



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



Pacific Coast Region Diamond Jubilee

Jim Collins, Co-Chairman,
Diamond Rails Forever 2019



In the past, our conventions have almost always been held at a hotel where arrangements were made to use the hotel facilities for clinics, contest room, vendors, etc. It was a package deal with the hotel. This year, for PCR's Diamond Anniversary, we are trying something a little different. The convention itself will be held at the McClellan Conference Center while the convention hotel, for rooms and the banquet and PCR breakfast will be the Lions Gate Hotel. Both facilities are located in the McClellan Business Park created, after McClellan Air Force Base closed starting in 1995. The hotel is a five to ten minute walk from the conference center.

This year, as has become more common, we are holding a joint convention with the support and help of the Feather River Rail Society (FRRS), the historical society for the Western Pacific Railroad. So, among other things, there will be a PCR track and a FRRS track for clinics.

We are very pleased to announce that our guest speaker at the banquet on Saturday night will be Charlie Getz, past president of the NMRA. Look for more information on Charlie and the banquet menu and schedule in the next edition of the *Branch Line*.



USPS 870-060
ISSN 07449774
Volume 75 Number 4
Oct - Dec 2018



Continued on page 9

Officers, BOD	<p>President, Ed Merrin 707-542-3620 Vice-President, Carol Alexander 707-484-5428 Treasurer, Bob Osborn 925-420-6880 Secretary, Chris Palermo 650-208-3150 Director - Daylight, Neil Fernbaugh 559-805-4520 Director - Coast, Frank Markovich, MMR 408-505-2727 Director - Sierra, Tom Van Horn 209-626-0352 Director - RED, Steve Skold 707-539-1782</p>	<p>edmerrin@comcast.net pcrVicePres@pcrmra.org brakemanbob@yahoo.com chris_palermo@yahoo.com marmot47@sbcglobal.net frank@frankmarkovich.com tomvca@aol.com sandaskold@att.net</p>
Administration	<p>Manager, Ed Merrin 707-542-3620 Budget and Finance Committee[President, Vice-President and Treasurer] By-laws and Manual Committee, Steve Skold 707-539-1782 Nomination Committee Chair, Dave Connery, MMR 925-735-0134 Ballot Committee, Jim Providenza 415-472-6715 Honors Committee, Ray deBlieck 510-521-9778 Storekeeper, Ted Moes 510-749-7099 Audit Committee, John Houlihan 559-435-0874 Historian, Dave Connery, MMR 925-735-0134</p>	<p>edmerrin@comcast.net sandaskold@att.net dgconnery@sbcglobal.net rrjim@aol.com RaydBCS@aol.com ted@tjmoes.com oscalejohn@gmail.com dgconnery@sbcglobal.net</p>
Membership	<p>Manager, Doug Wagner 661-589-0391 Member Services, Bob Ferguson 925-228-6833 Promotion (Vacant) Member Aid, Rod Smith 510-657-3362 Education (Vacant) Special Interests, Seth Neumann 650-965-4687</p>	<p>CarlDW@aol.com BobPCRCD@aol.com Railgeezer@aol.com sneumann@pacbell.net</p>
Pubs.	<p>Manager, Gus Campagna 707-664-8466 Editor, Chip Meriam 530-899-2609 Webmaster, Dave Grenier 408-431-8989 Social Media, Chris Palermo 650-208-3150</p>	<p>campgus@earthlink.net chipmeriam@comcast.net pcrWebmaster@pcrmra.org chris_palermo@yahoo.com</p>
Conv.	<p>Manager, Tom Crawford 510-790-0371 2019 Sacramento Co-Chair, Jim Collins 209-566-0935 2019 Sacramento Co-Chair, Chip Meriam 530-899-2609</p>	<p>tom@thecrawfordfamily.net jimcol@charter.net chipmeriam@comcast.net</p>
Contest	<p>Manager, Giuseppe Aymar 707-291-0701 Daylight Division, Chuck Harmon, MMR 559-299-4385 Coast Division, Jim Eckman 650-996-6728 Sierra Division, Gary Ray 530-990-1276 RED, Giuseppe Aymar 707-291-0701</p>	<p>Giuseaymar@aol.com harmonsta@yahoo.com jim_eckman@roninengineer.com gerber1926@gmail.com Giuseaymar@aol.com</p>
AP	<p>Manager, Jack Burgess, MMR 510-797-9557 Daylight Division, Dave Grenier 408-431-8989 Coast Division, Earl Girbovan 650-248-9255 Sierra Division, Dave Bayless 530-613-5784 RED, Giuseppe Aymar, MMR 707-291-0701</p>	<p>jack@yosemitevalleyrr.com grenida@pacbell.net egirbovan@netzero.com davebayl@pacbell.net Giuseaymar@aol.com</p>
Daylight	<p>Superintendent, Neil Fernbaugh 559-805-4520 Clerk / Paymaster, VACANT Editor, Brewsater Bird 559-967-6773 Membership, Doug Wagner 661-589-0391 Member Aid, Bob Pethoud 559-438-7705 Webmaster, Dave Grenier 408-431-8989</p>	<p>marmot47@sbcglobal.net mec569@yahoo.com CarlDW@aol.com pethoud@comcast.net grenida@pacbell.net</p>
Coast	<p>Superintendent, Doug Smith 925-362-8974 Clerk, Dan Rom 925-719-2811 Paymaster, Bob Ferguson 925-228-6833 Editor, Tom Crawford 510-790-0371 Membership, Ronnie LaTorres 510-317-7456 Member Aid, Rod Smith 510-657-3362 Webmaster, Pete Birdsong, MMR 859-552-5467</p>	<p>funrun27@yahoo.com k3d2dotrom@yahoo.com BobPCRCD@aol.com tom@thecrawfordfamily.net veronicashadlow@yahoo.com Railgeezer@aol.com rpateb@gmail.com</p>
Sierra	<p>Superintendent, Jim Collins 209-566-0935 Clerk, Chip Meriam 530-899-2609 Paymaster, Al Rowe 916-961-9911 Editor, Chip Meriam 530-899-2609 Membership, RJ Myers 775-337-9162 Webmaster, Gus Campagna 707-664-8466</p>	<p>jimcol@charter.net chipmeriam@comcast.net hofunar@aol.com chipmeriam@comcast.net rjm@a2dreno.com campgus@earthlink.net</p>
RED	<p>Superintendent, Scott Lockhart 707-775-9889 Clerk / Paymaster, Dud Peters 707-292-1495 Editor (Vacant) Membership, Gus Campagna 707-664-8466 Webmaster, Gus Campagna 707-664-8466</p>	<p>scottnl1947@gmail.com dudpeters@yahoo.com campgus@earthlink.net campgus@earthlink.net</p>

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

Vol. 75, No. 4 4th Qtr, 2018

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

Copyright 2018, Pacific Coast Region, National Model Railroad Association. Permission to reprint granted to all affiliates of the NMRA. Others may request permission to reprint from the Editor:

Chip Meriam
 2260 Cherry Glenn Court
 Chico, CA 95926
 Phone (530) 899-2609
 e-mail: chipmeriam@comcast.net

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contents

Reports

Convention Department Update.....4
 From the President.....5
 Contest Report.....6
 From the Vice President.....7
 From the Editor.....8
 PCR Honors.....11
 Achievement Report.....14
 SIG Report.....16
 Daylight Report.....26
 Coast Report.....27
 RED Report.....30
 Sierra Report.....32

Feature Stories

2019 Convention..... 1
 A Long Strange Trip.....17
 The Answers Are Out There.....19
 Tales Of The Santa Cruz Northern.....20
 Looking Back.....22
 Innovators in Model Railroading.....24

Regular Goodies

Call Board..... 2
 Statement of Publication.....3
 Member Tracker.....3
 Welcome New Members.....7
 In Memoriam.....11
 2019 PCR Convention Announcement.....12
 2019 PCR Convention Registration Form.....13
 NMRA Membership Renewal Form.....15
 Opting Out of Branch Line Subscriptions.....16
 Time Table.....34
 Web Announcement.....35
 Branch Line Deadlines.....35
 Club Information.....37
 Membership Gauge.....42

PCR Membership Tracker

<u>Division</u>	<u># Members</u>
Coast	432
Sierra	266
Redwood Empire	131
Daylight	<u>115</u>
Total PCR Members	944

Convention Department Update

By Tom Crawford, Convention Department Manager

PCR's annual convention is a crown jewel of the Region, well-known for excellent clinics, fun operating sessions and great layout tours. But it's often said that nothing is constant except change—and the needs and interests of our members, plus the cost structure of traditional hotel-convention centers, are changing. Recognizing this, in April 2018 President Merrin appointed a special committee on the future of conventions chaired by Frank Markovich and assisted by Chris Palermo. When I became the convention department manager, I joined the team.

We've reviewed issues such as length, structure, location, cost and content based on both seasoned perspectives and new ones. PCR members who have provided an e-mail address to the Region—over 900 of you—received an invitation in August to respond to a brief online survey. Over 125 of you responded, which is fantastic—thank you. We're carefully considering your input, and while we won't be able to implement every specific suggestion, the broad themes represented in the responses have been insightful and will be passed on to the Board of Directors. For example, it's clear that a strong clinics program is the cornerstone of every convention; layout tours and socializing opportunities also ranked quite high. We do apologize for one oversight—the survey did not include questions about interest in operating sessions, but your free-form comments told us, loud and clear, that you love them!

Our review is nearly complete and will be presented to the Board of Directors at its midyear meeting in October. While all the specific recommendations are not ready as of the deadline for this issue of Branch Line, we're confident that our report will lead to better, well-attended, cost-effective conventions and helpful guidance for Division host committees.

In the coming months, I'll be continuing to lead selected revisions to the Region's Convention Handbook to reflect some of these recommendations. Some of you have already been asked to rewrite sections, but we'll defer that work until the Board reviews the special committee's recommendations. We're not recommending changes in PCR's bylaws, which define basic elements of a convention. Our overall approach is advisory, to preserve the flexibility of different Division host committees to choose different paths if they're better for the local environment or market conditions in that particular year.

In the meantime, please join me in thinking about how you can contribute to our next great convention at McClellan in 2019, by presenting a clinic, entering the model contest, volunteering in some other way or just attending and adding to the fun. Thanks for your support.



From the President

By Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

Well, the deadline for this column almost slipped by me this time, but I fortunately recovered my senses and I am back on track. Blame it on retirement; it's hard enough to remember what day of the week it is let alone the month and day. Perhaps football season will help – college on Saturdays, NFL on Sundays, and then weekdays. Just like working again.

Or, it may be the aggravating time I have been spending trying to figure out why wheels keep splitting a switch in my Willits yard. The turnout has been there for a decade, but I honestly don't know how long it has been causing trouble. It may have to do with some sagging bench work (I'm clearly not a good carpenter) that has created some interesting vertical curves. I finally resorted to tearing it out (ballast and scenery be damned!) with the intention of modifying the geometry by changing the track configuration (as the regular Willits operator wants, since he needs a turnout in that location, he says) or maybe just not have a



turnout there at all. So I've been preoccupied. But here I am at last.

Have you all noticed that registration is now open for Diamonds are Forever, the 2019 PCR/Feather River Rail Society Convention scheduled for May 2-5 in Sacramento? Shirts and convention cars are available as well. So get to it and register! It's pretty easy to visit their website and register there (<http://pcrnma.org/conv2019/>).

There had been rumors and innuendos that there wasn't going to be a convention next year, and yes, it's been late getting off the ground. We won't belabor the reasons for that again here, but so what? It's going to happen and like all PCR conventions the members attending will have a great time.

It's also going to be the opportunity to experience what might be the new look for our get-togethers. Rather than running from Wednesday afternoon through Sunday morning, activities will start on Thursday morning. For example, the PCR Board of Directors will convene Thursday morning rather than Wednesday after lunch. The meeting will also be split between a dedicated conference facility and a nearby hotel, rather than taking place at one self-contained location. Apart from all this, the content will have all the familiar elements – clinics, prototype and layout tours, SIGs, contests, Awards Banquet (with Charlie Getz as the keynote speaker), Sunday breakfast meeting, and so on. Hope you can make it.

Meanwhile, planning for the 2020 convention is already beginning.

On a different front, I'd like to announce the recipient of a brand new, hot off the griddle NMRA award. The name of the award is

“The NMRA President's Award for Service to the Division.” All of us Regional President's were asked to nominate one of our members for this award, which is meant to recognize those who have labored at the grass roots level, e.g., Divisional, to keep NMRA afloat. Note that this is different from the PCR's President's Award, which recognizes service to the Region and is bestowed upon worthy members by the PCR President. This award comes from the NMRA President and is given to one member from each Region.

After soliciting recommendations from all PCR Directors I nominated Gus Campagna from the Redwood Empire Division for this honor. Gus received his plaque from Scott Lockhart, RED Superintendent, in a brief ceremony at the site of his railroad, the California Western, on August 29th.



Gus Campagna

Many of you know Gus, but for those who don't or are not familiar with his contributions, here is the brief synopsis of his RED/PCR/NMRA career that accompanied my nominating letter:

“Gus Campagna has been member of the Redwood Empire Division since 1982. Gus's work and influence over the years have literally kept the Division afloat. He has held a number of elected positions, including Chief Clerk (1989 - 1993), Superintendent (1993 - 1995), and PCR Director representing RED (1999 - 2002, 2007). He has served as RED Membership Chair on a continuous basis since 2003 and continues to serve as the original and only RED Webmaster (he has also performed this function for the PCR's Sierra Division and for the Northwestern Pacific Historical Society, whose Board he serves on as well). He is one of the “old hands” on every convention committee the RED has put together for the PCR.

Continued on page 6

He was the convention chair for the PCR convention in 1999. He edited the RED Callboard, for six years. He has been the audiovisual expert for the PCR and RED meets as well as PCR conventions. On the Regional level, he has directed the PCR Publication Department since 2001, even briefly stepping in as the editor of its Branch Line. To top it off, he and his wife Mary (also a an active PCR member) has long provided lunches for sale at RED quarterly meets, extending this service to Coast Division meets as well. In short, it's hard to come up with things that Gus hasn't done for the RED."

One of the difficulties I had in providing this nomination for the NMRA President's Award for Service to the Division was selecting just one person. There are so many of you out there that are worthy of this kind of recognition, but only one of you can get this each year. I'm hopeful that the prospect of being singled out this way can give more deserving folks a good reason to carry on. The real winners will be all of us.

Ed Merrin



Contest Report

By Chip Meriam
Branch Line Editor

As Noted by Carol Alexander in "From the Vice President", our newest Contest Manager is moving out of the Pacific Coast Region. Mark Poggendorf, who just took over for long-time Contest Manager, Giuseppe Aymar, will be leaving us and will, hopefully, transfer his membership to the Mid-Continent Region once he finds his way to Nebraska. Good luck to you, Mark. We all hope your relocation goes well.

Meanwhile, Giuseppe is right back where he was a few short months ago—serving as the PCR Contest Manager. In fact, he's already at it, preparing for the 2019 convention.

As Giuseppe put it in his farewell last month: "Grazie e Ciao for now."

Well, Giuseppe, Ben tornato e Ciao!



Giuseppe Aymar—Interim PCR Contest Manager



May 2 - 5, 2019

McClellan Convention Center - Sacramento, CA

From the Vice President

By Carol Alexander, Vice President, PCR/NMRA

As I write this it is already the second week in September. Another year is speeding by. Soon the season will change and we model railroaders will be turning our attention to more indoor activities – hopefully in the layout space. My garage is still full but this summer has seen many changes. I’m hoping it won’t be that many more months before I can start working on bench work. The grandiose plans of my earlier years keep giving way to smaller and simpler plans that emphasize quality over quantity. How about you? The PCR web site has plenty of room for more stories about your railroad on the Layout Stories page. Please take some time to consider

posting the story of your pike there. Take a look at Verne Alexander’s “Coleville, Republic and Palouse” story and you’ll notice that pictures can be included. We’d really like to see your story there.

Speaking of stories, you should know that the **Branch Line** can always use submissions. Have you recently completed a car rebuild, a model, or solved a vexing problem? Please consider

sharing your experience with the rest of us. Send a couple of photos and a description of what you’ve done. Our editor can almost always find a place for short articles!

In local news from the Redwood Empire Division, member Mark Poggendorf, owner of Poggie’s Trains, is leaving our division as he and his family are moving to Nebraska. This move has been a goal for Mark and his family for several years and it is finally happening for them. While we’re sad to see Mark leave the area we are very happy that he and his family have finally achieved this goal. Mark’s wife and daughter are already in the new location and Mark will be gone by year’s end. If you get a chance, and you’re in Santa Rosa, stop in to wish him well and pick up a bargain while you’re there.

Mark had recently agreed to take over as PCR Contest Manager from Giuseppe Aymar but has had to step down. Are you or is someone you know interested in the job? PCR President, Ed Merrin, is looking for someone to take on the job. Let him know if you’re interested or if you’re feeling evil, suggest someone to him. (LOL)

See you in the train room...

Carol Alexander

Welcome Aboard ! PCR's Newest Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
David Natal	Daylight Lompoc, CA	07/25/2018
	Coast	
Chris Eastman	Walnut Creek, CA	06/11/2018
Wesley Huff	Pacheco, CA	06/11/2018
Kenneth Webb	Sunnyvale, CA	06/25/2018
Walter Smith	Concord, CA	07/02/2018
Peeyush Garg	Dublin, CA	07/12/2018
Phil Edholm	Pleasanton, CA	07/20/2018
	Redwood Empire	
S Barker	Dixon, CA	06/13/2018
Clyde Brehm	Vallejo, CA	07/10/2018
	Sierra	
Monica Maddem	Lincoln, CA	08/06/2018
Dan Moody	Rio Linda	08/16/2018
William Case	Tracy, CA	08/29/2018



May 1 - 5, 2019
Sacramento

Those Confounding Acronyms (TCAs)

As An Amateur Wordsmith I spend a fair amount of time deciphering all the acronyms that seem to have taken over our contemporary literature - particularly business literature. For example: Did you know that the “household” term **NDCBU** is an acronym for Neighborhood Delivery Collection Box Unit? Believe it or not, the NDCBU has been around since, at least, the 1980s. Perhaps you visit one every day. But did you know it was called a Nudcebew?



As a County Assessor, I am fully aware that the Board of Equalization (**BOE**) has now spun off a new group called the California Department Of Tax And Fee Administration (**CDOTAF**). Maybe I’m all wet here, but is this really progress?

Fortunately, most of us who are railroad hobbyists of some sort can easily identify the common acronyms of our passion: NYC (New York Central), ATSF (Santa Fe), SP (Southern Pacific), WP (Western Pacific), TO (Train Order), TT (Time Table, or a popular scale in other parts of the world), OS (On Sheet), MU (Multiple Unit), etc. Admittedly, these acronyms have been with us for, seemingly, forever - and we all read them as if they were actual words. So, too, are the acronyms of the National Model Railroad Association. **NMRA** is the most obvious to most of us. Readers of this publication probably make a simple association of **PCR** with Pacific Coast Region.

My favorite NMRA acronym happens to be “**AP**” which stands for Achievement Program. You may recall that my first mention of the Achievement Program was in my thank you/farewell to Chuck Harmon, my immediate predecessor as **Branch Line** Editor. Chuck had recently completed his Achievement Program regimen and had become a Master Model Railroader (MMR). I remain in awe of those that have earned the title of Master Model Railroader. In fact, I have begun the pursuit myself by qualifying for my first certificate, “Model Railroad Author.” In the same spirit, I encourage you to do the same. Successful completion of the Achievement Program, and the honor of the title of MMR is not beyond your reach. I have yet to read a bio from a new MMR that did not say the program helped them improve their modeling skills.

To that end, I call your attention to the quarterly columns by Jack Burgess. In each issue Jack explains the requirements for one of the achievement certificates and offers tips on how to comply with the requirements. Jack’s advice alone is adequate reason to download and read this newsletter. With Jack’s advice, the help of your Division AP Chair, and the related literature on the NMRA web site <https://nmra.org/education/achievement-program>, you can be highballing your way to an achievable goal, improved modeling skills, and a lot of fun along the way.

I certainly hope you’ll also read the other quarterly chronicles that come our way from our regular columnists and, of course, the division reports.

Also this time, we have a short piece by Neil Fernbaugh, Daylight Division Superintendent. Neil shares his account of how he finally got started building a layout. Read closely and see if maybe, just maybe you might recognize yourself in his story. I hope Neil manages to inspire you into action.

TAFN

(LOL)





Working with Kadee Quality Products Co., we are pleased to announce the convention car will be the Tidewater Southern 50' PS1 boxcars with the beautiful TS Cornucopia logo. The road numbers will be #501 and 519. They are now available for ordering as part of the registration process. The cost is \$35.00 for a single car (#519) and \$68.00 for the set of two.

We are also offering a beautiful convention shirt with the convention logo prominently displayed above the breast pocket. These are made by Fox Fabrique, the same com-

pany that supplied the shirts for the 2018 convention. These can also be ordered as part of the registration process or directly from the [Company Store](#). The shirts are \$30.00 and available in sizes small to 5X large.



While it took a while to complete the negotiations for the convention spaces, now that these are set and contracted, the committee is working hard to arrange a variety of prototype and layout tours as well as operating sessions for your enjoyment. Some of the tours being worked on include the Siemens Factory, Golden 1 Center, California Air and Space Museum, California State Railroad Museum, the Yolo County Line, and several others.

As with every convention, we need our members help. While the committee positions are filled, we still need help from folks during the convention to assist with clinic preparation and transfer, contest judges, registration, and all the little things that always crop up. If you wish to help in any way, please contact us at drf2019chair@pcrnmra.org.

If you would like to give a clinic or presentation, please get in touch with Dave Bayless at drf2019clinics@pcrnmra.org. And if you live in or near the Sacramento area and have a layout you would like to open for a tour or possibly for an operating session, please contact Scott Inman at drf2019layouts@pcrnmra.org or Gary Ray at drf2019sigs@pcrnmra.org.



We realize that things started a little late but we are hard at work creating a 75th anniversary convention bash that will be memorable for all.

Registration is now open. You can visit the registration page at the convention website: <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/registration> to learn about the different registration packages that are available. To register online, go to <https://fs29.formsite.com/NPpBtn/form3/index.html>. To download the registration form (which can be completed using your computer, then printed and mailed with your check) you can go to <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/DRF2019-Registration-Form-v1.2.pdf>.

So don't delay, sign up now for Diamond Rails Forever 2019.





The Northern Nevada Layout Tour will be Nov 2-3-4, 2018

There are approximately 20 Reno area layouts scheduled to participate. The tour booklet will be available around October 15. Download from the PCR Master Calendar or contact Jim Petro (below)

jpetro328@gmail.com

775-852-5639

PCR NOMINATIONS

Election of our officers of the PCR is coming up and Nominations are due December 1, 2018. We will be electing a new President and Vice-president (both incumbents are ineligible to succeed themselves in their current office). The term of the office is two years, beginning at the Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the Spring PCR Annual Convention. Interested candidates can contact the Nominations Chair as shown in the Callboard in this issue of the Branch Line. In addition, any group of 15 or more members may petition the PCR to nominate a candidate as outlined in Section 13, A. 2. of the PCR Manual of Operations.

Celebrating 75 Years

The Pacific Coast Region was formed in 1944, as the first region in the NMRA. In 2019 we will be 75 years old, the first Region in the NMRA to reach this milestone. How should we celebrate this event? If you have any ideas please share them with the PCR Historian, Dave Connery at dgconnery@sbcglobal.net. We will never be 75 again!

INTERNATIONAL RAILFAIR
42 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING MODEL TRAIN SHOWS
NOV 10-11, 2018
AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN OPERATING LAYOUTS

DEMO VENDORS SNACK BARS & TRAINMART CONSIGNMENT STORE
FIG. N. S. O. A. & D. SCALES & HARBOR BRIDGE - 1200' x 110' STAGE
RED CAR BARN & J.C. SPENCER BARN BY OPERATORS A MODEL RAILROAD

SATURDAY 10 AM - 5 PM **Daily Parking \$5.00**
SUNDAY 10 AM - 4 PM
CASH ONLY PLEASE
ADULTS: \$10 KIDS UNDER 12 FREE!!
SUNDAY FAMILY SPECIAL: \$15

PLACER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
800 ALL AMERICAN CITY BLVD. ROSEVILLE
www.internationalrailfair.com

2018 PCR HONORS

By Dave Connery

Any group like ours relies on the willingness of people to volunteer their time and talents to keep the organization running and the activities robust and enjoyable. The PCR is very fortunate in having so many dedicated and talented volunteers within its membership. We never have enough but we really appreciate those members who do step up to the plate and make this organization go. At our Annual Convention this past April in Rohnert Park, the organization had an opportunity to recognize a few of them.

The Coast Division Member of the Year was Superintendent **Doug Smith**.

In the Redwood Empire Division the Member of the Year went to **Ron Kaiser**.

The Sierra Division recognized **Ed Powell** as it's Member of the Year.

The Daylight award was presented to **Neil Fernbaugh**. Ed Merrin presented the Presidents Award to **Carol Skold**.

The prodigious John Allen Award, decided on by all past John Allen Award recipients was presented to **Giuseppe Aymar**, who was the Convention Chairman and has served PCR so very ably over a number of years as our Contest Department Manager.

Congratulations to all and thank you for your contributions to the Pacific Coast Region and it's Divisions, and of course, thanks to all those other volunteers who make this such a great group.



In Memoriam		
Member	City, Sate Coast	Date Joined
Ronald Kolodzieczak	Fremont, CA	1/1/1976
	Redwood Empire	
Paula Raudio	San Anselmo CA	9/1/2007

Pacific Coast Region - NMRA



2019 Convention

DIAMOND RAILS FOREVER

SACRAMENTO, CA

MAY 1 - 5

McClellan Convention Center—McClellan Park

Lions Gate Hotel

To Register:

<http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/registration>

Or

See the registration form on the next page



PCR/FRRS
Diamond Rails Forever 2019
PCR/FRRS Convention
McClellan Conference Center
5411 Luce Ave
McClellan Park, CA
May 2 - 5, 2019

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Diamond Rails Forever 2019
 c/o Gus Campagna
 1915 William Drive
 Penngrove, CA 94951-9524

E-mail: drf2019registrar@pcrnmra.org
 Website: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2019

Please Print

Registration Form

Visit the website to pay with PayPal or credit card

Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Address			City	State	Zip Code + 4	
Home Phone	E-mail Address			NMRA or FRRS #		
Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> PCR <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail <input type="checkbox"/> FRRS				NMRA Region or Club Affiliation		
Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times: _____						
I can help more. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me <input type="checkbox"/>						
Primary Scales and Interests <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> WP <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____						
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form if more than one)						
Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> PCR <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail <input type="checkbox"/> FRRS		E-Mail (if Different)		NMRA or FRRS #		
Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times: _____						
I can help More. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me <input type="checkbox"/>						
Primary Scales and Interests <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> WP <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____						
FARES: <i>Please fill in Qty and Form will compute the total</i>				Qty	Unit Cost	Total
NMRA/FRRS Early Bird Regist. Pkg. (reg, banquet, & brkfast) (until 1/2/19; \$155 after)					125.00	\$ 0.00
NMRA & FRRS Registration ONLY					80.00	\$ 0.00
First Timer Pkg. (PCR Members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions)					115.00	\$ 0.00
Non-Rail or Spouse Registration (includes non-rail lunch, no banquet or breakfast)					40.00	\$ 0.00
NMRA & FRRS Banquet only					50.00	\$ 0.00
PCR Breakfast only					25.00	\$ 0.00
Youth Registration (12-18 years or student)					70.00	\$ 0.00
Day Fare (No Banquet) <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat					40.00	\$ 0.00
Convention Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL					30.00	\$ 0.00
Convention Car (ea) [Tidewater Southern, HO-scale, 50' PS1 car by Kadee]					35.00	\$ 0.00
Convention Car (Set of 2)					68.00	\$ 0.00
Join FRRS (reduced rates for convention)		Active membership			25.00	\$ 0.00
		Family membership			40.00	\$ 0.00
Join the NMRA (must be member of NMRA or FRRS to attend)		9 month Rail Pass (allowed one time only)			20.00	\$ 0.00
		Full NMRA membership			75.00	\$ 0.00
Payment by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (Use website for credit card or PayPal) Make checks payable to: Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association No Refunds After April 10, 2019					TOTAL	\$ 0.00

Achievement Program - Association Volunteer

By Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department

We all enjoy this hobby even more because of the numerous volunteers who work on our behalf at the National level, produce our regional conventions, open their layouts to convention attendees, and help out at our divisional meets. All of these people can be referred to as "Association Volunteers" which is a category under the Achievement Program. Like the other certificates, the full requirements for this category are available on the Internet at the NMRA site, www.nmra.org. This is a category for the Master Model Railroader program which might encourage you to volunteer at one of these many opportunities. For those who have already volunteered, submit your paperwork!

The intent of the requirements for Association Volunteer is to reward those modelers who volunteer at the National, Regional, or Divisional level of the NMRA. A total of 60 time units (TUs) are required to satisfy this requirement. There are a number of ways to accrue these credits. For example:

Active satisfactory service as a National committee member or Chairman of a Regional committee receives 2 TUs per month.

Active satisfactory service on a Regional committee or Divisional Chairman is good for 1 TU per month.

Service as a Divisional officer or director is worth 1 TU per month.

Active satisfactory service as a Division committee or board member equals ½ TU per month.

While these TUs are typical for those given for elected or appointed officials, there are other TUs which are available for volunteer efforts:

Judges at NMRA-sponsored model contests are given 3 TUs per event for judging National contests, 2 TUs for Regional contests, and 1 TU for Divisional contests.

Modelers who open their layouts for tours are also eligible for credit at the rate of 3 TUs per day for National, Regional, and Divisional events (with a maximum of 12 TUs for a National convention, 6 TUs for Regional events, and 3 TUs for Divisional events).

Individuals who participate in modular layout displays at National, Regional, and Divisional meets are also eligible for 3 TUs per day, with the same maximums as for layout tours.

Note that there is generally a maximum of 48 TUs of credit for any one National, convention, 24 TUs for any one Regional convention, and 6 TUs for any one Divisional convention.

There are a number of committees at the Regional level. So what exactly constitutes a "committee"? Basically just about any office or function that isn't covered under Association Official. Most other officers in a Division (or Region) are considered Committee Chairmen. For example, if your Division has a person who

runs the contest at the monthly meeting, they can be considered the "Contest Committee Manager". Your local AP representative is a member of the "Region AP Committee" and so on

Individuals who work just the day of an event (for example, at a Convention registration desk) receive credit for one month's work as a committee member.

The bottom line—keep track of those hours of service to the hobby! The easiest way to do this is to obtain a Record Form (available at www.nmra.org) and have it signed by your local AP Chairman at the time or another official. For open house events, you may also be able to use the official Convention Program as verification of your service to the hobby.

Once you have accumulated a total of 60 certified TUs, complete a Statement of Qualifications and submit it along with a copy of your Membership card.

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

Earl Girbovan Association Volunteer

Chip Meriam Model Railroad Author (yes, the editor of this publication!)

Congratulations to both of you! Earl also received a Merit Award for this diorama entry at the recent Kansas City NMRA Convention.


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



Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.


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

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



Visit www.nmra.org.
Then improve your skills. And your hobby. www.nmra.org
433-892-2844

We make it even more fun.





NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC. ®

P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
Phone: (423)892-2846 Email: nmrahq@nmra.org

RENEWAL NOTICE

Name:			
Address:			
City:	State/Country	Zip:	
Phone:	Birth Date:	Scale:	
Email:	Occupation:		

NMRA Membership	1 Year	2 Year	Total
Member with NMRA Magazine Subscription ~ All Rights and Benefits; includes NMRA Magazine.	\$ 75.00	\$ 150.00	
Member without NMRA Magazine Subscription ~ All Rights and Benefits; <u>does not</u> include NMRA Magazine.	\$ 47.00	\$ 94.00	
Family ~ Spouse or minor child of above member in good standing; DOES NOT include the NMRA Magazine or voting rights. Name: _____ DOB: _____	\$ 9.00	\$ 18.00	
Student ~ Anyone under 18 years or student between 19-25 years of age. All rights and benefits and includes NMRA Magazine. DOB: _____	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00	
Sustaining ~ Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Associations, Businesses) All Rights and Benefits and includes NMRA Magazine.	\$ 120.00	\$ 240.00	

Total Due	NMRA Membership	\$
	Region Subscriptions	\$
	Merchandise Total	\$
	NMRA Donation	\$
	Total	\$

Credit Card No: - - - **Verification Code**

Expiration Date: _____

**We accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover & AMEX. US Funds Only.
Make checks payable to NMRA.**



Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann



The NMRA Convention in Kansas City August 5-12 featured a full SIG program with Op Sessions (unfortunately demand so was so high that most KC sessions filled up within 24 hours – so watch carefully for next year in Salt Lake City) a very well attended SIG Tour, Layout Design Bootcamp, the SIG Dinner, and many SIG related clinics. I had the opportunity to run on 3 Kansas City area layouts as well as Doug Harding's Iowa Central in Des Moines.

I am looking forward to excellent SIG Programs in Salt Lake City in 2019 and St Louis in 2020. We (PCR) are hosting in 2021 at Santa Clara and we're planning to put on the ultimate SIG program!

I had the opportunity to participate in a visit to several excellent layouts in Montana last month. These opportunities as well as large formal ops meet arise from time to time, so please contact me if you're interested in traveling to operate. Looking ahead we will hold the annual PCR/OP/LDSIG meet last weekend in January, the venue will be in Marin or Sonoma, so follow the PCR list for more details as they become available. Also, we are hosting BayRails in March of 2019. BayRails is aimed at visitors traveling from well beyond the Bay Area and we are always looking for hosts layouts and helpers.

Seth Neumann

sneumann@pacbell.net




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. 

SEE PAGE 43 



Finally, the bare bones of a layout.

What A Long Strange Trip It's Been
By Neil Fernbaugh
Daylight Division Superintendent & Director

It's been more than a decade since I returned to model railroading.

Several years before I retired, I dug into an old chest to show my grandson my old collection of Lionel 027, Marx, & what now seems to be ancient HO equipment. After that, my five-year plan for a layout began with opening my Dad's old Mare Island storage chest and pulling out those OK Herkimer passenger cars and those gear powered Alcos to show my grandson, Kyle.

After that, my journey towards my own Golden Spike began with visits to PSR and PCR conventions and encouragement from many of the folks you still see on the Daylight and Branch-line mastheads. I started with a 2x2 module for the Visalia Electric club, and some 2x4 switching modules that I thought would quickly be added to my home layout (they weren't).

A couple of my structures won awards or favorable notice from fellow modelers, and I was off on a building spree. After initial encouragement from the Visalia club, I also joined the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society in Bakersfield and their members encouraged me to get even more involved.

Doug Wagner welcomed me with open arms, and Dan Seames, let my grandson Kyle run his trains for hours on the layout. A few years later Jason Hill and Doug Willoughby invited me to operate on the famous La Mesa layout in San Diego, and I was hooked on operations.

I began acquiring everything I thought I would need or use. Swap meets, Al's old Bakersfield Hobby Shop, Anita's Central Coast Trains, innumerable visits to eBay, a couple of lucky estate sales.... My cabinets are full. I probably have more cork roadbed, flex track, spikes and tools than I'll ever use. I've actually stopped buying stuff and figure I can finance the next stages of construction by selling stuff off (call me).

Continued on page 18

I made one extensive but ill-fated attempt to insulate an old equipment storage shed on our ranch for a layout room before my wife and Chief Financial Officer stepped in and insisted on a roofed and air-conditioned room for my layout (that included new storage cabinets and a garage for her new car).

Since then, she has graciously wondered whether I might need room for a desk (for a dispatcher) and a shelf for staging in her side of the garage-- and granted a couple of holes in the wall to make it work.

So, finally, a layout begins to emerge from the chaos. Our contractor managed to put in double doors to the "TRAIN SHED" so I can roll out the old Powermatic table saw onto an outdoor concrete slab from its place under one of the two dog-bones that anchor the southwest and northwest corners of the bench work. Finally, the bench work is in, roadbed is under construction, and a couple of modules will be wired in.

Years of suggestions from the Layout Design SIG (Special Interest Group) and Operations SIG have merged into a somewhat coherent track plan that looks like it's going to work. I have at least five citrus packing sheds, some ag related chemical industries, mid-century sugar beet ops (mostly thanks to Chuck Catania), and by extension, the Monolith Cement Plant and other industries along the east side of the San Joaquin Valley. I designed a central division point yard at what I now call Bikersfield, where ag. products like the oranges my wife and I grow on our small ranch near Ivanhoe can be shipped east and west to the rest of the world.

I really wanted to stick to the kinds of prototype specific details that Jack Burgess' era specific Yosemite Valley railroad, and other SP and ATSF modelers have done so well, but I've opted for more of what some of our earlier modelers called "good enough." The end result appears to be a railroad that models the East side of the San Joaquin Valley as if the flooding of 1954 ended up with the SP and ATSF using the eastside lines as mainlines. But then, having been so enthralled with the crossing of the Sierra, I'm still trying to incorporate some tourist and timber industries around a mountain resort. We'll see how it works!

At one Southern Pacific Historical Society Convention, I had the opportunity to operate on Dave Houston's Burbank Branch, and that has become the model for my citrus industry branch line. Thanks to a chance to operate with Bruce Morden on Gary Siegel's L&N layout in Santa Barbara, I began to learn much more about using my layout to mimic how real railroads work, and how to turn my layout into more of a chess game or puzzle. That led me to even more interests in how to make my railroad work. More recently, our local leader, Bob Pethoud's, "Fall Creek Branch" switching layout led me to rethink how I will design more of my industrial switching.

As you can see from the photograph, my layout is very much in its beginning stages. Unlike a lot of layouts, it's probably a little less well planned out than the layouts you see in all those Layout Plans from Model Railroader and Tony Koestler. It seems like every riser I add, and every siding I put in, demands some change in benchwork, wiring, or scenery. One of the things I learned from Bill Obermeyer's layout in Atascadero is that you can create a wonderful layout in only a couple of years, so now that I'm started I hope to move along quickly.

Maybe in a year or two I will have something wonderful to show for my efforts, or maybe I will tear out everything and completely change some part of my layout. Mostly, I just want to thank all of you who have helped me on my journey, and urge all of you who are somewhere else along the path to your layout Nirvana to take advantage of all the opportunities your friends, NMRA divisions and regions, special interest groups and more specific historical societies, modular groups, and local clubs that make our hobby such a unique and special way to indulge our few spare moments.





The Answers Are Out There

Backdrop Building

by Robert Pethoud, Member Aid Chairman,
Daylight Division

A few years ago, I was offered some property alongside an existing railroad in Fresno County. The offer was contingent on my developing an industrial park for multiple companies wishing regularly to ship and/or receive carload lots from that railroad. The railroad was Marlin Costello's Goshen and Goosechase, now abandoned, but at the time an impressive HO scale model railroad. In this column I'll describe the first structure I erected in that industrial park.

Several miles apart along the old SP (now UP) main line between Fresno and Kingsburg, I found and photographed a couple of old corrugated metal buildings. One was situated on a concrete loading platform and featured faded lettering and richly colored irregular patches of rust; the other was painted a drab color and was unremarkable except for an attractive overhanging roof with exposed rafters and diagonal supports. Of course, I decided to construct a hybrid model having the best features of both buildings.

Selma Raisin—the name I gave this project—was to be a minimal-depth building front extending only a few inches from the backdrop but suggesting a much larger structure. I began with three pieces of 1/8" hardboard screwed to 1x1 corner posts to form the long wall and two short end walls. The end walls are of different lengths because the building and the railroad spur are not parallel to the backdrop. Campbell still makes corrugated aluminum and I decided this would look very authentic for the siding. Still, I used Evergreen corrugated styrene for the roof because it was cheap, available, and easier to use to form the odd trapezoidal shape I needed.



Selma Raisin

I glued strips of 1/16" thick balsa wood to the outsides of the walls to represent the concrete platform and to mount the siding. By leaving strategically placed gaps between these strips, I created the inset loading doors and pockets for the rafters and diagonal braces. Next, I cut the scale 8-foot long corrugated aluminum into pieces a scale 2½ feet wide and fixed them in place with Walthers Goo. The roof is all styrene, with scale-dimensioned rafters and diagonal braces bonded to the smooth side of the corrugated material.

All of the painting was done with spray cans, mostly Tamiya Color for Plastics. The first coat was a primer, and after it was dry I sprayed a dark gray (Tamiya TS-4) where the lettering was to be. When that was thoroughly cured, I attached ½" and ¼" stick-on letters for the company name and the numbers on the doors; then I sprayed all the walls and the roof with a lighter gray (AS-2 or AS-16, I don't remember which). When that was dry to the touch, I removed the stick-on letters to reveal the nicely contrasting sign and door numbers.

Finally, the entire building was weathered with Bragdon Enterprises chinks. A stiff-bristled brush works well to apply them, nearly always using vertical strokes (parallel to the corrugations). I say "nearly" because I found I needed to use some strokes perpendicular to the corrugations in order to get the chinks to spread out across the roof.

That's all there was to it: a few enjoyable hours spent photographing, measuring, cutting, gluing, spraying, and brushing and the Goshen and Goosechase had a brand new yet apparently old industry to serve. If you haven't done any scratch building lately (or ever), I recommend a simple background project like this one. Until next time, you can reach me at pethoud@comcast.net.



Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

The Schoolbug Backstory

by Jim Providenza

With Richard Lake

It's been a few years since Rick and Venita Lake have been out PCR way, but they have any number of friends among our members. We can hope they make it back out this way sometime soon. But in the meantime, I'd like to share with you something that Rick wrote.



The September issue of *Railroad Model Craftsman* has my article about kit-bashing a Bachmann doodlebug for Rick and Venita's El Dorado & El Reno RR, turning it into 'The Schoolbug'. Unfortunately, there wasn't room for the planned sidebar by Rick, talking about why this 'bug' meant so much to him. We think that it is worth sharing with our friends out this way...

Doodlebugs, Grandpa, and Me

by Richard Lake

I have always had a special fondness for Doodlebugs. They are linked to some of the happiest memories of growing up because of my Grandpa. He lived in Versailles, Missouri, which was served by the Rock Island Railroad. Trains 23 and 24 were the daily passenger service between Kansas City and Eldon, Missouri. These trains were not the grand streamlined Rockets. They were Doodlebugs. I probably had my first ride on one of these Doodlebugs when I was only a few months old, but I don't remember those early trips. (I was very young at the time.) Since Dad worked for the Rock Island, we always traveled by train and Mom would get on the Doodlebug in KC and take me to see my grandparents.

Every summer, starting when I was four years old, I got to spend a couple of weeks with Grandpa in Versailles. He taught me how to make a slingshot and shoot it. He LET me help him clean the movie theatre every morning and I got to keep any loose change I found. And always the trips to Versailles started with a trip on the Doodlebug. My first solo trip took place when I couldn't have been more than five. Dad took me to Union Station and introduced me to the con-

ductor. He was told where I was going, who was to meet me and to keep me on the train until we got there. I do remember those trips well. One of the highlights was the thrill of walking down the aisle to the water cooler, pulling the paper cup from the dispenser and getting a drink. I was probably responsible for the decimation of a small forest as I used up many paper cups each time. The Doodlebug stopped in every small town between KC and Versailles. It dropped off and picked up mail, packages, and people. It was the UPS truck of its time. I remember them unloading cardboard cartons of baby chicks, tomato plants, onion sets, and seed potatoes among other things. I am sure that to grownups the trip seemed long and slow (119 miles with 18 scheduled stops plus several flag-stops in 3 hours and 20 minutes), but to a kid on his way to spend time with Grandpa, there were so many things to see at each stop that the time seemed to fly past.

When Bachmann released a doodlebug a few years ago I had to have two of them. One was in the Rock Island livery since this was a part of those childhood memories. The other was undecorated, and the plan was that it would eventually receive some modifications and serve the El Dorado and El Reno Railroad, a freelanced railroad my wife and I are building.

Continued on page 21

The undecorated version was one of those “get around to it” projects until June of 2004 when Jim Providenza was in St. Louis doing clinics for the Mid Continent NMRA Regional Convention and operation on the El & El. One of the trains on the El & El’s schedule is called the Schoolbug.



Schoolbug @ Doughertys on the SCN
 Photo: Jim Providenza

It runs from Caddo Gap, Arkansas, to Glenwood, Arkansas every morning to take kids to the consolidated school in Glenwood. It continues on to El Dorado and then makes an afternoon return to pick the kids up and take them home to Caddo Gap. Jim was looking through some books I have showing Rock Island motive power and saw a bug very much like the one in this article. He thought it would be the perfect motive power to haul a coach and a boxcar or two as the El & El Schoolbug. I mentioned that I just happened to have an undecorated version on hand and he decided to take it back to California and turn it into the model you see in this article.

One of the great rewards in this hobby has been the friendships I have made. This Doodlebug is special because it represents both my childhood and a very good railroading friend.



Have you changed your address or other membership information?

Notify Headquarters

Email: nmrahq@nmra.org

Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am—4pm ET)

Looking Back

by Dave Connery, MMR, PCR Historian

Voices –

An Interview with Frank Markovich, MMR

Frank Markovich is first and foremost a model builder. He began building models about age 5 and has never stopped. Some of his earliest memories are of flying model airplanes about once a month with a cousin in the Half Moon Bay area. He started with plastic models – planes, boats, cars – and especially construction equipment. Eventually this led to building paper and balsa wood planes, which he loved but he quickly learned that he would get dizzy trying to fly the planes from a string. This



led to radio controlled planes but this seemed just as bad. It was disappointing when Frank would build a nice looking plane only to have it crash and get turned back into a kit.

A bit later, about high school, Frank discovered scale model trains – which did not crash. He especially enjoys structure building. At first these were plastic models by Revell and Atlas and Frank built his first layout, a small - perhaps 4' X 6' - with some trains and employing snap track. He dreamed of something bigger and worked on this layout off and on through college. Frank attended several Bay Area schools and graduated from San Francisco State and then obtained a Masters of Education. With Prop. 13 his adult division high school teaching job disappeared in 1978, the same year he married his wife, Susie.

That same year Colin Emerson introduced Frank to the NMRA through a hobby shop on 25th Avenue in San Mateo. Frank had seen some beautiful models on display built by Colin so Frank called him and he invited Frank over. Colin showed Frank how he finished and weathered buildings, most of which were Fine Scale Miniature models. Frank bought a couple of

FSM kits, built the first one according to the instructions and then started making changes to the second kit he built.

Frank entered his first contest at a Coast Division Meet at Reardon High School in the 1978-79 timeframe. At a Coast Meet he met Mic Greenberg. Mic taught Frank a lot of modeling techniques. During this time Frank finished an engineering degree. Mic was working at Ampex and he recruited Frank to work there. Once a week they would take a long lunch and go to a hobby shop together, compensating for the time by working at their desks during lunch on other days.

At this time Frank was building an HOn3 layout in the basement of their home in Daly City. This layout did not operate well. The small Shay locomotives would stall unless run at an un-prototypical fast speed, which bothered Frank. While attending a PCR Convention in Santa Rosa, Frank stopped at the Precision Scale booth. They had a Mich-Cal 13-ton T-boiler On3 Shay running back and forth on a short section of track and running at a prototypical slow speed. Frank watched this for hours – entranced at the perfection of the mechanism and expecting it to stall at any minute. It never did and Frank became hooked on On3.

In 1981 Frank was Contest Chair for the NMRA National Convention held in San Mateo. At this convention Frank won several first places in the “kit” category. The awards for that event were lanterns – which he thought were really cool!

In December, 1985 Frank and Susie moved into their present home in Belmont – by then they had two sons, Frankie and Michael. Their daughter Christine was born in 1988. They hired someone to dig out under the house, removing about 40 yards of dirt, rock and clay, which provided space for a finished room. Frank then began to build a logging themed On3 railroad in this 16' X 22' room.

Frank was Coast Division Contest Chair for at least 5 years and then ran a youth modeling program at the Coast Meets. He got all the materials for these sessions donated from local hobby shops and manufacturers (unfortunately most of these hobby stores are now gone).

Continued on page 23

During these years Frank also had a regular column on Narrow Gauge Modeling in the *NMRA Bulletin* (now the *NMRA Magazine*). Frank continued to build models for contest entry and stayed active in the hobby until in the mid-1990's. At that time Frank took a break from the hobby to spend more time with his wife and three kids and be involved with them in their activities. This was also a time when Frank was working long hours at his day job.

Frank had started teaching guitar in Adult Education right after he graduated from SF State. Then he was hired to teach guitar at Skyline College. He had his interview on Friday and the first class was Saturday – the next morning. This was in 1971 and he continued teaching as a part-time career for 47 years and instructed over 5,000 students.

Frank again became active in the hobby in 2006. By this time all three of his kids were grown. Frank finished his On3 layout, did a lot of model building and wrote several articles for the *Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette* and he won a number of contests. To support the NMRA recruitment effort Frank and Mike Blumensaadt, MMR built three “Build a Memory” layouts, which were a regular part of the NMRA membership booth at Bay Area Train Shows. The two of them did this for over 8 years, building one HO layout and two N scale layouts and showing them 2 or 3 times each year.

Frank took responsibility for running the West Side Reunion in 2014 and has been able to increase participation and enthusiasm for this annual event held each spring in Sonora, California. Frank was elected Superintendent of Coast Division in 2012 and held this position for four years. He is currently in his second term as Coast Director on the PCR Board of Directors. He was an active member of the Yosemite Short Line On30 portable layout for 10 years. He often attends both NMRA National and National Narrow Gauge Conventions and has won about 10 first places in the NMRA National Convention Contests, along with numerous PCR Contests. Frank has also provided clinics on his modeling techniques at Coast Division and PCR events. Frank was on the National Committee on Recruitment and Retention in 2015-16. He became NMRA Master Model Railroader #514 in

2014. He was Coast Member of the Year in 2014 and received the PCR Presidents Award in 2015. He has also written articles for *N-Scale Magazine*.



Frank Markovich

Building models remains his prime interest and he often alternates between building a craftsman kit and scratch-building a model, keeping his interest and enthusiasm strong. He especially enjoys building structures, vehicles and caterpillars. While he is not personally into operations he understands why that is the most interesting aspect of the hobby for many. He runs trains on his layout infrequently – usually hosting a layout open house for visits 1 or 2 times a year and showing the layout room to people who visit their home.

Susie and Frank enjoy riding trains and attending model railroad conventions. His favorite convention is the National Narrow Gauge Convention – the very best modeling in the country can be viewed in their contests. Frank particularly enjoys narrow gauge railroads and he models a fictional line called the “Twain Harte and Sonora Pass”, based on the West Side Lumber Company and incorporating many West Side prototype models and as you can see, he is a consummate model builder.



Innovators In Model Railroading

By Chris Palermo

HOW A PERSONAL TOOL BECAME A THRIVING BUSINESS - THE STORY OF FASTTRACKS

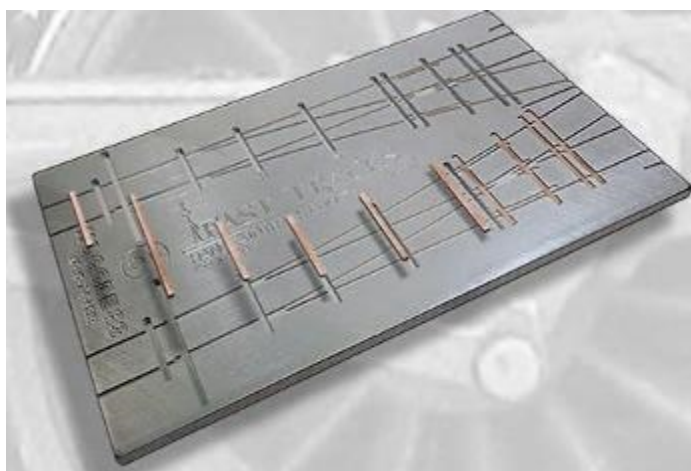
Model railroaders are relentlessly creative and well-known for creating their own tools to solve a particular model or layout fabrication problem. Usually these tools are simple, if clever, and used only by individual modelers or occasionally described and shown in online forums. But what happens when an unusually innovative tool causes modelers to demand commercial production? This is the story of Fast Tracks Hobbyworks, Inc. of Port Dover, Canada.

Fast Tracks CEO Tim Warris grew up a short distance from former Grand Trunk trackage, then operated by Norfolk & Western, in small-town southern Ontario and became active in model railroading at an early age. Years later, after starting a family, he started the HO scale Port Kelsey Railway, which was featured in the August 1997 *Model Railroader*. A switching layout, it had 100% traditional code 70 hand laid track with #4 turnouts. (You can revisit it in Tim's blog, no longer updated, at <http://www.port-kelsey.com/>.) This was followed by two more layouts with hand laid track that were mostly satisfying, yet still a little frustrating because the turnout geometry was imperfect. This experience caused Tim to realize that the difference between perfect reliability and problems is merely a few thousandths of an inch.

By 2002, Tim had completed education as a machinist, then began planning a layout based on the Bronx Terminal Railroad, the prototype of which had exceptionally complex trackage. Faced with the need to efficiently build dozens of turnouts that had to operate reliably, Tim realized there had to be a better way than traditional construction. The Bronx Terminal build inspired him to try using CNC milling machines to cut a turnout construction fixture in plywood. While his plywood prototype worked well, it did not accommodate ties, and began to wear out. This inspired Tim to make #4, #5, and #6 fixtures, both left-



hand and right, in CNC milled aluminum. (For an example, see the image below.) These worked extremely well.



The Bronx Terminal concept was put aside, and Tim pivoted to constructing a two-deck HO layout that incorporated the Port Kelsey; while it was underway, he worked on a large club layout nearby. During a layout tour there, he happened to leave the fixtures on display and modeler interest was instantaneous, with numerous requests for copies. The first person to ask was Clark Kooning, now Vice President of Administration for NMRA and a veteran user of Fast Tracks products in NMRA Modeling with the Masters® programs.

In 2003, Tim worked with a family member to create and launch an attractive website for promotions and sales, then delighted as orders began arriving.

Continued on page 25

He also acquired a new CNC machine to produce them and developed fixtures that accommodated PC board ties in slots in the tool

This transition wasn't perfectly smooth; the new CNC machine suffered a power supply failure immediately and would not cut with the precision that Tim needed, requiring extensive interaction with its manufacturer over several weeks to work out bugs. Fortunately, customer feedback was excellent, and sales began to take off.

By 2004, making and selling Fast Tracks products had become a full-time occupation and Tim had to hire his first employee. Significant sales were realized at Fast Tracks' first trade show appearance at the 2005 NMRA convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Fast Tracks has exhibited and sold at virtually every NMRA national convention since.

While the majority of customers are in North America, Fast Tracks has significant sales in Australia, Europe, Japan, Israel, South Africa, Russia and elsewhere. The company operates today with up to five employees, depending on demand.

Tim also has diversified into products other than track construction fixtures. Seeking a consistent source to supply wood ties to customers, Tim acquired the Mount Albert Lumber brand of strip wood and wood kits, relocating that business to Canada. Beyond wood and PC board ties, Fast Tracks also offers flex track curvature tools; rail curving tools; tie cutting jigs; rail; and acts a reseller for turnout controls, frog powering circuits, and other products.

Fast Tracks has continued to develop new kits under the Mount Albert brand. Its next release, formally announced at the National Narrow Gauge Convention, is a craftsman structure representing a chair manufacturer, "Last Resort Chair Co.," in O scale. (see photos at right) Also released recently is The Lumber Store, a rotating tubular strip wood storage rack sold with or without a complete stock of wood; the product is available with wood dimensioned for several different scales.

New Fast Tracks products are currently cut by Tim's



original CNC machine, now 15 years old. However, Fast Tracks recently acquired a new fully automated 4-axis CNC machining center that can cut multiple products consecutively without operator interaction. Tim expects this machine to permit significant expansion into products other than track fixtures; those are unannounced as of this writing.

In speaking with *Branch Line*, Tim also reflected on the challenges of turning a hobby into a business. "You spend a lot of time learning accounting," Tim said. "While you'll spend a ton of time perfecting your products, it's just as important to have great-running, well organized accounting systems to manage revenue and taxes."

Continued on page 26

He also noted the importance of establishing a business and not just a job, by creating written procedures for all major functions of the business and all products. The memorialization of these procedures and instructions becomes the foundation of a business that others can enter and learn, or that can be sold in the future.

Tim also believes the future of the hobby is bright, and that the number of modelers is far larger than indicated by association membership, magazine readership or train show attendance numbers. Fast Tracks currently ships up to 4,000 orders per year, a remarkable number for a company still focused on hand laid track. (The company's website is www.handlaidtrack.com.)

While Tim is modest in describing the business, it's not an understatement to say that Fast racks track assembly fixtures and kits have revolutionized the process of building bulletproof hand laid track for model railroaders in practically all scales.

(Have an idea for another innovator in model railroading who should be featured here? Contact the author at: cjpalermo1964@gmail.com.)



Daylight Division Report By Neil Fernbaugh



With some of our officers out of the country, and the Bakersfield gang's main vehicle out of commission, our coastal members were still able to put together a great July meet at Gary Siegal's home in Santa Barbara . Bruce Morden gave a clinic on track cleaning, and Dana Driskel gave a clinic on McKeen cars. After lunch folks split up to run on Gary's G scale SP Santa Cruz division, or his L&N HO layout, while others went out to tour other layouts.

Special thanks to Bruce, Gary, Dana, Tom Fratello and everyone else who helped. I hope we are able to return again next year when more of us from the San Joaquin side of the Coast Range can make it over.

Our fall meet is scheduled to coincide with the Central Coast Railroad Festival on October 6th from 8:30 to about noon in the San Luis Obispo Memorial Building Lounge (\$4.00 members, \$5.00 nonmembers). Maps and details will be posted on our website. Bob Chaparro has put together almost 30 layout open houses over the week-end including a couple that may be only open to NMRA members and their guests. The Railroad Festival has events stretching from Paso Robles down to near Santa Barbara so there will be something for everyone. For those of you who are outside the division, and may want to join us, check out the weekend events listed at CCRFF.com.

Our winter meet is scheduled once again for the Kingsburg Historic Depot on the morning of January 26th, Details to follow.



Coast Division Report

By Doug Smith



It's Been a Bit of a Slow news month for the Coast Division, but I do have a few things to chat about:

Convention Update 2020

While planning is moving forward for the 2019 PCR convention in Sacramento and they are accepting reservations on their web site (Go there, sign up!), Coast Division is getting started on hosting the 2020 event. We have formed the core committee to get things started. Earl Girbovan, Chris Palermo and myself have taken on a shared convention chairmanship. Our first and probably most difficult task is selecting a site for the convention. We have selected several possible dates for the event and are in the process of soliciting bids from various venues. Securing a venue with affordable room rates and facilities is every bit as challenging as we thought it would be. More news as things are finalized. The next step is filling out the convention committee, but we're not there yet. We have several verbal commitments to lead certain functions. As always with any NMRA function, thanks in advance for volunteering and participating.

Coast Meet – Or Not ???

This is the strange spot in the year that catches Coast Division without a meet report. Our next meet will be late in September, the 23rd, so no report at the time I'm writing this. The report on the June meet was in the last dispatcher. So we'll call it Summer Vacation. Coast members are trickling back into town after the National in Kansas City, the Narrow gauge convention in Minneapolis, and many other rail related travels. Pictures and videos to share and see, stories to tell, smiles all around. Our next meet will be at the Elks' Lodge in Alameda on Sunday September 23rd starting at 9:00 AM. Directions and details are on the PCR calendar. There is no admission charge or parking fee for any of our Coast Division meets!!! Plan to arrive early and enjoy the day. Clif Linton and Tom Knapp will have clinics to share. Also model contests, show and tell, the roundtable and the famous Coast Division Auction will be there for your enjoyment. I hope to see everyone there.

What's the Best Model Railroading Weather?

You know it's a slow news day when we're talking about the weather. But here we are at the end of Summer. Summer is a great time to make progress on some layouts. Those in the garden come to mind first. Additions to and operating sessions for garden railways are great warm weather fun. Layouts in garages and out-buildings are coming up on their year's best weather. Layouts like mine in an indoor room should never have bad weather days. But really nice weather outside is always a problem in that it pulls you out the door to places like the BBQ grill or the beach. Snow and sleet are seldom Coast Division problems, which is either an advantage or not in getting that contest model built. Rainy and windy days keep the heaters and coffee pots going in the garages and club rooms, and you're not tempted to take the mountain bike out either. So enjoy your days as they come. It's always good railroading weather somewhere!

Be sure to see the following pages for a few photos!

Cheers, Doug

Continued on page 28

A Few Meet Snapshots from the June 3rd Meet



Mark Poggendorf at the Estate Planning Workshop



Brewster Bird Happily Shares His
Logging Equipment Expertise

Continued on page 29

A Damp Day at Sturgeon's Mill



A Nice Welcome on a Rainy Day



The Whistles From the Steam Donkeys Sounded Great in the Woods



Mike Fossie (L) and Bob Sturgeon Walked Us Through The Workings of the Mill and Sawed a Little Timber For Us.



Everything is Run on Belts, Pulleys, and a Lot of Hand-Me-Down Knowledge



Redwood Empire Division Report

By Steve Skold



September 8th was Redwood Empire Division's summer picnic. It was in conjunction with Roots of Motive Powers annual end of summer steam up. It started at 10 AM on Saturday and ran for two days. The first day ended with a BBQ at 4 PM.



Cliff and Denni Baumer with Dave Grundman (background)

There were two steam logging engines running, a two truck Heisler and a 2-6-2T that were double headed. (see photos below) NWP Caboose number 13 that was restored by the NWPRRHS in Sonoma County carried passengers at the rear of the train. RED members Cliff and Denni Baumer told us about the hours they spend working on the interior. They rode on it with Gus Campagna and Mary Moore-Campagna. At noon, we had a nice picnic lunch under the trees in the city park across the street.

We were saddened by the loss of Don Cabrall's widow Liz Cabrall who passed away on July 18th. Those of you who visited Don's Hessel and Lone Pine RR remember Liz' hospitality and great stories involving her family's sailboat racing. On a less tragic note, my wife Carol Skold is going in for hip replacement surgery on September 24th. She promises to be back in the contest room at the next PCR Convention better than ever.

The next RED meet will be at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa on Saturday November 17th from 11 AM until 4 PM. Mary Moore-Campagna will provide sandwiches, cookies and drinks as usual. We plan on displaying color prints of the various steam engines from the Roots of Motive Power weekend. RED member Mark Poggendorf is moving to Nebraska this fall and has resigned as PCR Contest chairman. He is being temporarily replaced by Giuseppe Aymar until President Ed Merrin finds a permanent replacement. Since the end of Ed's term is next May, I would not hold my breath if I were you Giuseppe. (more photos on next page)



Continued on page 31



Sierra Division Report

Chip Meriam, Editor - Chief Clerk



The Sierra Division meet took place at the Elk Grove Public Library in August. About 22 members participated in a hands - on scratch building “clinic” where everyone had a lot of fun trying to create something out of nothing - well almost nothing. All were given a small plastic bag with bits of wood, plastic and wire along with a single edge razor blade and a disposable paint brush. Glue and paint were available for all to share. The task was to create something from the materials in the bag. Unfortunately there is no sound recording of the comments and laughter that permeated the room during the work session.



Klaus Keil & Gary Ray Confer On Construction Techniques



Walt Schedler Lines Up The Pieces



Steve Harvath Shows Off His Two-Story Outhouse As Gary Ray Looks On



One Of The Favorites by Judy Chamblin

Continued on page 33

Following a break for lunch the judging for the contests took place. The categories were self-propelled rail cars in the modeling category and working on the railroad as the photography category. The modeling contest resulted in a tie for first place between Dick Witzens and Ken Martin. In the photo contest, first place went to Walt Schedler and Jim Collins took both second and third.



Dick Witzens



Ken Martin



Walt Schedler

Our second clinic of the day was Klaus Keil's presentation on Aviation in Model Railroading. Klaus covered the rationale and benefits of including aviation models in a model railroad, the various aviation model vendors and their offerings, and the special tools required. Klaus had several static display modules available for viewing and he included a good dose of history as he explained each module.



Jim Collins



Jim Collins

The next meet will be October 27 in Modesto. AND, International Rail Fair is November 10 & 11 in Roseville.

<http://www.internationalrailfair.com/>

If you want to help, contact Dave Fryman fryperson@hotmail.com.



Calendar

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

For a list of monthly activities see page 36

October 5 – 7, 2018 - [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. [MAP](#)

October 13 & 14, 2018 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Fall Train Show and Train Estate Sale, [Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club](#), 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. [MAP](#)

Fares:

- Adults: \$3.00
- Seniors (60+): \$2.00
- Children (6-12): \$2.00
- Children under 6: Free

Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com

October 13 & 14, 2018 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. ([MAP](#))

Admission is \$5.00 for adults, under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

The Carquinez Toy Train Operating Museum, located in the same building, will also be open at the same time. They have a large O scale model railroad that will also be operating. Admission is also \$5.00.

October 18, 2018 (Thursday) 9:00 - 5:00
Colusa Shasta Division OP Session - 1140 3rd Street, Colusa, CA . Beans at noon, donation \$5.00. Last train out at 4:30PM. MUST CALL AHEAD, PLEASE. Walt and Carolyn Schedler: (530) 458 8383, (408) 431 1660

October 27, 2018 - [Sierra Division](#) Fall Meet, Morning open house - Morada Belt. Afternoon meet at Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, 2766 Dakota Avenue, Modesto, CA. ([MAP](#)) Chip Meriam chipmeriam@comcast.net

November 1 – 3, 2018 - [The Fine Scale Model Expo 2018](#), Downtown Albany New York Hilton & Convention Center, Albany, New York. Vendor show opens at noon on Friday • Layout tours • Clinics • Contests & Prizes - \$1000 BEST-IN-SHOW! • Prizes for first place in each category. [Expo Contest Rules](#)

November 2 - 4, 2018 Northern Nevada Layout Tour, Contact Jim Petro (775) 852 5636, jpetro328@gmail.com

November 10 & 11, 2018 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, FREE Model Train Show, [Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club](#), Aspen Builders Inc. Activity Center at the Tehachapi Recreation and Park District, 410 West "D" Street (off Mill Street), Tehachapi, CA. [MAP](#)

November 10 & 11 - Saturday 10:00 to 5:00, Sunday 10:00 to 4:00, International Rail Fair, Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville, CA. Demos, vendors, snack bars, train mart, consignment store. <http://www.internationalrailfair.com/>

November 17, 2018 - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, [Redwood Empire Division](#) Fall Meet, Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave, Santa Rosa, CA. [MAP](#)

December 2, 2018 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, [Coast Division](#) Meet, 1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA. (at SF Bay Area Council Office of Boy Scouts of America) [FLYER](#) **Driving:** Exit Davis Street from Highway 880, 0.6 mi east to 1001 Davis on right. [MAP](#)

BART: Exit San Leandro Station, walk 0.3 mi west on Davis St to SW corner of Davis at Orchard Ave, across from Thrasher Park. Enjoy free clinics, model, photo & switching contests & displays. Free door prizes. Buy raffle tickets for modeling prizes, enjoy silent and live auctions of model railroading stuff.

January 25 – 27, 2019 – Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sponsored by [Pacific Coast Region-NMRA](#), [Layout Design](#) and [Operations](#) Special Interest Groups.

Location: TBD

The meet and all three days of layout tours are open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. NMRA, PCR, LDSIG, or OPSIG membership is NOT required! If you can't join us for the entire meet, at least come out and enjoy some truly wonderful layouts.

Friday - Kick-off dinner (no-host) at a location to be determined later in 2018

Saturday - 8:30 am to 10:00 pm - Clinics and panel discussions, layout design consultations, "Birds of a Feather", followed by layout tours.

Sunday - Operations Sessions (newcomers and out-of-towners encouraged!), layout tours. More information will be posted in the latter months of 2018. Save the dates!

Continued on page 35

Calendar

May 2 – 5, 2019 - Diamond Rails Forever 2019, PCR/FRRS Joint Convention, Lions Gate Hotel, McClellan Convention Center—McClellan Park, 3410 Westover Street, Sacramento, CA. ([MAP](#))

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

For a list of monthly activities see page 36

September 4 – 7, 2019 - 39th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Sacramento, CA. See the website for organizer email addresses. Save the dates!

Coast Division N-Scale modelers are invited to join the Nor-Cal Nn3 Group which will be used to coordinate preparations for this convention and the layout(s):
<https://groups.io/g/Nn3-NorCal>



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

Branch Line Deadlines for 2018

OCT-NOV-DEC 2018 issue
Articles due by
September 10, 2018

JAN-FEB-MAR 2019 issue
Articles due by
December 10, 2018

APR-MAY-JUN 2019 issue
Articles due by
March 10, 2019

JUL-AUG-SEP 2019 issue
Articles due by
June 10, 2019

Please direct questions to the PCR Publications Manager, Gus Campagna at campgus@earthlink.net
Or phone (707) 664-8466

Monthly Activities

First and Third Thursday - 7:00 PM / Siskiyou Model RR Club / Yreka Western Depot, 300 East Miner St., Yreka, CA (Exit 775 from I-5). Info: Tom Brass, (530) 842-4921, Glenn Joesten (530) 340-2537

First Friday 7:30 PM / [San Leandro Historical Railway Society](#) (HO, O, G), Monthly meeting / 1302 Orchard Ave, San Leandro, CA / Club phone 510-569-2490 / Info: info@slhrs.org.

First Friday 7:30 to 10:00 PM / [Golden State Model Railroad Museum](#) / East Bay Model Engineers Society (O, HO, N, Narrow Gauge, Traction) / Point Richmond, CA / Club Phone 510-234-4884 or info@gsmrm.org

Second Tuesday 7:30 PM / [Empire Builders Model Railroad Club](#) (HO) 3318 School St, Oakland, CA / e-mail: president@ebmrc.org

Second Wednesday 8:00 PM / [West Bay Model Railroad Association](#), Monthly Business Meeting, 1090 Merrill Street, Menlo Park, CA / Lauren Mercer 650-322-9335 or Tom Vanden Bosch 650-369-8305

Second Wednesday 7:30 PM / [Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society](#) (HO&N) Bakersfield, CA / Doug Wagner, e-mail: carldw@aol.com or 661-589-0391 / Club phone: 661-325-5820

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) Sacramento, CA / Roland DiFranco 209-948-6776 or Steven Stern, e-mail: sterns@rahul.net

Second Saturday 1:30 PM / [Carquinez Toy Train Operating Museum](#) Business Meeting, 645 Loring Ave (Across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. [MAP](#)

Second Saturday 3:00 - 6:00 PM / [California Central Club](#) (HO & HOn3) / Old Agnew Station, 4185 Bassett St, Santa Clara, CA / Subject to change, contacting us in advance of your visit is highly recommended at: ccmrc1961@gmail.com

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](#) (all) Oceano Depot, CA / Dennis Pearson, e-mail: info@sломra.org or 805-929-3062

Third Tuesday 7:00 PM / Visalia Electric Model Railroad & Historical Society / Meets at Apple Annie's Restaurant, 1165 N Blackstone, Tulare, CA / or member homes. Don Smith, e-mail: dcksmith@sbcglobal.net

Third and First Thursday - 7:00 PM / [Siskiyou Model RR Club](#) / Yreka Western Depot, 300 East Miner St., Yreka, CA (Exit 775 from I-5). Info: Tom Brass, (530) 842-4921, Glenn Joesten (530) 340-2537

Third Friday 7:00 - 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 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Noon / [San Joaquin Central](#) Operating Session (HO) / Fresno, CA / Chuck Harmon, e-mail: harmon-sta@aol.com or 559-299-4385. It's April 1949 on SP's Donner Pass and fictitious SJC. An advance courtesy contact is appreciated. Send e-mail to be added to mailing list.

Third Saturday / [Sacramento Modular Railroads](#) Operating Session (HO) / Sacramento, CA / Scott McAllister, e-mail: scooter923@att.net

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

These activities occur each month on the days indicated. See the Club Info section starting on page 35 for location and contact information

Continued on page 37

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Alameda County Central Railroad Society

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

Amador County Model Railroad Museum

The ACMRRM is located at #1 Main Street, Jackson, California adjacent to the historic National Hotel. Our non-profit association is open to the public from 10 AM to 5 PM, Friday through Sunday during Winter months and Wednesday through Sunday during the Summer. Work sessions are held every Tuesday starting at 10 AM. Our scenic DCC HO-scale layout depicts the lumber and gold mining history of Amador County. Operations include the Amador Central short line as well as the railroads of California's Central Valley including terminals at Stockton and Sacramento.
Contact: Robert Piety, 209-296-3587 email rdpiety@sbcglobal.net

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.

California Central Model RR Club

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

Carquinez Model Railroad Society

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

Coastal Valley Lines

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

Continued on page 38

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 BillKeaney (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: ww.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

Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad Museum

26 Station Place - Salinas, CA 93901
The Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad Museum is dedicated to creating & maintaining a Railroad Museum in Salinas with an emphasis on the historic, contemporary and future value of the Railroad to the Salinas Valley and Monterey Bay Regions, providing experiential educational opportunities for children of all ages enhancing the core curriculum and inspiring civic involvement in our communities.
Open first weekends of each month 10AM - 4PM
831 789 8097
www.msvrr.org
info@msvrr.org

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you



HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

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

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

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

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



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

Then, get that popcorn ready.

Continued on page 39

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: Napa-John@napanet.net Web: www.nvmrc.org

Nn3 Alliance

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

Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society

Established in 1948, the SMRHS is located at 1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento. Modeled as the Sierra Central RR, both HO and HOn3 layouts. HO layout is being rebuilt to depict SP/WP prototype. Open Tues. and Fri. nights, 7:30 PM. Contact: 916-927-3618
Email: d.megeath@comcast.net
Web: www.smrhs.com

Sacramento Modular Railroaders

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

Sacramento Valley Live Steam Railroad Museum (SVLSRM)

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

San Joaquin Valley Garden Railway Society

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

San Joaquin Valley Toy Train Operators

We are an all scale train club. We have members in scales from Z to G. Whether you are someone who likes to run toy trains in circles or model an exact date, railroad or scene or anything in between you are welcome. Everyone who likes trains is welcome. You don't need to own any trains. We have two portable layouts that we set-up at public locations. We have set them up at care facilities, Amtrak stations, train shows and other places. We also have outside club activities. We have gone on the train to Sacramento and the Sacramento Rail Museum. We've ridden the train at Railtown 1897 SHP and had a private tour there. Also we have visited home train layouts and will have many other activities in the future. Our meetings are in Turlock, usually at 1:30 on the first Sunday of each month. Holidays or other events can change that. We always get there by 1 PM to visit and see what others have brought to show. For more information please call Ed Cathcart at 209-479-4432

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Continued on page 40

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: Eugene Brichacek, 510-963-2965 email: embrichacek@gmail.com

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA)

The SLOMRA is a multi-scale modular group with active N and HO scale layouts. The goal of our nonprofit 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.

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

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.

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. 5:00 to 8:00 PM or Sat. 10:00 AM to 3:00 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 Steve Skold (707) 539-1782 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>

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, 209-679-5204 Mail: 829 Mellon Ave. Manteca, CA 95337 E-mail: bcantu@SQ50.com

Tri-city Society of Model Engineers

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

Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society

The WCMRS located at 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, is open 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 in the former S.P. baggage building at 1090 Merrill St., between the Menlo Park train station and Ravenswood Ave. Construction is nearly complete on a DCC 2-level HO layout designed for operations. Scheduled work sessions are Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, while monthly business meetings occur at 8 pm the third Wednesday and operating sessions the second Saturday of each month. Prospective members and visitors are always welcome! Contact Lou Cartalano at 650-964-5603, leave a voice message at 650-322-0685 or visit wbmrra.ning.com and [facebook.com/wbmrra](https://www.facebook.com/wbmrra) for more info..

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you



We not only welcome your input here at the *Branch Line*, we actively encourage it!

In fact, may we say that we go so far as to solicit your input?

If you have a small article you would like to submit for publication, or even just an idea for an article, please let us know. We will be happy to work with you.

Just contact our editor, Chip Meriam, at:

chipmeriam@comcast.net

We're looking forward to hearing from you!





NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.

Wow! Did you know there's a new NMRA Member Benefit?

It's the NMRA Partner Program!

Model railroad manufacturers are partnering with the NMRA to offer discounts to NMRA members.

Current members log in to www.nmra.org. At the Members Menu, go to the NMRA Partnership Page to see who's on the list, discounts offered, and how to order. New Partners are coming on board every month, so check back often.

If you're not yet a member, here's another great reason to join and get more fun from your hobby with a membership in the world's largest model railroad organization.

www.nmra.org

A proud Partner with



PCR Membership Gauge

- August 31, 2017—967
- September 30, 2017—955
- October 31, 2017—952
- November 30, 2017--952
- December 31, 2017--957
- January 31, 2018--948
- February 28, 2018--943
- March 31, 2018—944
- April 30, 2018—936
- May 31, 2018—933
- June 30, 2018—937
- July 31, 2018—938
- August 31, 2018—944



MemberID number: 123456 00
 Expiration date: 01/08/12
 Member since: 01/08/11

The best gift card you'll ever give.

(Or receive!)

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

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

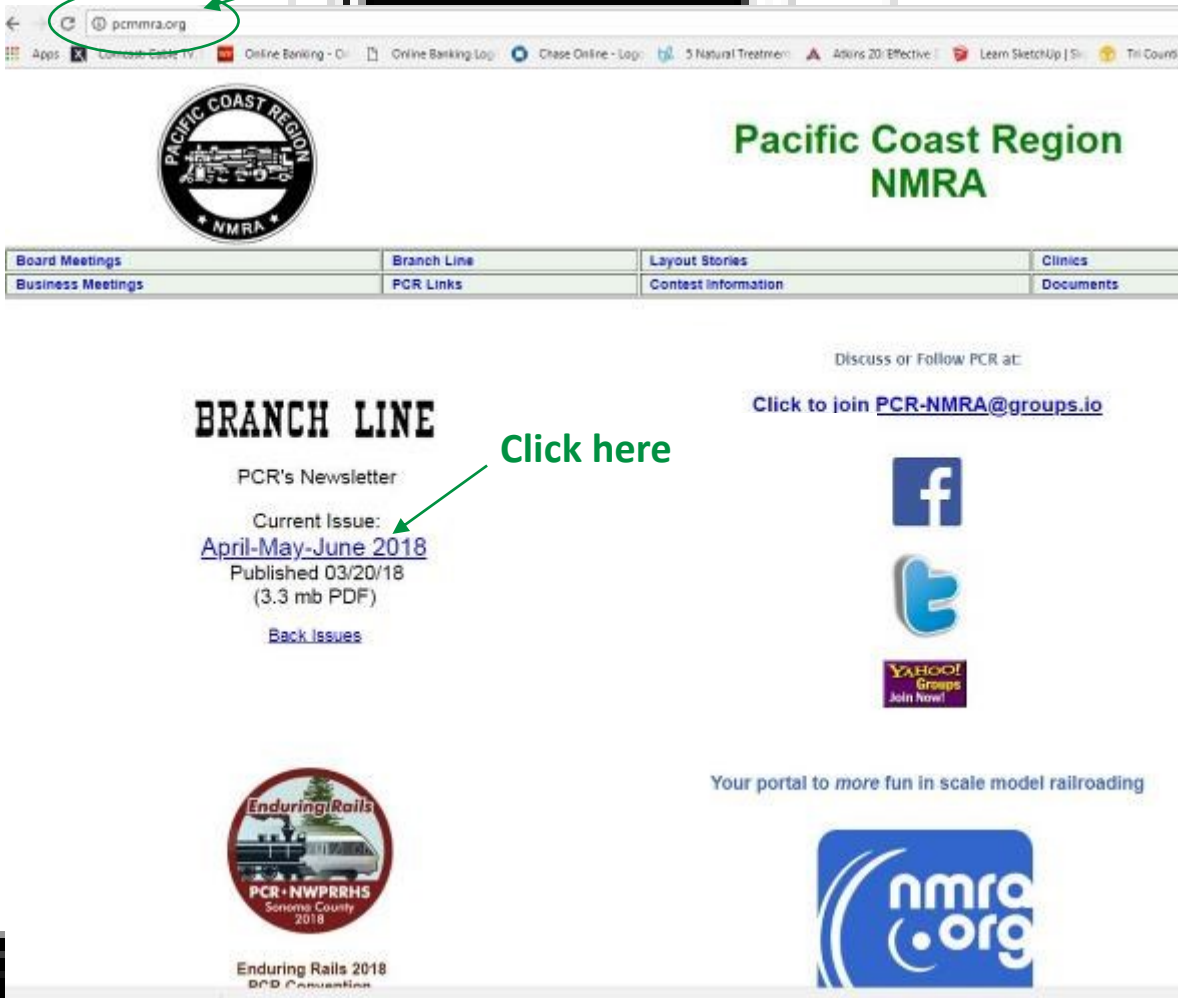
Perfect as a gift for holidays, birthdays, graduations, Fathers Day, Mothers Day...even Valentine's Day!



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

Read the *Branch Line*
On Line

Go to pcnmra.org



The screenshot shows a web browser at pcnmra.org. The page features the Pacific Coast Region NMRA logo and a navigation menu with links for Board Meetings, Branch Line, Layout Stories, Clinics, Business Meetings, PCR Links, Contest Information, and Documents. A green arrow points to the 'Branch Line' link in the menu. Below the menu, the 'BRANCH LINE' section is highlighted, with a green arrow pointing to the 'Current Issue: April-May-June 2018' link. To the right, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Yahoo! Groups, along with a link to join the PCR-NMRA group. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'Enduring Rails 2018' and the 'nmra.org' logo.

Click here

SAVE A TREE !!

BRANCH LINE
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553