abandon and remove the multilayer layout under construction in the garage.

Now I have a new opportunity to design a new one and start building it. I'm sure that I don't want anything as elaborate as the last design but I'm also sure I want something fun to operate. Fortunately for me we have a very active and knowledgeable group of modelers in PCR and the NMRA who can help me maximize my opportunity. The Layout Design Special Interest Group (SIG) is available to help us with any size project from a small shelf switching layout to a full basement empire. I will be sketching out my ideas and getting input from modeling friends and taking the drawings to a SIG meeting and getting their take on the design as well.

We are very fortunate to have so many of our members who are part of this SIG and others. Be sure to take advantage of these resources in our hobby.

Happy Railroading. 🚂



## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### Author Certificate

by Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department

#### Author

Continuing our discussion on various AP certificates, this month we'll review the requirements for Author, with an emphasis on the newest way to share information, the Internet. Like the other certificates, the full requirements for this category are available on the Internet at the NMRA site,

<http://www.nmra.com/author>.

Points are awarded for this category for published articles or drawings, developing web sites, or presenting live clinics. In all cases, the subject **must** be model railroading (i.e., articles or clinics on a railroad prototype do not count toward the total score unless it includes

significant information on how to model the particular prototype). To earn a certificate for Author, you need to accumulate a total of 42 points. The number of points awarded for your efforts is dependent on the type of publication and the type of article or drawing as shown in the table on page 17.

In the case of articles for one of the commercial publications, you do not need to wait for actual publication. A copy of the submitted



article and a copy of the acceptance receipt are sufficient. However, you might find that the final article is actually longer than anticipated once you see the article in print which might impact your points. Articles submitted to the online *Model Railroad Hobbyist* magazine are the same for other national publications.

Note that you can also receive credit for presenting live clinics at National or Regional conventions, Division meetings, etc. In order to be eligible for credit, the clinic must be prepared and presented by the member applying for the certificate, it must be at least 30 minutes in length, and it **must** include a handout (a copy of the handout must be included with the certificate application.) Points

for presenting live clinics at NMRA sponsored events are 6 points (National), 4 points (Regional), or 2 points (Divisional). Clinics given at non-NMRA sponsored events earn one-half the points. A live clinic can only be claimed for Model Railroad Author points once, even if it presented more than once. (If you present it more than once, the others count toward Association Volunteer.)

You can also get credit for publishing material on the Internet. This material earns credit at the same rate as published articles in regional publications as listed in the table. All photos, drawings, etc. are treated as 1/3 of a page. Material that is published in more than one place or way (for example, both in a magazine and electronically, or in multiple electronic formats) can only earn credit once.

The address (URL) of the material must be included with the certificate application. Material which is published on a non-publicly accessible forum (e.g. a website which can only be accessed by subscribers) is not eligible for credit. In addition, no more than half of the total required points (21) may be claimed for publications on the Internet. Because of the nature of the web, final determination of what material is acceptable for credit, and how much credit it earns, lies with the AP Executive Assistant Manager. For material that is the work of more than one person, each person may claim 1/2 of the applicable points, provided that they did at least 40% of the work involved.

Of all of the AP categories, Author might be the easiest to document.

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### Points Earned Per Full Page

Item	National Publication	NMRA National	NMRA Region	NMRA Divisions & SIGs
Article or Column	3	3	2	1
Photos or Artwork	3	3	2	1
Scale Drawing - Prototype	6	6	4	2
Scale Drawing - Track Plan	3	3	2	1

Keep in mind the following guidelines:

A “page” is approximately 1200 words. If you are using MS Word to write the article, Review/Word Count can tell you the word count. Credit may be claimed for partial pages down to quarter pages.

NMRA Publications (including SIG publications) with a circulation of more than 2000 may be considered National Publications; those with a circulation of more than 1000 are be considered Region Publications.

Material published in 100% NMRA Club publications earns half the number of points as a NMRA Division publication.

No more than half of the total required points (21) may be claimed for Division or 100% NMRA Club publications.

**You can also get credit for publishing material on the Internet. This material earns credit at the same rate as published articles in regional publications**

Simply attach photocopies of the particular articles to your Statement of Qualifications along with a summary of your points for each item. Send the completed SOQ to your Divisional AP representative, **along with a photocopy of your NMRA membership card** and you are on your way toward another certificate!

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

Earl Gribovan -  
Master Builder –  
Structures  
Ted Stephens - Model

Railroad Engineer –  
Electrical  
Ted Stephens - Master  
Builder – Scenery  
Ted Stephens - Model  
Railroad Engineer –  
Civil  
Ted Stephens - Chief  
Dispatcher  
Congratulations to  
both of you!

If you are interested in the AP Program or Golden Spike Program, contact me for more details. My phone number, address, and e-mail address are listed in the Call Board on page 2. 📞

## Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann

The NMRA National Convention in Indianapolis July 3-9 was well attended and featured excellent Layout Design, Operations and CMRI SIG programs. The Layout Design SIG had a clinic track, a Layout Design Boot Camp led by LDJ editor Byron Henderson, the LDSIG Self Guided Tour and a SIG Dinner with MRP Editor Tony Koester as speaker. OPSIG had an outstanding



Operations program which took me as far as Bloomington to the South, West Lafayette to the North and Cincinnati to the South East. The layouts I ran ranged from "Very Good"

to "Off the Chart!" Thanks to all of the organizers and committee members as well

as the NRMA Convention Department for a great event!

The NMRA Convention will be in Orlando in 2017 and Kansas City in 2018. Kansas City is known for both its quantity and quality of operating layouts and the KC2018 group is composed of many operators, so expect a strong SIG program all around in KC.

We're ramping up the planning for the 2017 Bay Area PCR/Layout Design/Operations SIG weekend, which will be returning to the South Bay for the first time in four years. The dates are January 27, 28 and 29. We are finalizing the location so please check the PCR master calendar and follow the email list for details as they become available. The format will

follow the last few years with a Friday Dinner, clinics and panels Saturday, tours Saturday night and ops on Sunday. The op sessions are aimed at new and visiting operators so if you've been wondering what the excitement is about, here's your chance to try!

There are many out of town operations meets and most are interested in attracting new operators, so please contact me at the email address below if you are interested in participating.

Also, I have taken on the role of NMRA SIG Coordinator so if you are looking for a group that features one of your interests in the hobby or you would like to form a new SIG, or register your group or Historical Society as a SIG, please contact me at [sneumann@pacbell.net](mailto:sneumann@pacbell.net). 📧

## Contest Report

By Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Chairman, PCR Contest Department

### Oh noooo, I Need More Time !

A useful tool when preparing for entries in a contest of any type is a calendar. This artifact was first introduced by the Babylonians and refined through the centuries to its present form. Of all its many uses, it excels at keeping us organized and allowing



completion of long standing tasks and long range planning. All the above criteria fit properly in keeping us focused from beginning to end on our project.

Knowing where I am in a project in relation to a timeline

has been a godsend to me, helping defraying the “lazy-mode-leading-to-panic- mode syndrome,” becoming frustrated and agitated realizing that I have one day left to complete a project that requires days and it is the evening before the Convention.

Believe me it has indeed happened to me; it does not make for a happy and understanding wife, husband or significant other; thus the inspiration for this column. Multiple projects with overlapping time-frames and completion dates can then be made simple by merely writing down the completion dates and working backwards to the eventual starting date for

each. This way you will be assured, if you adhere to the schedule you have set, that all will be completed on time and no stress. Right?.....

That’s in a perfect world.

Remember that the Greek philosopher Plato theorized the existence of another Universe in addition to the one we belong to; the Perfect Universe- the Archetypal Universe. Ours is a copy of the Archetypal Universe and thus it is full of mistakes, basically flawed. Well, since we do live in this Imperfect Universe we need to remember that any good intention or planning will have its share of setbacks and problems. It is imperative to then factor in our calendar’s planning the extra time to complete a project in the eventuality, or should I say, in the certainty we run into unforeseen problems.

Part of the decision making in setting up this schedule is to realize how comfortable you are with this project; is it something you have done before? If so, you know the sticky points and how to overcome them without having to go outside your box to learn new skills which might be above the level of involvement you are aiming for. Personally, adding a new technique always creates a challenge I crave, knowing full well that it will entail extra time and some frustration while I learn the new skill. This embedded evil inherent in my modeling

persona has helped me elevate the skill level I introduce to my models, as well as maintain freshness of ideas and anticipation for a well crafted model which brings me joy. The joy of modeling is what I want to maintain.

Mind you I am not proselytizing that you create for yourself unnecessary stomach ulcers by embarking on a very difficult project way outside your comfort level. Just do what you do best and add a little challenge to it and you have raised your bar of excellence. Once completed I bet you will sit back in your chair, admire your completed project and smile knowing full well you have achieved your objective. That’s equivalent to five shots of Italian espresso in one single gulp.

Going back to the calendar’s time-frame, it is important to set dates to keep track as to what part of the project you need to have done by what date. This implies that certain steps in the project have to be completed before advancing to other steps, avoiding the prospect of disassembling parts or working around impossible angles attempting to glue or solder what would have been easier had it been done two steps before. Putting together an unmodified kit has all the steps laid out for you. Now adding details or super-detailing that same kit involves a little more planning as to what has to be

Continued on Page 20

**A useful tool when preparing for entries in a contest of any type is a calendar.**

Remember that you can always elect to have your project on display without being judged or even in its progress stage.

prepared to accommodate the extra detail. Scratch-building a project involves lots of planning as you now ARE the instruction book and it had better be in a language you understand. As you go through a project it would be beneficial to keep notes of what you have done and how it was achieved for future reference.

You might want to revisit that project multiple times. Thus, you already know the path to follow or use the notes when writing a contest's report for the judges. This assures you will not forget important details. Best yet is to take pictures of the stages of your project if you are so inclined. A picture is worth a thousand words. For those who do not like to fill out forms, this could become the method of choice to explain how the project was completed. How much simpler can it get? I find that

often I refer to old project pictures to re-freshen my memory on how I solved this problem or achieved that result; believe me, relying on memory alone is frustrating and paralyzing to any project. You can also use the pictures of your projects in a chronological order to visualize your progress as a modeler. You will be amazed and FULL of JOY to see your maturity and skill level developing in the Hobby. I believe that will cement in you the desire to be better and to fully enjoy model railroading, at least at this level.

I personally use the NMRA calendar to keep track of my progress. It serves three purposes. One, by making a donation to the NMRA for the calendar helps the Association. Two, it gives a timeline canvas to set-up projects and Three there are pictures of other people's

projects on every page to stimulate our creative juices, getting ideas, providing a benchmark and making us realize it can be done. Simple and easy.

The time to put all of the above in motion is NOW. Plenty of time left before the next Convention in Bakersfield. Sharpen your pencil, put fresh batteries in your head, get yourself a calendar, pick up a project (or multiples) to be completed in time and show us what you can do by bringing your project(s) to the contest room. Remember that you can always elect to have your project on display without being judged or even in its progress stage. We all want to see what you can do. Personally, the workmanship of other modelers has always fascinated me. Make sure you are one of the ones who will keep us fascinated.

Happy modeling. 🚂

## Coast Division Report

by Frank Markovich, MMR, Coast Division  
Superintendent

By the time you get this the meet listed below will be over. Stay tuned for some special clinics. These will be hands on clinics. See

article on the first one by Earl Girbovan.

Our event will be September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Club in Alameda. Address is: 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 You will be getting a card with the directions.

There will be two clinics:

At 10:00 AM Mike Blumenstaadt and I will be doing the final Build a Memory clinic on the 'N' scale logging layout to include more on scenery,

doing the electrical and final thoughts.

At 11:00 AM Jim Eckman will be doing a 2<sup>nd</sup> clinic on Paper models – this is a hands on clinic and will go further than his last clinic. It should be great! Those attending will get to build a model and bring it home!!!!

We will have a round table with Howard leading it.

Of course the regular items such as a large auction and many door prizes. I even won a door prize in June.



Continued on Page 21

## Report (C0nt.)

Model Contest:  
Steam, Maintenance  
of Way, Structures, Traction  
and Passenger.

Plaques will be awarded at the meet and photos of the models will be shown during the business meeting. Also, bring show and tell. Remember you get an extra door prize ticket for bringing a model or a photograph!! 🚂



## Branch Line Deadlines for 2017

**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**

**OCT-NOV-DEC 2017 Issue**  
Articles due by  
**September 10, 2017**

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

## Build a Wood Structure Workshop

by Earl Girbovan

Details have been finalized for the wood structure workshop announced in the previous issue of Branchline. In the workshop, attendees will be building the RS Laser HO Greg's Repair Shop. This is a generic structure that can be built as any number of small businesses, and fit into most any era. The prototype for the workshop was built up as a machine shop. The goals of the workshop are 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.

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 that can be finished and detailed at home. The afternoon will conclude with an overview of LED lighting, adding detail parts, and techniques for installing the structure in a scene.

The workshop will be on October 8, 2016 at Frank Markovich's home in Belmont from noon until about 3:00pm. The cost is \$40 to cover the kit (kit is \$37.50 plus tax so you are really just paying for the kit) and miscellaneous materials. Please send check or money order to Frank Markovich, 1904 Chula Vista Drive, Belmont Ca 94002 or PayPal to [frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com) with a note that this is for the structure workshop. The workshop is limited to 12 attendees.

A tool list will be provided to upon registration. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Frank Markovich at the email address above, or Earl Girbovan at [egirbovan@netzero.com](mailto:egirbovan@netzero.com). Please submit with the form below.

### Structure Clinic Reservation Form

Clinic Date/Time: October 8, 2017, noon until ~3:00pm

Location: 1904 Chula Vista Drive, Belmont, CA

1. Full Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Phone number \_\_\_\_\_
3. Street Address \_\_\_\_\_
4. City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_
5. Email Address \_\_\_\_\_
6. Briefly describe your modeling experience below:
7. Primary Scale \_\_\_\_\_



## RED REPORT

by Verne Alexander, Designated Keyboard Knocker

Our preparation for hosting the PCR Convention in 2018 is solidly in hand and probably ahead of pace. The Convention venue in Rohnert Park is reserved. All key personnel for the various areas of responsibility have agreed with their selection and are ready to execute their responsibilities when the proper time arrives. Our intent is to put together an outstanding Convention that will be both informative and enjoyable to those wise (!) PCR members who choose to attend.

For our own membership we had our annual picnic on August 20 at Youth Community Park in Santa Rosa. This park

is the home of the Redwood Empire Live Steam Museum. The Museum is relatively new, as such institutions go, having its beginnings early

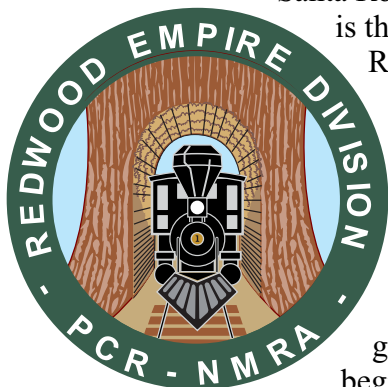
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The initial years were marked by friction with the City of Santa Rosa, most of it generated by an official who was not in sympathy with the presence of the Museum in the Park. That person moved on to a different place of employment, and the Museum's relationship with the City took a major turn for the better. It's place within the City's plans is now quite solid. Permanent track has been laid, and a 900 foot expansion is underway that will take the riding passengers through some really nice, shaded scenery. It is hoped that this expansion will have taken place by Convention time in 2016, as we would very much like to put the museum on our list of Convention activities.

The Museum has from the beginning expended a major effort to involve the community in its activities. In its early years there was a homeless encampment nearby, and the Museum solicited and received the

support of these homeless folks with regard to the security of the area. I am ashamed to say that I have forgotten what the Museum's side of the arrangement entailed, but I am mightily impressed with what this says about the character of the homeless folks involved, and the intentions of the Museum folks. The Museum has also reached out to the residents of the area, keeping them informed of Museum activities and addressing any concerns they may have about noise, litter or whatever.

The Museum is currently involved in a Sonoma County Railroad History project. They have enlisted interested local youth in the building of structures for the layout. These structures would be scale models of iconic railroad structures in the County. The Santa Rosa depot of the Northwestern Pacific has already been built. Other structures will follow. The Museum is also reaching out for the oral history contributions of folks who have fond, or interesting, or

Continued on Page 23



Photos by Stephen Skold



whatever memories of how it was when the railroads of the County played a major part in how things were in their lives during those times.

So on the 20<sup>th</sup> we had a good time at our picnic, learning about the Museum, riding their train, enjoying nice weather and scarfing down the goodies we brought to eat.



Photos by Stephen Skold

## Welcome Aboard ! - PCR's Newest Members

Member	City, Sate	Date Joined
<b>Daylight</b>		
Wilson James	Tehachapi, CA	8/25/2016
<b>Coast</b>		
Richard Eberli	Menlo Park, CA	6/7/2016
Jim Burton	San Francisco, CA	7/13/2016
Gordon Burton	San Francisco, CA	7/13/2016
Maxine Ninard	San Mateo, CA	7/18/2016
Richard Woolley	Mountain View, CA	8/26/2016
<b>Sierra</b>		
David Anderson	Lodi, CA	6/1/2016
Family Anderson	Lodi, CA	6/1/2016
Rodney Henderson	Sparks, NV	6/1/2016
Rich Lopez	Rocklin, CA	6/6/2016
David Stanley	Morada, CA	6/7/2016
Mike Hamm	Cottenwood, CA	6/20/2016
<b>Redwood Empire</b>		
Brad Squires	Sonoma, CA	6/8/2016
Avery Cruz	Guerneville, CA	8/9/2016
Family Poggendorf	Santa Rosa, CA	8/12/2016
Thomas Sheridan	Rohnert Park, CA	8/12/2016

# Sierra Division Report

by Chip Meriam

The Sierra Division Summer meet took place August 13 with the first half of the meeting at the Fair Oaks Public Library. As usual, there was a short and concise business meeting, most of which was focused on the upcoming International Rail Fair to be held at the Placer County Fairgrounds November 12 and 13, 2016.

Contest themes for the August meet were Modeling - MOW Equipment, and Photography – “Workin’ on the Rail Road.” Between the two

categories there were a total of nineteen entries.

In the Modeling Contest, First Place went to Gary Ray for his 120 ton Crane.

Second Place went to Dick Witzens for his complete Work Train.

Third Place rendered a tie between Dick Witzens for his High Railer, and Dave Adams for his D&RGW Locomotive and MOW House Car.

In the Photo Contest, First Place went to Tom Van Horn for his shot of a Tender Taking on Water.

Second Place had three winners: Gary Ray for his Crew Change shot, Dan Mahoney for his Plow, and Dan Mahoney for his Friendly Fireman

Third Place also had three winners: Dan Mahoney for his Dairy Plant, Walt Schedler for his REA and PMT Terminal, and Klaus Keil for his High Railer Fire Car.

While the contest votes were being tallied, Chip Meriam gave a short presentation on using recycled coffee grounds to simulate bare earth. The coffee grounds were mined from spent K-Cup® pods, and Chip also offered ways to make use of the dismantled

pod parts, like this scrap load made from the tops of the pods.

Following the morning meet, the group gathered at Hagan Community Park in Rancho Cordova where they enjoyed a gourmet barbecue provided by Dan Moody and “Taste Buds.” Hagan Community Park is home to the Sacramento Live Steamers, where the Sierra Division Members were guests for the afternoon. Live steam train rides were available for members and their families until about 3:00PM.

The Sierra Division extends our heart-felt gratitude to the Sacramento Live Steamers for a wonderful afternoon.

The next Sierra Division meet will be in Chico on October 8. Plans include a tour of James Railcar Service and four open layouts. Contest categories will be models - any equipment or structure; photos – any subject. 🚂



Photos provided by Chip Meriam



Jim Collins talks up the International Rail Fair



Meet Attendees



**Sierra Division (Cont.)**



**Dave Adams  
3rd Model**



**Gary Ray - 1st Model**



**Dick Witzens  
3rd Model**



**Dick Witzens  
2nd Model**



**Walt Schedler  
3rd Photo**



**Tom Van Horn  
1st Photo**



**Klaus Keil  
3rd Photo**

**More Sierra Photos on Page 26  
October-November-December 2016**

Sierra Division (Cont.)



Dick Witzens waves



Klaus Keil and Friends



Walt Schedler explains Dunsmuir



Hungry Young Modeler



Scrap Load

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Photos provided by Chip Meriam

Chip Meriam and Family



# Daylight Division Report

by Brewster Bird and Bruce Morden

[Editor's note: Daylight Division had their Summer meet on August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Goleta Depot, near Santa Barbara. Two Daylighters submitted reports.]

The first is from Brewster Bird:

Dear Daylighters and PCR folk,

Thanks for showing up at the Daylight meet in Goleta this past weekend-

Missed some great coffee from Coffee-micro a new roastery

based in Visalia, well done clinic from our host, Bruce Morden on timetable and

it's future. Also really thoughtful and well done layout tours!..

The next is from Bruce Morden:

We had a really laid back Daylight Division event on Saturday, August 27.

Bruce Morden had organized the meet which was held at the South Coast Railroad Museum at the Historic Goleta Depot, a 1901 Southern Pacific restored station structure. Fourteen were in attendance, including several non-members and a couple from out of the Division. There were no officers so there was no business meeting. There was home brewed coffee courtesy of Brewster Bird plus the usual fat pills [donuts]. No

one brought any contest models or photos. Registration sign up and collection for lunch was quick.

After a few introductory remarks Bruce led us down to the Freight Office inside the Depot. With an authentic background Bruce gave a clinic on

Timetable and Train Order Operations the way Southern Pacific did it. Included were actual dispatchers sheets from December 1963 and 1974 as well as the

corresponding timetables in use for those months. Some actual train orders and clearances from the same time were shared as Bruce explained how the orders were conveyed to the operator at the depot and then transferred to the crews as they went by. Outside at trackside, we looked at the train order post and the train order boards which rose above the two story depot building itself.

After the one clinic, Chris Palermo and Doug Wagner, co-chairs for Daylight Express 2017, the PCR Regional convention in Bakersfield next year, told us about the convention and some of the events being planned, including Michael Gross as speaker for the dinner. Mike O'Brien and Bruce Morden who are the conventions clinic co-chairs also added to the discussion. The convention display board and informational brochures were on hand.

There was an informal discussion of bringing younger people into the Division and model railroading in general. We held the traditional white elephant auction as well as selling some donated items. There was no door prize.

We enjoyed the pizza lunch and some stayed to ride the 7 1/2 inch gauge train at the museum. There were 9 layouts on the afternoon tour. All in all a very enjoyable day. 🚂



Convention Co-Chairmen Chris Palermo and Doug Wagner presented a briefing on the upcoming PCR Convention in Bakersfield

Photo by Brewster Bird



train orders (TT & TO's) and a clinic on our upcoming regional convention in Bakersfield. After the two clinics, we featured a hobby roundtable spirited open discussion on the hobby and

# Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern - Restaging

By: Jim Providenza

Restaging also encompasses completing repairs to things that have made it to the last session's Bad Order List.

Photos by Jim Providenza

Some railroads require little if any 'restaging' or 'resetting' between operating sessions. Needless to say, the Santa Cruz Northern is not one of them. Turning trains takes maybe 3 or so hours if I have to start with all trains having been run. This includes swapping loads in or out in open cars and changing waybills and reblocking the east and west drags. Then there is paperwork – making sure the agent – operators, the Mac St. yardmaster and the dispatcher all have the forms they need in stock. Maybe an hour or so. I have found that I really like to have the 'soup tickets' (Crew calling memos that are given to the dispatcher, copy to conductor, with all pertinent information about a train) complete except for the crew member name(s) before a session. Otherwise I, wearing my crew caller hat, am writing too much during the session. Maybe another hour. So not too bad, especially if spread over

several days.

But at least in my case, restaging also encompasses completing repairs to things that have made it to the last session's Bad Order List. Sometimes the list is short and only has a couple of minor items. Other times, well... see Photo 1!



Photo 1 - The Bad Order List

I had scheduled an op session for the middle of August – maybe I'll whine and cry about how that went

another time. But the issues that cropped up during that session had nothing to do with what was on the bad order list that is the subject of this column. I guess that was a good thing.

But what I had happen along the way! It all started at the debrief after the previous session – Paul Weiss had been the conductor on the Fall Creek & Alba Log Train. Now this is about the most miserable job on the railroad. Log cars are by their very nature about as disreputable and unreliable as you can imagine – this is certainly the case with the cars that Beroldingen Lumber has scraped together. They will tip, sway, derail at the slightest provocation. Their live loads will shift for no known reason; occasionally they will tumble off a car entirely. The loaded train is so heavy you have to double the hill out of Fallon; the empties are so light you can almost blow them off the track with a hard breath.

Now take this train, loaded or empty, and try to shove it through a curved crossing and over two #4 switches, at least one lined for the reverse route into hidden staging. And the staging is DARK. Paul came to me and (VERY politely) suggested that before the logger ran again I needed to put some light on the subject, write clearer instructions for electrical control of switches and buy a Hex Frog Juicer from Tam Valley Depot to power the crossing and the frogs on the switches.

Continued on Page 29

## In Memoriam

Member	City, State	Date Joined
	<b>Daylight</b>	
Arnold Jonas	San Luis Obispo, CA	1/1/1973 (Life Member)
	<b>Sierra</b>	
Robert Gregory	Woodland, CA	4/1/2014
	<b>Redwood Empire</b>	
Noble Emery	Napa, CA	1/1/1984
	<b>Hawaiian</b>	
William Schauer	Honolulu, HI	12/1/2008

Well, I ordered the Hex Frog Juicer and set it aside to install 'in good time'. As I set the date for the op session I figured that with a two and a half week lead time, I should have no problem getting the list, including the work at Fall Creek, done.

So on a Thursday evening 9 days before the session, Bill Kaufman and I tackled the Fall Creek Project. I had already worked off several items on the B/O List at the new-ish trackage at SP Xing and the sand spur at Ilium. I had deferred two items to the coming op session where I hoped I could get a better idea of the exact issue. And I had pulled the fascia off the upper level at



**Photo 2 - New Throw Bar**

Fall Creek Jct, exposing part of the wiring and control switches for the crossing and FC&A switches in staging.

Bill and I worked steadily until, about 9:15 in the evening, we were testing the last bit – the first switch into staging. I was watching from above the east switch at Sergeant's, where I have removed the lift out scenery. Bill was in the aisle at Fall

Creek Jct. on the other side of the backdrop. "Okay, throw the switch. Hmm, try it again, it didn't throw. Hmm. The switch motor is working, what the heck is wrong?" After a bit of examination, I uttered several 'working on the car words' as son Mike would say. It turned out that the throw bar on this 30 year old Shinohara switch had broken at the rivet that held it to the point rails. Photo 2 shows the switch from my vantage point at the east end of Sergeant's. Notice the nice new throw bar, isolation gaps around the frog, and wires to power the point rails with their respective stock rails. All this took only about 7 hours. When I reported successful completion to him on Saturday, Bill asked if I really thought it wouldn't have been easier to replace the switch entirely. Not sure about that.

In the midst of this I had occasion to set up part of the Cement Train coming off the Damsite Branch onto the main for a photograph. I decided to pull the train forward a bit. Only to discover that both the Damsite power district and the Fallon power district were shorted out. The power was straddling the block boundary – moving it into Fallon cleared the short at Damsite. But the Fallon block stubbornly refused to come

back up. I was certain I had done a final test of the crossing and frogs before I screwed the fascia back in place. I was really sure. Really I was sure.



**Photo 3 - Shorted Decoder!**

And in fact I had. It took a while but I finally discovered that one of the two Baldwins for the FC&A log train, sitting well out of harms way at the west end of Fallon where they burbled contentedly and reassuringly whenever we tested the new wiring, had, without moving an inch, shorted itself out. So, off to the backshop, out with the Volt ohm meter. Yeap, dead short within its Soundtraxx sound decoder (Photo 3). Back to the layout to work up a new consist for the log train power before the session. And a call to the good folks at Soundtraxx who asked me to send the decoder back to them to see if it could be repaired.

While moving power around at Mac St. to get some running room to test the new consist, locomotives were stumbling all over the Back

**Continued on Page 30**

**Photos by  
Jim  
Providenza**

Track switch off the siding.  
Track tools... (Photo 4).

And so it continued!  
By Thursday evening, about 30 hours before the session, the fascia was almost ready for its touch up paint (Photo 5) – the new documentation at Fall Creek Jct. went up early Saturday morning. Figuring I was home free, I was looking forward to the sandwich Dave Clemens had promised to bring from a local deli when he arrived for the session.

Yeah, got it done.  
What could go wrong now?

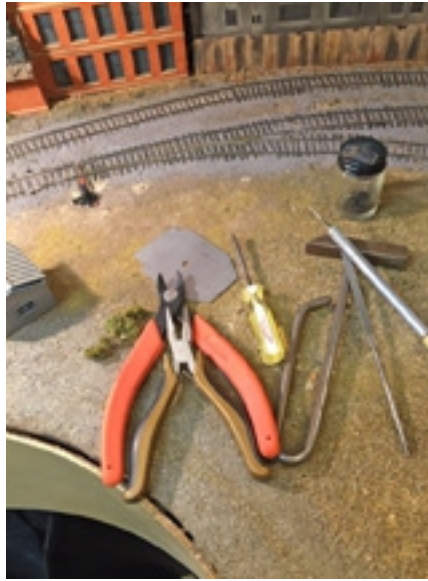


Photo 4 - Track Tools: Can you identify the essentials here?



Photo 5 - The fascia is ready for touch-up

Photos by  
Jim  
Providenza

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**PCR Membership Gauge**

- As of August 31, 2016
- 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
- June 30, 2016—982
- July 31, 2016—976
- August 31, 2016—975







# Calendar

## 2016 Events

**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 2, 2016** - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, 30th Anniversary Open House, Just Trains, 5650 Imhoff Drive, Concord, CA. Parking lot full of modular layouts N-Scale to G-Scale. Free cake, hot dogs, and sodas to celebrate! Vendor booths including Bragdon, Sountraxx, Pico, LGB and more, Timesaver competition, Store overstock items on sale

**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, 2016** - Pomar Junction Wine Train Excursion - Leave the San Luis Obispo Amtrak Station at 3:35 pm and travel on the Coast Starlight over the beautiful Cuesta Grade to Paso Robles. Then get transported to Pomar Junction Winery for their Train Wreck Friday party. Listen to local favorite Louie Ortega, enjoy the wine-tasting included in your fare, buy dinner or bring your own picnic, and then get transported back to the SLO Amtrak Station. Cost is \$75 per person for the entire excursion. Presented by the [San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum](#). Contact [media@slorm.com](mailto:media@slorm.com) or call (805) 548-1894 for tickets.

**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 8, 2016** - 9:30 am Sierra Division Meet, Chico, CA. Join us for tour of car refurbishing facility (mostly covered hoppers but some others) followed by a tour of Chip Meriam's layout followed. Meeting and lunch and lunch location TBA. For more information, contact [Jim Collins](#).

**October 9, 2016** - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Mariposa County Model Railroad Open House. As the 5 previous tours have demonstrated, just about everyone is fascinated by the miniature worlds created by model railroaders. This event will be a unique opportunity for you to visit five outstanding model railroads in Mariposa County, each of which is described in the flyer. (See PCR web site) Suggested Donation \$10.00 per person (Children under 12 - Half Price) This event is for the benefit of the Mariposa United Methodist Church Mortgage Fund.

**October 15 & 16, 2016** - Saturday: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm; Sunday: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, 13th Annual Renaissance Festival & Model Train Show, Central Park, 10460 Heather Avenue, California City, CA.

**October 22, 2016** - 1:00 pm, Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting, Western Railway Museum, 5848 State Highway 12, Suisun City, CA. Members welcome!

**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. For vendor table info, contact David Putnam, [events@santasusannadepot.org](mailto:events@santasusannadepot.org), (661) 753-6006.

**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!

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

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**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. Info: [info@blackdiamondlines.com](mailto:info@blackdiamondlines.com).

**November 4 - 6, 2016** - Northern Nevada Model Railroad Tour, presented by PCR Sierra Division. Various layouts (N, HO, HOn3, S, On30, O, and 2-foot gauges) will be open for your enjoyment. A downloadable flyer with the tour schedule, layout descriptions, driving instructions and maps will be posted mid-October. Info: Jim Petro, e-mail or phone (775) 852-5636

**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.

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**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). Enjoy our museum of real railroad artifacts. The historic Santa Clara tower is a great place to spot a real train whiz by. Come view the 1912 Pullman business car and imagine 1st class travel back in the day! Check out our used items for sale at the Company Store. Live Blue Grass music by Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association on Saturday from 12:00 - 3:00 pm. Come on by and talk railroading with fellow railfans and SBHRS members. Come see one of the best railroad libraries in Northern California. All-Day Lunch Counter.

**November 12, 2016** - To celebrate November as Model Railroading Month, on Saturday, November 12, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society, of Bakersfield, will be hosting a public open house at their downtown Bakersfield clubhouse Bakersfield, located on the 2nd and 3rd floors, above Chef's Choice Noodle Bar, 1534 19th Street, in downtown Bakersfield, California, 93301. Central California's largest permanent model train displays will be open for the public to enjoy the hobby of model trains. The N scale layout is 18' x 80' in size with a modeled version of the Tehachapi Loop. The HO layout is 30' x 90' and has 15 miles of scale HO mainline. Entrance to the clubhouse is immediately behind Chef's Choice restaurant, in the alley. The Chef Choice is located on the northeast corner of 19th and Eye Streets, in beautiful downtown Bakersfield, California, 93301. Follow the signs for directions to the clubhouse. For further information, please email [carldw@aol.com](mailto:carldw@aol.com); call 661 - 331 - 6695; [www.gehams.org](http://www.gehams.org)

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

**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. Vendor Coordinator, Bob Warner, at [bkwarner51@comcast.net](mailto:bkwarner51@comcast.net).

**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 12 & 13, 2016** - Saturday: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; Sunday: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, Open House, Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society, 1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento, CA. The Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society, Inc. operates two large HO scale layouts, HO and HOn3. The layouts are in adjoining rooms. Special this year is an expanded signal system with digital CTC implementation and full lower deck LED lighting. Suggested Donation: \$3 Adults over 18, \$1 Youth under 18. For more information, call (916) 927-3618 or e-mail .

**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, layout tours, and the obligatory quarterly Daylight Division business meeting, followed by door prize drawings, our "World Famous" Daylight White Elephant Auction (well, WE know about it!), and outside activities. 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 of Boy Scouts of America) **Driving:** Exit Davis Street from Highway 880, 0.6 mi east to 1001 Davis on right. **BART:** Exit San Leandro Station, walk 0.3 mi west on Davis St to SW corner of Davis at Orchard Ave, across from Thrasher Park. 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.

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

**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 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](mailto:info@slhrs.org).

### 2017 and Beyond Events

**January 7 & 8, 2017** - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, The Great Train Expo, Convention Center, 800 West Katella Ave, Anaheim, CA.

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

**February 11, 2017** - 10:00 am, Sierra Division Meet, Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, 2766 Dakota Avenue, Modesto, CA. Meet at the church for clinics/presentations. Exact clinics TBA. For more information, contact [Jim Collins](#)

**February 13 & 14, 2017** - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, The Great Train Expo, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar, CA

**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. Info: Vic Neves – Winterail 2017 P.O. Box 944 Albany, OR 97321

**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! See the [Daylight Express 2017](#) website for all the information you need.

**April 29, 2017** - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, West Side Reunion presents the 30th Annual Logging & Mining Modeler's Convention at the Sonora Elks Lodge, 100 Elk Drive, Sonora, CA. Join us for the all-day event, including clinics, contests, and dealer sales area. See the website for details on vendor tables. Admission: \$25.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door. Seller's table: \$35.00 (includes one admission) See the website for new information! Contact: Frank Markovich, E-mail: , Phone: (408) 505-2727.

**April 30, 2017** - 9:00 am, Sierra Seminar, Jamestown Hope Center (2 blocks from Railtown 1897), 10365 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Jamestown, CA. Morning presentations on the history and modeling of the Sierra Railroad. Free tables for related displays and for sale items. Narrated afternoon hike along part of the railroad ROW. Pizza lunch included for \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Contact for more information and a registration form.

**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.

**September 13 to 16, 2017** - Pacific Southwest Region 2017 Convention, Ontario, CA.

**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! For more information, contact Dick Foster, Publicity Chair 2018 PCR Convention, [dickfoster97@gmail.com](mailto:dickfoster97@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:glslewis@comcast.net) Web: [www.pleasantonmodelrr.org/index.html](http://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](mailto:info@blackdiamondlines.com) or visit us on the web at [www.blackdiamondlines.com](http://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](mailto:BobLewis1@sbcglobal.net).

### Bay Area S Scalers

BASS is a group of modeler railroaders in the San Francisco Bay Area focused on scale modeling in 1:64 scale. BASS is a round robin club, typically meeting in a member's home on the third Saturday of odd numbered months. Meetings may include a mini-clinic, or showing progress on models or a layout. We also have a modular layout that has been displayed at public events. Contact: Michael Eldridge ([meldridge2000@gmail.com](mailto:meldridge2000@gmail.com)). Web: [www.bayareasscalers.org](http://www.bayareasscalers.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](mailto:pray59@sbcglobal.net) Yahoo group: [groups.yahoo.com/group/BAZ\\_modules](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BAZ_modules).

### California Central Model RR Club

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

### Carquinez Model Railroad Society

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

### Coastal Valley Lines

The CVL is an informal association of novice to advanced model railroaders who live in Sonoma County. We meet at 7:00 PM the 1st Thu. of the month. We operate our HO modular railroad at local public shows. Contact: Blain Hendrix (707) 528-8655 or Steve Lewis (707) 527-0396. Web: <http://cvl.hobby-site.com>.

### Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

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

### Elsie

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

### Empire Builders Model Railroad Club

Starting over after a warehouse fire destroyed our layout, we are a small friendly group now constructing an HO layout of no specific origin based in the early 50's era. The mountain division is laid and operating, we also have a reasonable size yard operationally working well. Work days are Saturday and during summer on Wednesdays. Our retired members also show up on occasional weekdays. The club site is located at 3318 School St Oakland, Ca Call Charles at 510-917-5790 or Ted at 510-749-7099 for an invite to see/chat/join. Please visit our website <http://www.ebmrc.org>.

### European Train Enthusiasts

ETE ([www.ete.org](http://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](mailto:billkeaney@comcast.net).

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

### 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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays 8-10p.m. (510) 236-1913. For other information or to schedule special events, Email [info@gsmrm.org](mailto:info@gsmrm.org). Website: [www.gsmrm.org](http://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 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](mailto:NapaJohn@napanet.net) Web: [www.nvmrc.org](http://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://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 Email: [d.megeath@comcast.net](mailto:d.megeath@comcast.net) Web: [www.smrhs.com](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:emerson.r@worldnet.att.net) Web: <http://home.att.net/~sjvgrs/train/>

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

### San Leandro Historical Railway Society

The SLHRS models the SP from Oakland/San Leandro to just east of Norden using the tri-level Donner Pass plan featured in the March '98 Model Railroader. It's housed in the former S.P., San Leandro depot, located at 1302 Orchard Ave., San Leandro (just off Davis St.). Work sessions Sat. 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM and Tues. 7:30 - 9:30 PM, business meetings the 1st Fri. at 7:30 PM. Contact: Pat LaTorres, 510-276-3121 email: [duhnerd@pacbell.net](mailto: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](http://www.slomra.org) or email [info@slomra.org](mailto: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](mailto:svl@siliconvalleylines.com) Web: [www.siliconvalleylines.com](http://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](http://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, 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](mailto: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 as 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](mailto: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](http://www.wcmrs.org). "Like Us" on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/WCMRS](http://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.

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BRANCH LINE  
530 FIG TREE LANE  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Club Info (Cont.)

### **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 [wbmrra.ning.com](http://wbmrra.ning.com).

