

January-February-March 2017

All About PCR's 2017 Convention



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Santa Fe Steel Ice Reefer Chosen for Convention Car



See details on Page 9

BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



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Daylight Express is Coming Down the Track!

Learn All About the Destinations

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

The annual convention of the Pacific Coast Region, National Model Railroad Association will be held in Bakersfield, California on April 19th through 23rd, 2017. Named "Daylight Express 2017", there will be lots of model railroad displays, a full schedule of clinics, model, photo, arts and crafts contests, an extra-fare tour of the Tehachapi Loop and lots of opportunities to meet and learn from other modelers.

Fun, Fun, Friends

The time is now for you to make plans to attend this the annual gathering of friends and acquaintances for the 2017 PCR convention. I fondly remember my first PCR convention: Rail Spree '83 in San Jose. It was the last time the PCR and PSR got together, just after the original Region was split. I still have the convention car on my layout, a single dome tank car, GATX 1983. It was an Athearn kit with special convention decals. I may be one of only a few who actually built and decaled it. That convention was the start of many long-time friendships, including Gus and Margaret Pasternak, Bill and Rita Scott, Bob and Sylvia Pethoud, Joe and

Suzie Paff, and John Houlihan, to name just a few. While some of them are no longer with us, my wife, Jayne, and I continue to renew old friendships and make new ones whenever we can attend a PCR convention. A couple of years ago we went to my old college town of San Luis Obispo for the convention and I got my MMR while Jayne brought home 3 awards from the Arts and Crafts contest. There is always a good time awaiting everyone at a PCR convention, no matter where it's located. While the program is directed primarily to events for the modeler, there are always lots of activities for spouses and family members.

This year we will gather near the southern border of the PCR, at the Bakersfield Double Tree Hotel by Hilton. It may be a long drive for those who live in the far north of the region, but air and rail transportation is available to ease the rigors of the trip. Once in Bakersfield, many will be amazed at the variety of activities that are available. Following are a few paragraphs penned by one local, Doug Wagner, who is another long-time friend of mine and an expert on his home town. In fact, he's co-chair of this convention, so he better know what's going on around town!

All aboard for Bakersfield!

by Doug Wagner, co-chairman, Daylight Express 2017

When Bakersfield is mentioned, it usually conjures up images of cotton, alfalfa and oil fields, with some 110-degree weather thrown in there somewhere. Well, it's safe to say that you will not have to endure 110-degree weather while you are attending the Pacific Coast Region's annual convention, Daylight Express 2017, in Bakersfield, April 19-23, 2017. What you will have to endure is beautiful and bearable 76-degree weather combined with a lot of model railroading.

Bakersfield, the gateway to the world-famous Tehachapi Loop, will offer great photo ops of trains with a background of the wild flowers that are in bloom that time of year, in the mountains around the Loop. Sign up for the Tehachapi Loop tour and you'll not only be able to get some photo ops, but learn some history of the Loop, along with a great lunch at one of Tehachapi's favorite restaurants, The Apple Shed, right next to the mainline as it runs through Tehachapi. And speaking of food, no better place than Bakersfield to enjoy the several Basque restaurants and the great food at the World-Famous Buck Owen's Crystal Palace. If any of you go to the Crystal Palace for a meal, I dare you to try the Texas-Sized Country Fried Steak. You will

Continued on Page 5



Daylight Express Coming! (Cont.)

not come away hungry! Sorry, I did not mean to get off-track (pun intended), but food does that to me! Anyway, back to railroading.

Late April, when the potato harvesting season will be just about starting, should give you a chance to see the ramping-up of reefer traffic at the local Union Pacific and BNSF yards. And that will be an excellent tie-in with one of the clinics being presented at the Daylight Express on packing sheds in Southern California. For those railroad FOAMERS (and you know who you are) out there, Bakersfield has a rich history of railroading.



The BNSF (former Santa Fe) and the Union Pacific (former Southern Pacific) still have active yards where you can get up close to switching action at the yards. And at the Union Pacific yard, the original Southern Pacific Depot, opened in 1889, is still standing. Albeit a shadow of its former self, you can still get close enough to it for some good photos.



John Drazin's Oak Creek and Western will be open for the layout tour.

Among other railroad depots in the area is the Shafter Depot Museum, operated by the Shafter Historical Society. Shafter is 20 miles northwest of the convention's location, and is open on Saturdays. The Shafter Depot was built in 1917, and served the Santa Fe until 1971. The depot was rededicated in 1982, and has served as a local museum for the City of Shafter ever since. The depot is located right next to the current BNSF mainline.

I will also venture to guess that since the last PCR convention in Bakersfield, was 20 years ago, in 1997, most of you have not seen any of the layouts that are on display, because they weren't even in the planning stages then. At the time of the 1997 PCR convention, the GEHAMS layouts were only in the very start of construction phase. Boy, have they come a long way ever since! We are still adding home layouts to the tours, so please, be sure to check out the convention's web site, for updates.

In conclusion, the convention's host hotel, the DoubleTree by Hilton, has excellent accommodations, with all the activities being in close proximity to each other. So, we hope you will consider making the trip to the south end of the Pacific Coast Region. Please keep updated on all the convention's activities by visiting the web site at <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2017>.

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. See the list of proposed clinics and presenters later in this article.

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

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

Outside Activities

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

Continued on Page 6

Daylight Express Coming! (Cont.)

and outdoor G-Scale layout, John Drazin's Oak Creek and Western, Kevin Birkbeck's N-Scale layout and Doug Wagner's N-Scale layout. Layouts in the Tehachapi area may also be on tour.

Since Bakersfield is a railroad town, there are many interesting and historical sights to see, including the Kern County Museum, the Bakersfield Museum of Art and the Country / Western Museum at Buck Owen's Crystal Palace. A short 30-minute drive will take you to the famous Tehachapi loop in the nearby Sierra mountains.

A bus tour to the "Loop" is available as an extra-fare activity. Also mentioned in Doug's listing is the Shafter Depot Museum.

Time Schedule

A preliminary time schedule is printed on pages 10 and 11 of this issue of the

Branch Line. It is subject to change, so be sure to check the web site occasionally for changes.



Kevin Birkbeck's N-Scale layout will be open.

Clinics

Clinic co-chairmen Bruce Morden and Mike O'Brien have been working hard to line up a great program for you to enjoy. So far two dozen clinics are on the list. See page 9 for some of the titles and presenters' names.

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 Guiseppe Aymar, MMR, PCR Contest Chairman on page 18.

Convention Car

See article on page 9.

Tehachapi Loop Tour

Convention Co-Chairman Doug Wagner has made arrangements for a bus tour to the Tehachapi loop. See story on page 8.

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. Reservations will be open some time in January. Registered attendees will get the information first. At a later date it will be posted on the website.

Meeting room map/layout

See page 12.

Registration

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



GEHAMS N and HO layouts will be on the layout tour.

Daylight Express Coming! (Cont.)

morning PCR membership meeting/breakfast.

The “Full fare” rate of \$115 is in effect after December 31, 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.

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.)



Larry Saslaw's layout will be on the tour.

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.

Got to the web site at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2017/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 33.

Banquet speaker

Actor Michael Gross will 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 “20th 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.



Bob and Sylvia Pethoud's Fall Creek Branch portable layout will be operating at the Hotel



Doug Wagner's N-Scale layout will be on the tour.

Tehachapi Loop Tour

by Doug Wagner, Co-Chairman, Daylight Express 2017

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, Friday April 13. First stop will be 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.

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 Museum houses several large collections of historic railroad artifacts, including antique railroad maintenance equipment, signals and tools, dinnerware, signs and other railroadiana, plus stories and photographs of the men and women who built the railroad and whose lives were affected by it.

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.

We plan to have you back to the hotel at 4:00 PM. The cost of this tour is \$65.00 per person, including lunch. The tour is 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. If we fill up the first bus, and if there is enough interest, we may contract a second bus, but we must have this information by no later than April 13, 2017. For further information, contact Doug Wagner at carldw@aol.com, or by phone at (661) 589-0391. 🚗



The cost of this tour is \$65.00 per person, including lunch. The tour is limited to the first 50 convention attendees who register for this trip.

Daylight Express Coming! (Cont.)

Clinics Here are some of the clinic titles and names of the presenters:

Modeling the Southern California Citrus Industry

Citrus Industry Operations
both by Bob Chaparro

Modeling Ideas for Southern Pacific C-77-1, -2 & -3 Chair Cars
by Jeff Cauthen

Super Detailing Your Orange Grove
by Neil Fernbaugh

Clerk Style Operations
by Bill Kaufman

Packing Houses of the Southern San Joaquin Valley
by Jim Lancaster

Furnace Filter Fir Trees, N to O scale
Sage Brush Armature Trees, HO to G scale
both hands-on clinics, by Lloyd Lehrer

Static Grass
by Wayne Maynard

Modeling Petaluma's Water Street Layout Photography
both by Ed Merrin

3D Printing
by Jack Burgess, MMR

Lighting Your Layout with LED Tape
by Chris Palermo

Battery Powered Radio Control In Small Scales
Weathering With Pan Pastels and Ammo of Mig
both by Pete Steinmetz

3D Printing Freight Cars at Home
by Robert Bowdidge

Building a small layout for home or for the Build a Memory program
by Mike Blumensaadt, MMR and Frank Markovich, MMR

Basic Airbrush clinic
Painting an Espee Cab Ahead
Detail and paint a 1941 Lark Passenger Train
Detail and Paint Espee #378 AC4400CW
All four by Ed Hall, MMR

A Cheap and Easy Automatic Block Signal System
by Dennis Drury

Secrets of the Frog Juicer
by Duncan McRee

Quintessential California: Modeling Eucalyptus Trees
by Bruce Morden



Convention Car

Santa Fe Steel Ice Reefer in HO
by Doug Wagner


See photo of convention car on the cover of this issue of the Branch Line

In the 1940's and 1950's, some of the hottest freight trains on the Santa Fe Railroad were the GFX (Green Fruit Express) trains, from the farmlands of California to points all over the map. For those trains making it all the way to Chicago, distributions were made to all points Midwest. Many entire trains were transferred to the Erie RR for Northeast delivery. The B&O, PRR, and NYC

covered D.C., Pennsylvania, and New York respectively. All types of fruits and veggies grown in the West were on these trains, and time was of the essence. Most cars were filled with ice on both ends of each car to keep everything cool. The train took 6 days to reach Chicago, reaching its destination on the morning of the sixth day.

The Daylight Express convention car will be produced by Accurail in HO

and will be a 40-foot steel ice reefer, in the Santa Fe Grand Canyon paint scheme, for the mid 1950's era. The cars will be offered in four separate road numbers, so if you order 4 convention cars, you will receive four reefers with four separate road numbers.

The convention cars are priced at \$22 for one, \$40 for two and \$75 for all four. If you order less than four the convention car committee will pick the car numbers. 

Daylight Express Coming! (Cont.)

Tentative Room Schedule

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19	ROOM
12:00 PM - 5:30 PM – Registration Desk open	Ballroom Prefunction Corridor
12:00 PM - 5:30 PM – Contest room setup	Ballroom / Buena Vista
12:00 PM - 5:30 PM – Module, OPSIG setup	Ballroom / Kern River
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM – PCR Board of Directors Meeting	Rosedale
1:00 PM - 9:30 PM – Clinics	Nevada, Sierra; Rosedale after 5PM
3:00 PM - 9:00 PM – Non-Rail Hospitality Room open	Lake Rooms
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Opening Reception presented	Temblor Brewing Co., 3200 Buck
THURSDAY, APRIL 20	
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM – Registration Desk open	Ballroom Prefunction Corridor
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM – Contest Room open	Ballroom / Buena Vista
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM – Non-Rail Hospitality Room open	Lake Rooms (both)
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM – Modules operational	Ballroom / Kern River
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM - Modeling with the Masters	Rosedale
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM – Clinics	Nevada; Sierra
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM – LDSIG Meet & Greet	Ballroom / Kern River
8:30 PM - 10:00 PM – OPSIG Meet & Greet	Ballroom / Kern River
FRIDAY, APRIL 21	
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM – Registration Desk open	Ballroom Prefunction Corridor
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM – Contest Room open	Ballroom / Buena Vista
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM – Non-Rail Hospitality Room open	Lake Rooms (both)
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM – Modules operational	Ballroom / Kern River
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM – Module setup for weekend-only groups	Ballroom / Kern River
9:00 AM - 9:30 PM – Clinics	Nevada; Sierra
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Modeling with the Masters	Rosedale
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM – Non-Rail Lunch	Lake Rooms
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - Swap meet setup	Ballroom / San Joaquin (back 2/3 of room)
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Swap meet	Ballroom / San Joaquin (back 2/3 of room)
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Swap meet teardown	Ballroom / San Joaquin (back 2/3 of room)
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM - Commercial vendor setup	Ballroom / San Joaquin (perimeter of room)
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM – PCR Bingo Night	Ballroom / San Joaquin (center)



Room schedule provided for your planning convenience. Be sure to consult your convention program for final room and time assignments.

Daylight Express Coming! (Cont.)

Tentative Room Schedule (Cont.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 22	
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM – Hobo Breakfast	Not in Hotel
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM - Maker Space setup	Ballroom / San Joaquin (1/3 of room)
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM - Swap Meet setup	Ballroom / San Joaquin (back 2/3 of room)
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Commercial Vendors open	Ballroom / San Joaquin (perimeter of room)
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM - <i>Maker Space open</i>	Ballroom / San Joaquin (1/3 of room)
9:00 AM - Completion – Contest Judging	Ballroom / Buena Vista
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM – Registration Desk open	Ballroom Prefunction Corridor
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM – Modules operational	Ballroom / Kern River
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM – Clinics	Nevada; Sierra
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Modeling with the Masters	Rosedale
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM – Non-Rail Hospitality Room open	Lake Rooms
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM – Pickup Contest Entries, AFTER judging is completed; also after Banquet	Ballroom / Buena Vista
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM – Banquet Set-up; Maker Space teardown; module move-out	Ballroom / Kern River
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM – Social Hour	Ballroom / Kern River
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM – Banquet & Awards Presentation	Ballroom / Kern River
7:00 PM - Commercial vendors close/move out	Ballroom / San Joaquin (perimeter of room)
9:00 PM - 10:30 PM – Pickup ALL Contest Entries by 10:30 PM	Ballroom / Kern River
SUNDAY, APRIL 23	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM – PCR Breakfast	TBD
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM – PCR Membership Meeting	TBD
3:00 PM - Convention closes - See you in 2018	



Room schedule provided for your planning convenience. Be sure to consult your convention program for final room and time assignments.

PCR Membership Tracker

as of 11-30-16

Division	# Members
Coast	438
Sierra	259
Redwood Empire	142
Daylight	120
Hawaiian	14
Total PCR Members	973

Have you changed your address or other membership information?

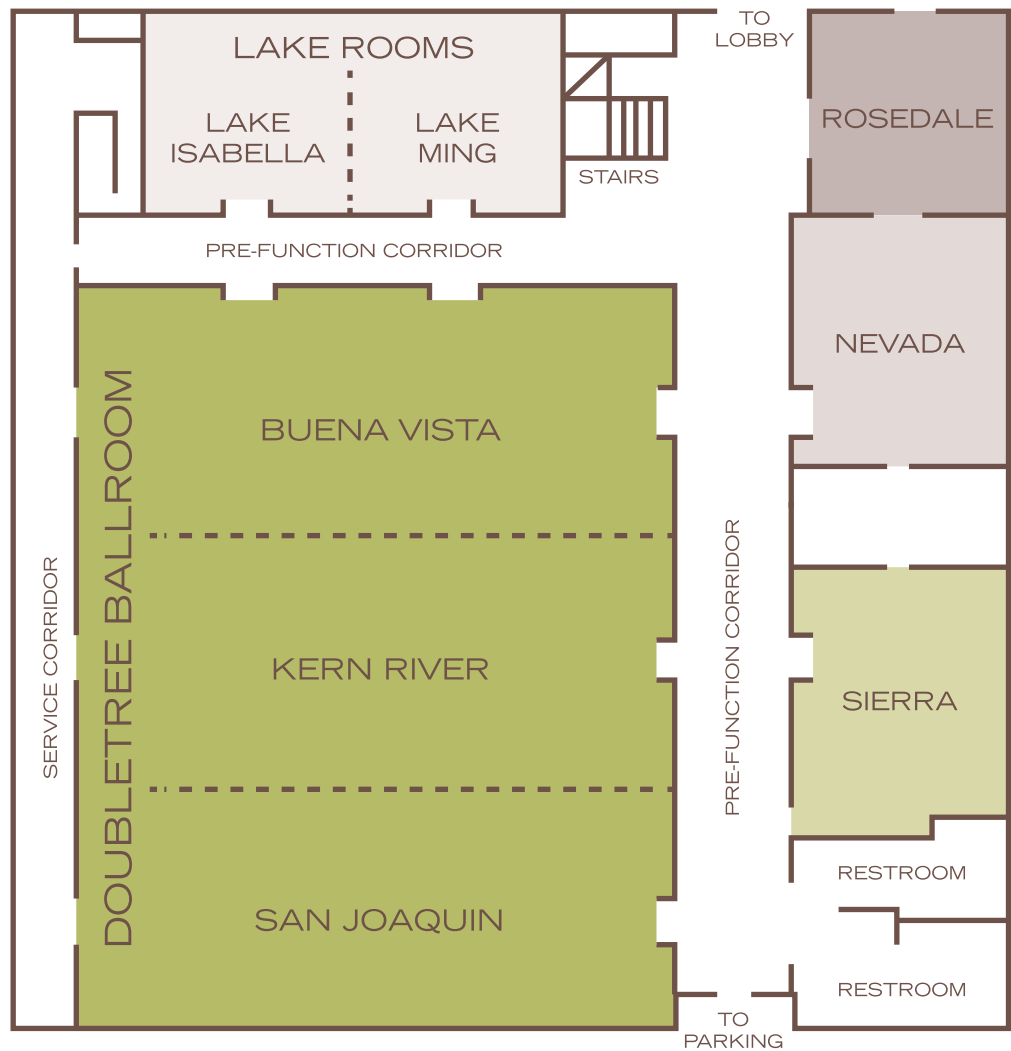
Notify Headquarters

Email: nmrahq@nmra.org

Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am—4pm ET)

Daylight Express Coming! (Cont.)

LOBBY LEVEL



Meeting Room Locations at the Double Tree Hotel

President's Report

by Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

Oh boy! What to do when the NMRA website is down? Well, that just happened and it turned out that we just had to wait a few days for it to come back. It was just a reminder of how treacherous our reliance on electronic media can be. But everything's fine now so we can go on with the column.

Which, by the way, is probably going to be a little shorter than usual because I'm writing an accompanying piece on an important membership vote coming up at our Annual Membership Meeting in Bakersfield on April 23rd of next year (which isn't so far away now). Please take some time to read it because it's pretty important and concerns all of us in PCR.

Of course, we're all about trains here, particularly the model ones, and making sure that membership in NMRA enhances our love and excitement for them. That means keeping the organization vital and healthy at all levels, from Division on up. To keep beating the same old drum, that means an influx of new members, hopefully with an average age below that of the departing members they replace. At least here in the PCR we seem to be doing a lot of positive work towards this goal.

One neat little trick is

getting clubs to go all-NMRA. There are people, the exact numbers unknown to me, who are active model railroaders of various ages who belong to clubs but not NMRA. I get it. If the club fills all their needs in the model railroading part of their lives why spend an extra fifty plus bucks? What more am I going to get out of this that justifies the expense? We can try to put a sales pitch out there, but it may be hard to convince some. Well, if the club votes to go 100% NMRA they become NMRA members if they want to stay in the club.

Sounds kind of sneaky, but the club (and therefore its members) gets some benefit out of it, such as qualifying for the NMRA group liability plan. That's right, in case you didn't know, the NMRA has insurance that covers us for all NMRA sponsored events! So if somebody trips and gets injured going from the parking lot to your event they aren't going to bankrupt the club and perhaps even some of the officers of the club if they decide to sue. And if you're club is already having to fork out premiums for something to cover that, it doesn't have to anymore. This is no small deal, because the way our society has become so litigious you would have to be foolish to not be covered. And if your renting space to hold

your event the landlord probably requires you to have coverage.

In my home Division, RED, we recently had such a conversion. A longstanding and popular HO modular group, the Coastal Valley Lines (CVL), became 100% NMRA last year. Although only six of the total membership of twenty-four were NMRA members, but none of their members chose to quit rather than join the NMRA. CVL also had four teen members, three of whom acquired family memberships. The RED, despite membership losses such as we are seeing in recent years across the PCR, wound up with a net gain of four members. Please note that more important than numbers is the fact that some young people are now RED/PCR/NMRA members.

Another enterprise targets young boys who are potentially interested in model trains. I'm talking here about the Boy Scouts, of course. For a number of years



There are people, the exact numbers unknown to me, who are active model railroaders of various ages who belong to clubs but not NMRA.



HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

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

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

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

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

Then, get that popcorn ready.



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

This change would add four Division Superintendents as voting members of the Board, joining the four Division Directors, President, and Vice-President.

PCR has hosted daylong activities for Scouts that earn them merit badges at nearly every annual convention. There will be one at Bakersfield this spring and another is being planned for Rohnert Park in 2018. Please give credit to Brewster Bird

of Daylight Division for being the point man on these efforts for years, carrying on despite what probably seemed to him at times indifference to his project. And, to avoid overlooking anyone, Steve Lewis of RED has put himself out there to

spearhead the Rohnert Park program.

In both of these examples we would hope that a population of young people open to NMRA as a present or future option for them is accumulating out there. Let's keep it going. 🚗

A Vote on By Laws Changes at the 2017 Annual Business Meeting

by Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

I'm writing this article specifically to explain a measure that is coming up for a vote this Spring at the PCR Annual Membership Meeting in Bakersfield. The PCR Board of Directors is asking the membership to make a decision about whether to make a major change in the composition of the Board. This change would add four Division Superintendents as voting members of the Board, joining the four Division Directors, President, and Vice-President, and increasing the size of the Board from six to ten voting members. Because this action requires a change in the By Laws it would require a yes vote from two thirds of those present to be enacted.

Allow me to provide some background on how the Board came to arrive at this recommendation and then I will summarize some pros and cons that we have heard from various quarters.

PCR was the very first NMRA region, created in 1961 as a social organization corporation under California laws and as

an IRS 501 (c) for federal tax purposes. The required By Laws adhered to California guidelines and set up a Board of Directors headed by an elected President, an elected Vice President, and one elected Director elected by the members of each Division. The appointed Secretary and Treasurer were to serve as non-voting members. That is the nature and composition of the Board that has governed PCR to this day. Meanwhile, each Division was to select its own officers, including a Superintendent, to govern local affairs. The NMRA officially defines voting Regional Board members as NMRA officials, but Division officers are considered volunteers.

Last year one of our Division Directors raised the question of why Division Directors are eligible for Achievement Program (AP) credits as an NMRA official whereas Superintendents, who do a lot more work and are the ones who really make things work on a Division level, could not. Specifically, a Division Director can earn an Association Official

Certificate if they are in office three years. A Superintendent can earn an Association Volunteer Certificate by accumulating sixty Time Units (TUs) at a rate of one TU per month of service, e.g., five years. Most of the Board agreed that this was not equitable and wondered whether the NMRA rules could be changed to make Division Superintendents qualify as NMRA officials.

At the request of the Board I inquired with some folks at National to determine the feasibility of changing things so that Superintendents could be defined as Officials. It turns out that there is some movement in that direction but it will probably take some time to get all that sorted out. The bigger the organization the slower things happen.

Then I checked the websites and queried the Presidents of fifteen of the eighteen NMRA Divisions to find out what the rest of NMRA is doing in this regard and what they thought about the idea of Superintendents being officially recognized as NMRA officials.

The most important thing I learned from this is that of the eleven Regions responding (including PCR),

Continued on Page 15

By Laws Changes (Cont)

PCR was one of only two whose elected Division Superintendents were not voting members of their Regional Board! In some cases the Superintendent and Director positions were combined into one. In at least one (Mid Continent) the Supervisors were on the Board specifically so they could qualify for the AP Official Certificate. Thus, the question of whether Superintendents should be on the Regional Board is a moot point for at least nine of the eighteen Regions.

The Board, after much discussion, decided to not consider combining the two positions, and to put it up to you, the members, whether or not to redefine Division Superintendent as a voting member of the Regional Board of Directors. If you all agree, the Board would have two voting members from each Division, a Superintendent and a Director, rather than one. The size of the Board, including the President and Vice President would increase from six to ten.

Here are the proposed new By-Laws to cover this (the added parts are in bold type, parts to be removed are marked by strikethrough). You'll note that the new Superintendent/Directors are subject to the same term limits that the Directors are. This could change what happens in some Divisions. The other point here is that although the Superintendents would retain the title of

Superintendent, they would technically be Directors (The same is now true of the President and Vice President). Another point to consider is that it hasn't been settled as to whether those currently holding Superintendent positions would immediately become Board members or whether it would have to wait for either the next election cycle or a special election.

Article 3 - Management
 Section 1. The general management of PCR shall be vested in a Board of Directors, consisting of one Director **and one Superintendent** from each Division, the President, and Vice- President. The Treasurer and Secretary are ex-officio non-voting members of the Board.
 Section 3. The Directors shall be elected by the membership of their respective Divisions and shall hold office for a term of two years beginning at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting of PCR in even years. **The Superintendents shall be elected by the membership of the Division as stated in Section 6.** No Director **or Superintendent** may serve for more than two consecutive terms.

(Section 6 reads, "Each Division shall be managed by a Superintendent, a Chief Clerk, and a Paymaster elected by the membership of the Division and shall be under the supervision of the Board of Directors of PCR. The Chief Clerk and Paymaster may be combined into a single office.")

Article 4 - Meetings
 Section 5. The quorum for any meeting of the Membership shall be thirty-five (35). The quorum for any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be four (4) **seven (7)** voting members.

Advantages of the proposed changes:

1. Superintendents would be officially recognized for the important hard work they put in making NMRA work.
2. A Division officer would be more directly involved in the workings of the Region and members may feel they have a stronger connection to the Regional governance structure.
3. Superintendents may be more encouraged to take on Regional positions because of their direct exposure to the Board and it's functioning, adding to the pool of future leaders.

Some reasons to not vote for this:

1. Superintendents are already doing a lot of work. Wouldn't this add to their workload (The minimum responsibility is attending two Board meetings annually, which may entail some travel)?
2. A bigger Board means more people at the meeting. This might make conducting business more unwieldy.
3. Things work okay as they are now. If making these changes causes problems it would take another By Laws change to undo it.
4. Perhaps alternatives would be simpler, such as waiting for the National to make changes or combining the Superintendent and Director positions.

Please feel free to contact myself, Vice President Alexander, or your Division Director if you have any thoughts to pass on. And definitely participate in the discussion at the Annual Meeting. 🚗

The Board, after much discussion, decided to put it up to you, the members, whether or not to redefine Division Superintendent as a voting member of the Regional Board of Directors.

Master Builder - Prototype Models

by Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department

This month we will talk about the requirements for Master Builder - Prototype Models. Like the other certificates, the full requirements for this category are available on the Internet at the NMRA site, www.nmra.org.

This was a natural category for me to qualify for, but others may feel that it is the most challenging category in the entire AP program. However, I think that it accurately reflects the trend in our hobby toward more prototype models and

layouts. Note that the Prototype Models category has a number of requirements that seem similar to the Master Builder - Scenery category. However, there are significant differences.

To qualify for the Master Builder - Prototype Models certificate, you must construct an animated or static model of a prototype scene containing at least six models of prototype equipment and structures. Of the six models, you must include at least four different models including 1) rolling stock; 2) a railroad structure; 3) a caboose or passenger car; and 4) motive power. Two of the required six models must be scratchbuilt and the remaining four models must be super-detailed. The prototype

scene, with the six models in it, must be capable of winning a Merit Award, i.e., earning 87½ points.

While these requirements might seem very similar to the Master Builder - Scenery Category, the major difference that one might notice is that there is no minimum size requirement like there is for the Scenery category. Note too that the individual models do not need to be capable of winning a Merit Award. Instead, only the completed scene is judged but the entire scene must score a minimum of 87½ points. The prototype scene is judged using the following criteria:

- Terrain (35 points)
- Structures (35 points)
- Background (15 points)
- Lighting (5 points)
- Realism/Conformity (35 points)

In addition to building the models, you must submit 2 sets of photographs (or a video tape presentation) that will document the prototype being modeled and the model itself. In other words, you need to describe in photos and text how you have duplicated the prototype scene. You also need to prepare a written description which, along with photographs and possibly maps, shows how the modeled scene replicates the actual prototype scene. Include in the written description the intended

setting of the model railroad and describe the scenic details used to achieve the desired effect. If at all possible, take pictures of your model that are from the same angle as pictures that you have of the prototype. That way you can have side-by-side pictures showing how well you have recreated the scene you are modeling. If you drafted your own building plans, include them along with a description of how you developed them. This is one category in which you cannot have too much documentation! Obviously, you need to model a scene for which you can supply prototype photos. Those same photos are essential to your modeling efforts.

Assuming you have all the required and specified items in the modeled scene, the assessment really comes down to “two” (sometimes more) photographs...one of the prototype scene and one of the model scene. If the assessment is that they are very close to each other (and the assessed score is Merit level), then you have satisfied the criteria. Reasonable selective compression is acceptable as none of us has the room to model prototype distances easily. Know that all of the items being modeled do not need to be in the same prototype photo. One prototype photo might show the scene and buildings and another photo might show the equipment at a different location.

While the AP category might seem daunting to some, I see it



To qualify for the Master Builder - Prototype Models certificate, you must construct an animated or static model of a prototype scene containing at least six models of prototype equipment and structures.

instead as simply documentation of the ever-growing prototype approach to the hobby. For example, assume that you build some rolling stock, a structure or two, and a locomotive, of which two or three are scratchbuilt, all based on actual prototypes. If you enter each of them in a Divisional, Regional, or National modeling contest, so much the better...if they score Merit Awards, these awards can be used toward the other categories for Cars, Structures, and/or Motive Power. Then build up a module or diorama (or better yet, a portion of your layout) to duplicate a specific scene which could include these models (especially the structures!) and you might be

on the road to award of this AP category. However, I must warn you (with tongue in cheek) that prototype modeling is addictive! First you find a few photos of your favorite prototype, then you find that you need more information, and you soon find that you are hooked!

Once you have satisfied all of the requirements, submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which includes the required descriptions and photos. 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*:

- Thomas Blinn - Chief Dispatcher
- Mike Blumensaadt - Model Railroad Engineer—Electrical
- Mike Blumensaadt – Master Builder—Cars

Congratulations to both of you!

With award of these last certificates, Mike Blumensaadt achieved the title of Master Model Railroader and is MMR 579! Excellent work Mike!

If you are interested in the AP or Golden Spike Programs, contact me for more details. My contact information is listed in the Call Board on Page 2. 🚂

Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann

The SIG news for the forthcoming quarter is the annual PCR / Layout Design / Operations SIG meet January 27-29. The meet will return to the South Bay after a 3 year absence. The location will be the Mountain View Community Center, 201 S Rengstorff Ave in Mountain View, alongside the Caltrain tracks. The format

will follow the last few years with a prototype tour on Friday afternoon, Friday dinner (at Harry's Hoffbrau), clinics and panels on Saturday, tours on 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! You'll find the latest details at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sigs/>

Other than that, most of the local operating layouts have been busy all fall and a couple of new ones are starting up: We'll have a design challenge and panel about Paul Weiss' 40 x 40 New Haven/Central Vermont under construction in Novato at the SIG meet. Also, David Parks is doing a major control system upgrade on his Cumberland West (B&O/WM) and he'll be discussing his experiences

using the new LCC bus. Also at the SIG Meet, Ed Loizeaux will take us through his process for developing training materials for his NYC Valley Division.

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.

There are many out of town operations meets and most are interested in attracting new operators, so please contact me at sneumann@pacbell.net. 🚂



Contest Report

By Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Chairman, PCR Contest Department

Our PCR Contests have traditionally been well attended with lots of modeling variety. To that end, our contest team is putting together a fantastic contest for everyone to enjoy. We'll assign more prizes and more recognition for entering the contest. After all, it should be a fun event for the modelers and the attendees. Just



admiring the miniature world of railroading as created by the hands of common folks is a marvel in itself. Forget the point system used in judging for now. Think of the creation you will be bringing to the

display tables so that others can look, smile and enjoy. Not everyone has the luxury to have a home layout or belong to a club, so the contest is their only venue to look at different models close up, to admire and enjoy. Now, let's look at the choices the Contest offers:

A- There will be the traditional contest where entries will be judged for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plus honorary placement.

B- There will be AP judging (Achievement Program) for those who participate in the Achievement Program.

C - There will be popular vote awards. Anyone entering the contest room will

be given a paper and pencil so they can vote for their favorite entry. Any entry in the room is eligible.

D- There will be a non-judged section for those wishing to simply display their entries without the paperwork requirement.

E- There will be prizes for Novices. A novice is someone who has not entered a PCR Contest before or who has not scored 87.5 points in the category being entered or 100 points in any other category. This is a good category to enter to get your feet wet. (it is how I started a few years ago).

F- There will be a category for Teens and Youth to reward them of their efforts. Proxies are very much welcomed here in that we understand not many young people can take time off school to come to the Convention during the week.

In the model category we do not discriminate whether a model is scratch-built or kit-built. We offer both an Open category and a Kit category. The modeler chooses the category best suited for the entry.

We very much encourage participation in the Arts & Crafts category. It is not restricted to non-modelers only. In fact, lately more modelers are taking advantage of this form of self expression to exhibit their work in all facets of railroading.

We have a category

for Photography that lets you unleash the artistic side even you, possibly, did not know you possessed. You will be surprised.

We have a category for Modules/Displays which has always been well received. Remember that this could be a concerted effort with other modelers and not just a lone wolf project.

I would suggest at this point that you should review the requirements for the category you wish to enter. This is how to do it:

For those who can access the PCR website, please visit PCR/NMRA.org and click Contest on the top left corner or click the Convention website logo (Daylight Express 2017), then click the link to Contest. There will be a full description of Contest and forms to download

For those who do not have internet accessibility, please send me a note by regular mail and request copies of the rules at: Joseph Giuseppe Aymar, DDS, 700 Mountain View, Santa Rosa, CA 95407 or you can call me directly at: 707-291-0701.

The rest is up to you. Remember that PCR Conventions are for the enjoyment of all attendees, having been crafted and brought to life by volunteers who are members of the same PCR as you. They chose to donate time and energy to make the convention a reality. Why not become one of the many givers who will make this upcoming convention the best ever by bringing a contest entry and

Remember that PCR Conventions are for the enjoyment of all attendees, having been crafted and brought to life by volunteers who are members of the same PCR as you.

thus becoming part of the convention yourself? I guarantee you will exude pride and joy and a sense of belonging to have taken such a task. You will feel you have contributed to the success of the Daylight Express 2017 Convention, and the rest of us will be grateful for your participation.

So, I am not only exhorting you to bring an entry, I am BEGGING you to bring more than one (I never claimed to be proud). 🚗

Call for Contest Judges

by Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Chairman, PCR Contest Department

With the upcoming Daylight Express Convention looming closer, our hard working staff in the Contest Department is putting together what promises to be the best effort in recent memory. The plaques, ribbons and certificates waiting to be given to contest participants are, if I can say so myself, gorgeous. We anticipate a large number of contest entries and, as sure as nighttime follows daylight, I am sure you will bring an entry or two or three or more to the contest room.

Which leads me to the next paragraph. If entries are waiting patiently on the tables or on the photo racks to be judged, then it stands to reason that we need to have judges. So, you say, why are you talking to me? I do not know how to judge. I have never judged before. I am scared of judging. What if I make a **mistake!**?

First of all, let me tell you that it is not like being on

Opting Out of Branch Line Subscription

by Gus Campagna, PCR Publications Manager

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

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

Remember the Branch Line is available to everyone on-line. 🚗

the jury of a murder case. No one is going to be executed as a result of your verdict. We are all here to have a good time and enjoy the convention. There are simple rules to follow and you will be in a team with two other judges, so you will not be left to languish alone on how to properly score an entry. We will be teaching you the basic fundamentals of judging in a very short time. (less than 10 minutes).

Second, judges get to count the time spent judging as Volunteer points toward the AP program. For those who are participating or thinking of participating in the Achievement Program, do not miss this opportunity.

Third, you will wear a special ribbon attached to your convention name tag distinguishing you as a working member of the convention thus commending respect from your fellow conventioners.

Fourth, if you have

not done any modeling at all or are hesitant to bring entries to the contest room, becoming a judge will teach you how to start working on entries by the simple fact that you have learned what judges look for in assigning points.

Fifth, this might be the best reason of all. You get a free lunch courtesy of the Daylight Express Convention Committee as a thank you for your participation in judging. **WOW!! Sign me up!!!!**

This is how you sign up to be a judge:

Send me an e-mail notification wishing to be a judge: giuseaymar@aol.com Or call me at 707-291-0701. I would like to thank you in advance for participating in the judging process.

I thank you, PCR thanks you, Daylight Express Committee thanks you, the Convention attendees thank you. 🚗

If entries are waiting patiently on the tables or on the photo racks to be judged, then it stands to reason that we need to have judges.

Candidate for Vice President - Carol Alexander



Hello, my name is Carol Alexander and I am running for Vice President of PCR. Why am I running you might ask? Well, because it's my turn. It's not my turn to BE Vice President but it is my turn to SERVE as Vice President. I come from a family with a tradition of service to country, community and family. I think it is important to not just belong to an organization but to participate.

I have had the honor of serving as a Director for two terms and would like the opportunity to work on behalf of the organization and its membership again. There are lots of opinions about whether or not the hobby of model railroading and the NMRA and its regions are in trouble or not. I happen to think the hobby and the organization are in fine shape but they are in a state of rapid change. The greatest challenge facing our leadership today is the same as it always has been, how do we best meet the needs of our membership? Working with our new President and the Board of Directors I hope to help answer that question and bring you the services and activities that will help you enjoy the world's greatest hobby.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol N. Alexander 🚂

Candidate for President - Ed Merrin



For the past year and a half and counting I have been honored to serve you in the role of PCR President. During this time we have become more aware that this is a time of great changes in the ways in which we engage in our great hobby. While trying to adjust to these changes we are often challenged to balance the needs of our membership with measures we take to attract the younger modelers to NMRA, who will eventually replace us. I've tried my best, with the help of our Board of Directors, to find a path that brings this balance into play. Whether what we are doing will be effective is something only the future will tell us.

Two years is a short time to accomplish as much as I would like, and I am excited to run for re-election so that I can continue efforts to make PCR and the NMRA as relevant for future generations as they have been for us. Much of this will entail a continued expansion into the electronically connected universe we can no longer avoid, as well as making sure that the foundations of our organization, our four Divisions, are as vibrant and fulfilling as we can make them. It sounds like a lot, but with your vote I will continue to put that agenda at the top of the list.

Yours Truly,

Ed Merrin 🚂

National Model Railroad Association

PACIFIC COAST REGION

PCR OFFICERS BALLOT

Instructions for Election:

1. Election starts with receipt of ballot (Branch Line mailed approximately January 10, 2017).
2. All ballots must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2017.
3. Vote only for one candidate for each office.
4. You may write in a candidate of your choice. However, the candidate must be willing to serve if elected.
5. Voting for more than one candidate in an office will void your ballot.
6. Do not make any other marks on the ballot.
7. Fold in thirds so that the return address is showing, and tape the ballot closed.
8. The ballot is considered a first class letter, and requires 49¢ postage.

PLACE AFTER YOUR CHOICE FOR EACH OFFICE.

**INVALID
BALLOT**
USE ONLY MAILED BALLOT

PCR President <i>(Vote for ONLY one candidate)</i>	PCR Vice-President <i>(Vote for ONLY one candidate)</i>
Ed Merrin <input type="checkbox"/>	Carol Alexander <input type="checkbox"/>
_____ Write in candidate <input type="checkbox"/>	_____ Write in candidate <input type="checkbox"/>

(Fold here)

Postage
49¢

PCR Ballot Chairman

Jim Providenza

16 Drake's Cove

San Rafael, CA 94903

(Fold here)

Coast Division Report

by Frank Markovich, MMR, Coast Division
Superintendent

We met December 4th at Boy Scouts of America Headquarters in San Leandro. It was another great event (meet). Some of the highlights:

- Over 500 items in the Auction
- Close to 100 in attendance
- Good model contest
- Well attended Round table
- Switching contest had many entries – it was busy all day
- Good business meeting
- Presented Mike Blumensaadt with his MMR Plaque

The next Coast Division Event is scheduled for March 4, 2017 at the Alameda Elks Club.

We had two great clinics:

The first was Modular Signal System MSS, by Jere Ingram (I missed this as I was setting up for the auction.) But it was very well attended.

Next was

Logging in N scale, by Tom Knapp MMR #101. This was the first in a series of clinics to honor the late John Allen. The idea is to have some of the excellent MMR modelers give clinics. This is in the memory of John Allen

a Coast Division modeler who set the standard for model railroaders. Rod spoke about meeting John Allen and being an operator on the Gorre and Daphetid RR. I was able to attend this clinic and it was standing room only. This is part one of a two part clinic by Tom. He will do a follow-up a year from now. He is building a modular N scale layout with another modeler to show at the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Denver next summer. Part two will be on the finished model.

Highlights of the business meeting:

Charlie Getz reported on the NMRA National. There has been a slight decline in NMRA national but very slight. Wished all a great holiday. Things are moving ever so slowly on the museum project with the state.

Upcoming events: PCR in Bakersfield, West Side Reunion April 29, 2017, Sierra Seminar April 30, 2017 both in Sonora (write me at frank@frankmarkovich.com for more information on these events).

Presentation of the MMR award to Mike Blumenstaadt – I don't have a useable picture, but here is Mike with Tom Knapp presenting Tom with a special clinic award:

Model Contest:
Diesel and other – No entries.

Display – Earl Girbovan – Board on board House and Storage Shed.

House and storage shed.

Caboose: Bob Wirthlin's Narrow Gauge Caboose.

Freight Cars

First place Bob Wirthlin's NCNG Ore Car in Hon3 – Totally Scratch Built!!

Special Contest:

And one below in TT Scale – Richarad Brennans

Other entries:

Other photos from the Event: Earl talking about Special Hands on Clinics.

Jim Presenting contest awards.

We will be having a special Clinic on Feb 4th on board by board building techniques. Earl will also lead this clinic. Cost is \$60 and if interested contact me: frank@frankmarkovich.com. We will be building the Banta Blacksmith and annex in HO. We already have 4 signed up and there is a limit of 12. Location is tentatively at Frank Markovich's home. Contact Frank for directions. Cost of the 2 kits alone is over \$70.


We need people to work the Great Train Expo in San Jose in Mid-February – contact Frank if you would like to work the show. Also looking for 2 to 3 people to take over the build a memory project – again contact me if interested. The PCR will pick up materials costs.

Continued on page 24



Coast Division (Cont.)

For the March meet the categories are:

- Steam
- Maintenance of Way
- Structures
- Traction
- Passenger 



Freight 2
Ore Car

Ore Car



Caboose



Display



Nevada Copper Belt



Tom getting award



Jim presenting awards



Freight 3
N.C.N.G. Boxcar

NCNG Freight Car



Old Narrow
Gauge
Caboose

Caboose 1
Old Narrow Gauge Caboose



Garage 4



Oil Dealer



Garage 2



TT Garage

PCR Membership Gauge

As of November 30, 2016

November 30, 2015	—1,007
December 31, 2015	—1,000
January 31, 2016	—1,003
February 29, 2016	—989
March 31, 2016	—978
April 30, 2016	—980
May 31, 2016	—981
June 30, 2016	—982
July 31, 2016	—976
August 31, 2016	—975
September 30, 2016	—971
October 31, 2016	—968
November 30, 2016	—973



Garage 1

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 🚚

RED Report

by Steve Skold, Director, Redwood Empire Division

Our November meeting was held at Monroe Hall on November 19 from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM. After a short business meeting, we had our ever popular Show & Tell. There were 9 people showing their most recent models, taking about 1.5 hours, which included questions about interesting techniques. That was followed by door prize drawings and a raffle. Finally, we had a clinic on operations. When that was over a number of people went to Ed Merrin's layout to learn hands on about operations.

Our next meeting will be on February 18th at Monroe Hall at our usual time of 11:AM to 4:00 PM. The program is not set, but there may be information on the SMART train followed by a visit to the yard and shops near the Charles Schulz County Airport. More details will be in the Winter Callboard which will be out in early February. The February meeting will include nominations for both Superintendent and Chief Clerk and the election will be in May.

The following meet will be May 27th also at Monroe Hall.

The 2018 PCR Convention Committee met on December 8th in Rohnert Park at the DoubleTree. The Convention will be a joint one with the NorthWestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society. The highlight of the meeting was David Turner's presentation of the Convention car, a model of the 1919 NWP 40' boxcar. The NWPRRHS will be fronting the money for the purchase of 300 cars from Accurail, which will include up to 12 different car numbers available. There will be more information after the April 2017 Convention in Bakersfield.



Welcome Aboard ! - PCR's Newest Members

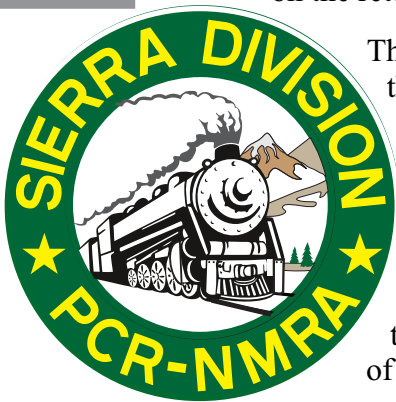
Member	City, Sate	Date Joined
Daylight		
Paul Westover	California City CA	9/12/2016
James O'Connor	Fresno CA	11/7/2016
Coast		
Kim Lilot	San Francisco CA	9/14/2016
Stephen Lord	San Jose CA	9/29/2016
Thoren Hopper	Oakley CA	10/3/2016
Logan Lord	San Jose CA	10/3/2016
Wolfgang Heinle	San Francisco CA	11/3/2016
Jim Hewlett	San Carlos CA	11/7/2016
Sierra		
Steven Folino	Sacramento CA	10/11/2016
Paul Beckstrom	Elk Grove CA	10/24/2016
Steven Brooks	Tracy CA	10/24/2016
Lawrence Dempsey	Modesto CA	11/3/2016
Tiffany Barning	Tracy CA	11/7/2016
Don Bailey	Sacramento CA	11/14/2016
Alan Hutchek	Redding CA	11/14/2016
Eric Barning	Tracy CA	11/21/2016
Redwood Empire		
David Lewis	Windsor CA	10/24/2016
Hawaiian		
Don Anderson	Hilo HI	11/14/2016



Sierra Division Report

by Chip Meriam

The Sierra Division Fall meet was on Saturday, October 8 in Chico. Approximately 30 members made the trip north for a tour of a prototype rail facility, an open house, and a meeting with two clinics, in addition to the model and photo contests. Following the event were 2 layouts open for visit on the return trip.



The first stop of the morning was James Railcar Service Company. James Railcar is in the business of refurbishing,

repairing, and painting freight cars (primarily covered hoppers) between revenue trips. According to our host, Ken Kappenman, the company has been in operation since the mid 1960's. They receive freight cars from all over the nation via the Union Pacific main north-south line. They have an on-site capacity of 30 to 40 rail cars and, at peak times, can receive and turn around 30 to 35 cars per week

The second stop was a visit to Chip Meriam's HO scale "SP & WP Somewhere in No. California". Members could see the wigwam sawdust burner featured in the June 2014 NMRA Magazine and the 1929 pump house presented at a PCR Convention workshop in Modesto this past April.



Our Host Explains



On Top of a Covered Hopper



A Cut Awaits Pick-Up



Wigwam



Visitors



Pump House

Continued on Page 28

January-February-March 2017



After lunch, a division meeting was held at the Chico Grange Hall. The membership voted to retain Jim Collins as Division Superintendent and to install Chip Meriam as Division Clerk. Our thanks to Jim Firehock for serving as clerk for so many of the past years.



Chip Meriam



Jim Collins



Jim Firehock



Klaus on Scrap Loads

Contest themes for October were Modeling – Any Equipment or Structure, and Photography – Any Railroad Subject.

Between the two categories there were a total of 15 entries. In the Modeling Contest, First Place went to Walt Schedler for his SP work train. Second Place went to Klaus Keil for European Scrap Load display. Third Place went to Jim Collins for his REA reefer.



In the Photo Contest, First Place went to Chip Meriam for his Wigwam Sawdust Burner. Second Place was a tie between Chip Meriam's BNSF at 7th Street, and Tom Van Horn's Sierra #50. Third Place also had two winners with Tom Callan's Snow Scene and Walt Schedler's American #22. (See photos on Page 29)

While the contest votes were being tallied, Klaus Keil provided a short presentation on modeling a scrap load made from the tops of spent K-Cup® coffee pods.

Following Klaus, Gary Ray gave an update on progress on his HO Scale Gerber Subdivision.

Business concluded at about 3:00PM and the southbound members had the opportunity to visit two layouts on their way home: Walt Schedler in Colusa and Michael Andrews in Yuba City.



European Scrap Load



SP Work Train



REA Reefer

The next Sierra Division meet will be in Modesto on February 4, 2017. Contest categories will be Modeling – Steam, Traction, Self-propelled Cars; Photos – Trains In Action.

Continued on Page 29



Burner at Midnight



BNSF at 7th Street



Sierra # 50



Snow Scene



American # 22

In Memoriam		
Member	City, State	Date Joined
William Livingston	Clovis CA Daylight	7/1/2008
Peter Heindel	Carson City NV Sierra	1/9/1992

Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern - With a Little Help from Friends

By: Jim Providenza

Hmmm. Let's see – when last we chatted I think I concluded that after all the effort during the restaging I was really, really looking forward to the August op session on the SCN. After all that work, what could possibly go wrong?

You're chuckling a bit too now, aren't you? You know, deep down inside, exactly where this is going, don't you? And you are absolutely – right! 100%. No doubt about it.

Ah well. At least it wasn't one of the issues I had dealt with during the restaging. All that stuff behaved itself. Trains stayed on the tracks, too. Only one car earned (or was given gratis) a trip to the shops for repairs. The new signal system at SP xing continued to work flawlessly.

But my NCE DCC system went into a tailspin. Now the NCE system has been up for over a year, with about half a dozen op sessions during that time. I

had a couple of throttles that seemed to have some quirks (sticky button sorts of things, I thought), but nothing to impede the smooth functioning of a session. I was, and let me say up front, remain pleased with the NCE system.

Partway through the session, folks started losing control of their locomotives. Runaways trains, locomotive consists you could not acquire from throttles, locomotives that were responding to commands fine one moment and then became totally inoperative. In other words, just the sort of thing you make your worst op session nightmare out of.

Many years ago, the first time local Bay Area operators hosted a nationwide invitational ops weekend I had something similar happen with my Lenz DCC system. Even worse, in fact. It shut the whole layout down. After an hour of unsuccessful troubleshooting I had to send folks off to lunch at a local restaurant. I finally isolated the problem (one single bad solder joint in the command bus) and after lunch we finished that session successfully. Did I say that experience was even worse? Well yes in the short term (total shut down of the railroad – that's a stressor!), but not in the long term (efforts required to troubleshoot and solve the problems)!

Fortunately the August ops crew was experienced – and most own layouts and host op sessions themselves. They are well aware of the pitfalls that await the host and tolerant of dealing with unanticipated problems. Several crew members are more knowledgeable about the NCE system than I have had the chance to become and they came up with a number of possible causes.

Ray deBlicek undertook to test one of the locomotive consists that was giving trouble – and he concluded that one of the things I needed to do was check to make sure I had not doubled up any locomotives in different consists. He suggested that after the session I scroll through the list of consists (I can do that?), maybe even rebuild all of them from scratch. While he was at it I showed him one throttle that thought was having a problem with a sticky button. Ray thought it was more likely a component problem and agreed to take it to Mark Schutzer to look at.

Three of my 11 NCE throttles are wired. I usually assign two to Mac St. Yard and one to the Crusher. Tony Thompson was working the Crusher and we finally concluded that when his throttle was connected to one particular pair of DIN receptacles it was causing problems with the signals on the data bus. This was affecting wireless throttles as well; their radio receiver connects to the command station through the data bus.

Photos by
Jim
Providenza



DIN Sockets

Photos by
Jim
Providenza

I gave Tony a wireless throttle and we limped along through the rest of the session. Once again, an experienced and good natured crew made all the difference... and I think they really meant it when they said that they all had a good time, even if I was less than happy.

The next week was spent chasing down and eliminating what turned out to be 4 different gremlins, each of which contributed in its own special way to the overall performance problem. Consists were reviewed, revised, killed off and rebuilt as needed – and are now reviewed regularly. Mark replaced a component in the wireless throttle. One of the suggestions had been to check the settings in the command station and turn off a string of code that created unneeded redundant commands – it was active and I turned it off. When I set up the addresses for the wireless throttles I had unknowingly put the Cab06r ‘engineer’ throttles into the single digit address range, which slowed down their

signal response. Mark noticed this - they all now have cab addresses in the 20’s.

The worst problem was the pair of DIN sockets on the cab bus. These date back to my original Lenz installation in 1994 and had always been very reliable. I unscrewed the faceplate and examined the wiring – no signs of bad solder joints or cross connected wires. I tested with a VOM – seemingly no issues. Turned the NCE system on, things seemed fine until I plugged a throttle into one of the two DIN sockets. Then things would go pear shaped. Unplug, reboot – back in business. I eventually decided to trace the command bus from the command station out along the railroad until it looped back around to the problem children. Due to the nature of the bus wiring there was almost half the total length of the bus between the command station and the pair of problem children – even though this pair of DIN sockets was physically located within three feet of the command station itself.

I ended up physically disconnecting each pair of receptacles from the command bus,


working out from the command station, until testing confirmed that the system was passing data properly. This occurred after I disconnected the suspect pair of DIN sockets – but I felt I couldn’t be sure this was the case unless I knew for sure that other receptacles were not also causing problems. Examining the socket pair even more closely, I still could not find any problem with them. I wired up a DIN plug with separate leads and tested the sockets – still nothing.

I finally decided to simply replace the two sockets – even though they appeared fine. Yeap. The system worked fine once they had been replaced. Go figure!

The good news? The mid-November op session went very smoothly. No DCC issues – in fact the wireless throttle response is even faster than it was – and I had no complaints about it before. Thanks guys! 🚂



DIN Sockets and Command Station



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PCR Membership Report

by Doug Wagner, Manager, PCR Membership Department

Happy New Year to all of you out there! Hope you have gotten off to a great start for the New Year. Since I'm also writing an article concerning the upcoming PCR convention, Daylight Express 2017, I will keep this article brief (best news you've heard, yet!).

Since more and more communications is now being sent electronically (welcome to the 22nd century and instant news), it is imperative that you keep your contact information up-to-date! If you have changed any contact information, such as your mailing address, phone number or email, we'd like to get it updated. There are several ways you can accomplish this. The first, and probably the easiest, is to go to the NMRA's link for updating your contact information. The following

link will get you to the page for notifying the NMRA of any updates: <http://www.nmra.org/members/update>. Just fill out the necessary update info, hit the submit button, and you're done.

You may also email NMRA HQ at nmrahq@nmra.org and inform them of any changes. Or, you may email me at carldw@aol.com, and I'll relay the changes to NMRA HQ. Or, for those that still like to use the telephone, you may contact NMRA HQ at

(423) 892-2846, and notify them of any changes. And don't worry, NMRA DOES NOT use any information other than to contact you, NOTHING ELSE!

Well, as I said, I need to jump to the Daylight Express article, so I tried to keep this article as short as possible. If anyone of you need to contact me concerning membership, please email me at carldw@aol.com, or you can do it the old fashioned way—by phone—at 661-589-0391.

And for the new year, 2017, here is wishing that all your signals be green for highballing it! 🚂

Branch Line Deadlines for 2017

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

JAN-FEB-MAR 2018 Issue
Articles due by
December 10, 2017


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

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Calendar

2017 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 4, 2017 (note date change) - 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 9th 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.

October 13 – 15, 2017 - [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.

2018 and Beyond Events

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.

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

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

Continued on Page 36

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

For a list of weekly and monthly activities see pages 36 and 37.

Weekly Activities

Monday 7:00 PM / [Santa Cruz County Railroad Historical Society](#) (HO, N, G)

Watsonville, CA / Rick Lopez, e-mail: rick213@pnet.net or 831-768-8211

Tuesday 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM / [Empire Builders Model Railroad Club](#) (HO) Also see Saturday.

Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 PM / [Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club](#) (HO)

Roseville, CA / George Carter, e-mail: Geo_Claire_Carter@msn.com

Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 PM / [Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society](#) (HO, N)

Tuesday 5:00 to 8:00 PM / [South Bay Historical Railroad Society](#) (Museum, Library, HO, N, 4'8½"

Tuesday 7:00 to 9:00 PM / [Lompoc Valley Model Railroad and Historical Society](#) (HO)

428 North I Street, Lompoc, CA / Contact Club President Terry Slaughter at 805-757-0249. Also see Friday.

Tuesday 7:30 to 9:00 PM / [San Leandro Historical Railway Society](#) (HO, O, G) Also see Saturday.

Tuesday 7:30 PM / (Z, N, HO, O, G, Steam, Trolley, Diesel) Round robin meetings weekly at members' homes. Also field trips. Business meeting on third Tuesday at Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Rd (@Alamar), Santa Barbara, CA / Contact: Bruce Morden, e-mail: bdmorden@sbceo.org

Tuesday and Friday 7:00 - 10:00 pm / [Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club](#) Work and gab session (HO) Antioch, CA / E-mail: info@blackdiamondlines.com / Club phone 925-779-1964.

Tuesday and Friday 7:00 PM / [Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society](#) (HO, HOn3)

Wednesday 7:30 PM / [Gold Coast Modular RR Club](#) (HO) Meets in members' homes in Ventura County, CA / Jerry Mittelholtz, e-mail: mittelj@vcss.k12.ca.us or 805-525-5136 / David Minkin, e-mail: dddave@compuserve.com

Wednesday & Friday 7:00 to 10:00 PM / [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#) (HO)

Wednesday evening & Saturday afternoon / [West Bay Model Railroad Association](#) (HO)

Thursday 6:15 PM / Thursday Nite Boomers (all) / San Luis Obispo County, CA / Terry N. Taylor, e-mail: terryntaylor@charter.net or 805-595-9535

Friday 7:00 PM / [Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society](#) (HO, HOn3)

Friday 7:00 to 9:00 PM / [Lompoc Valley Model Railroad and Historical Society](#) (HO)

428 North I Street, Lompoc, CA / Contact Club President Terry Slaughter at 805-757-0249. / Also see Tuesday.

Friday 7:30 to 10:00 PM / [Golden State Model Railroad Museum](#) / East Bay Model Engineers Society (O, HO, N, Narrow Gauge, Traction)

Friday 7:30 PM / [Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society](#) (HO, On3)

Friday 7:30 PM / [Silicon Valley Lines Model Railroad Club](#) (HO)

Friday 7:30 - 9:30 PM / [Tri-City Society of Model Engineers](#) (HO, N)

Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM / Fresno Model Railroad Club (HO, N) 1321 Betty Lane, Selma, CA / Mailing Address: PO Box 181, Selma, CA 93662

Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM / [San Leandro Historical Railway Society](#) (HO, O, G)

Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM / [South Bay Historical Railroad Society](#) (Museum, Library, HO, N, 4'8½") Also see Tuesday.

Saturday 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM / [Empire Builders Model Railroad Club](#) (HO) Also see Tuesday.

Saturday afternoon / [West Bay Model Railroad Association](#) (HO)

Monthly Activities

First and Third Thursday - 7:00 PM / Siskiyou Model RR Club.

First Friday 7:30 PM / San Leandro Historical Railway Society (HO, O, G), Monthly meeting.

Second Tuesday 7:30 PM / Empire Builders Model Railroad Club (HO).

Second Wednesday 8:00 PM / West Bay Model Railroad Association.

Second Wednesday 7:30 PM / Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (HO&N)

Second Saturday 10:00 AM / Tehachapi Loop RR Club / Tehachapi, CA / Tom O'Brien, e-mail: threerail@earthlink.net 661-822-1546

Second Saturday 1:00 PM / European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) Sacramento Chapter (Z, HO, 1)

These activities occur each week on the days indicated. See the Club Info section starting on page 37 for location and contact information.

Second Saturday 3:00 - 6:00 PM / California Central Club (HO & HO_{N3})

Second & Fourth Weekends / Swanton Pacific Railroad Society (19") Santa Cruz County, CA / Ed Carnegie, e-mail: ecarnegi@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2378

Mid-Month Weekends / Bitter Creek Western RR (Live Steam) Arroyo Grande, CA / Dan Andrews, e-mail: danandrews@charter.net or 805-481-0419
Third Monday 7:00 PM / San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association

Third Tuesday 7:00 PM / Visalia Electric Model Railroad & Historical Society / Meets at Ryan's Place Restaurant, 3103 South Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA / Cecil Eppler, e-mail: cecil_eppler@sbcglobal.net

First and Third Thursday - 7:00 PM / Siskiyou Model RR Club / Third Friday 7:00 - 11:00 PM

Third Friday 7:00 to 11:00 pm / Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club Operating session (HO) / Antioch, CA / Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com / Club phone 925-779-1964

Third Saturday / Sacramento Modular Railroaders Operating Session (HO)

Fourth Wednesday 7:00 PM / Coast Toy Train Club / Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Rd (at Alamar), Santa Barbara, CA / Lots of collecting in S, O, and Standard gauges. / Contact: Ken Kelley, e-mail: kenattr@thirdrail.com

Alameda County Central Railroad Society
ACCRS is located at the Alameda Co. Fair Grounds, Pleasanton. A 30 by 100 foot room has O and HO layouts. Open to the public every Friday, 6 to 10 PM, they operate continuously during county fairs and special events. Annual dues: \$24, \$15 initiation fee; Jr membership for ages 12 to 18 (with sponsor), free. Contact: Gary Lewis 925-455-8135 E-mail: glslewis@comcast.net Web: www.pleasantonmodelrr.org/index.html

Antioch Model Railroad Club

The Black Diamond Lines is an HO Club located at 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch. BDL has been in continuous operation since 1981. We meet Tues. & Fri., 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Formal Operating Session on the 3rd Friday of the Month, but visitors can always find trains running every club night. For more information, e-mail info@blackdiamondlines.com or visit us on the web at www.blackdiamondlines.com and we can be found on Facebook and YouTube.

Bay Area Ntrak Model Railroad Club

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

Bay Area S 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). Web: 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 Yahoo group: groups.yahoo.com/group/BAZ_modules.

California Central Model RR Club

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

Carquinez Model Railroad Society

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

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

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Coastal Valley Lines

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

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

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

Elsie

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

Empire Builders Model Railroad Club

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

European Train Enthusiasts

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

Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society

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

Golden State Model Railroad Museum – East Bay Model Engineers Society

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

Humboldt Bay & Eureka Model Railroad Club

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

Lake County Model Railroad Club

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

Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society

Located at The Napa Valley Expo, (fairgrounds), 575 Third St., Napa, our railroad runs from Napa to Ukiah with off line connections to Stockton and Portland, has 700 feet of main line, and large classification yards at each end. The layout is never finished, as we are always rebuilding and improving! Era is 1940 to present. Member-owned rolling stock stresses reliability and realism. We meet Fri. 7:30 PM to 12, with formal runs the 2nd Fri. of the month. Info: John Rodgers 707-226-2985 E-mail: NapaJohn@napanet.net Web: www.nvmrc.org

Nn3 Alliance

Our 700 members in nine countries model narrow gauge in “smaller scales”. Nn3 describes 3', 3'6”, and meter gauges, modeled in N or 2MM Scales. Our local portable exhibition layouts and modules regularly appear at conventions and shows. The Nn3 Handbook, 140 pages with 400 illustrations, covering all aspects of small scale narrow gauge, is available through the address on the website. Official mailing address: The Nn3 Alliance, PO Box 6652, Chesterfield, MO 63006 Web: www.Nn3.org <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nn3/>

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Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society

Established in 1948, the SMRHS is located at 1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento. Modeled as the Sierra Central RR, both HO and HO_{n3} layouts. HO layout is being rebuilt to depict SP/WP prototype. Open Tues. and Fri. nights, 7:30 P.M. Contact: 916-927-3618 Email: d.megeath@comcast.net Web: www.smrhs.com

Sacramento Modular Railroaders

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

Sacramento Valley Live Steam Railroad Museum (SVLSRM)

The SVLS was founded in 1968 and is located in Hagen Community Park, Rancho Cordova, CA. Our initial 1500 feet of track has expanded to over 6300 feet of mainline and sidings. Approximately 1500 feet is dual gauge 4 3/4" and 7 1/2". We can accommodate equipment ranging in size from 1 inch scale (standard gauge) to 5 inch scale (2 foot narrow gauge), the most common scale being 1 1/2". Public run days are on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month during our operating season

San Joaquin Valley Garden Railway Society

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

San Leandro Historical Railway Society

The SLHRS models the SP from Oakland/San Leandro to just east of Norden using the tri-level Donner Pass plan featured in the March '98 Model Railroader. It's housed in the former S.P., San Leandro depot, located at 1302 Orchard Ave., San Leandro (just off Davis St.). Work sessions Sat. 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM and Tues. 7:30 - 9:30 PM, business meetings the 1st Fri. at 7:30 PM. Contact: Pat LaTorres, 510-276-3121 email: duhnerd@pacbell.net

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA)

The SLOMRA is a multi-scale modular group with active N, HO, and On30 layouts. The goal of our non-profit association is railroad education and local history through public display of our modules. Our shows usually include G-gauge, tinplate, and even LEGO trains. The monthly meetings include model and prototype activities, videos,

and discussions. The SLOMRA is open to new members who have a love of trains. The general meeting is the third Monday of every month at 7:00pm at the Oceano Depot. For more information visit www.slomra.org or email info@slomra.org or phone Dennis Pearson at (805) 929-3062.

Silicon Valley Lines

The SVL is located at 148 E. Virginia St., San Jose. We meet Fri. 7:30 to 11:30 PM, with business meetings the 1st Fri. and operating sessions the last Fri. of the month. Our HO layout utilizing DCC for realistic operations, computer-generated train orders and radio-based dispatching. E-mail: svl@siliconvalleylines.com Web: www.siliconvalleylines.com

South Bay Historical Railroad Society

SBHRS invites interested modelers to visit us in the historic Santa Clara CalTrain Depot, 1005 Railroad Ave., Santa Clara, Tues. 7:00 to 10:00 PM or Sat. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Contact: 408-243-3969. Web: www.sbhrrs.org

Sonoma Short Line (SSL)

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

South Coast Society of Model Engineers

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

Siskiyou Model Railroad Club

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

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BRANCH LINE
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Club Info (Cont.)

Tidewater Southern Railway Historical Society Inc.

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

Tri-city Society of Model Engineers

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

Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society

The WCMRS located at 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, is open to last Friday of the month from 8:00 to 10:00PM for operations. Fares are \$2.00 for 6-12 and seniors over 60 and \$3.00 for adults. Membership is always open to interested HO modelers. Contact: 925-937-1888 (recorder). Web: www.WCMRS.org. "Like Us" on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wcmrs). 2017 weekend schedule: Jan 14-15, Mar 18-19, May 20-21 and Sept 16-17 (11:00AM-6:00PM). Holiday Open House schedule: Nov 17-19 & Nov 24-26.

West Bay Model Railroad Association

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

