

NMRA

PACIFIC COAST
REGION

BRANCH LINE



NMRA'S FIRST REGION

Apr-May-Jun 2026



Petaluma River Scene on Ed Merrin's Northwestern Pacific

Ed's Northwestern Pacific is just one of twelve layouts to open for tour during the upcoming Pacific Coast Region convention in Rohnert Park. See more preview photos of layouts and excursions in the convention coverage beginning on page 17.

The Branch Line
The Official Publication of the
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Model Railroad Association

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

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All comments about materials contained in the BRANCH LINE should be mailed directly to the PCR Publications Manager, 1915 William Drive, Penngrove, CA94951.

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

Branch Line
Deadlines for 2026/2027

JUL-AUG-SEP 2026 issue
 Articles due by
June 10, 2026

OCT-NOV-DEC 2026 issue
 Articles due by
September 10, 2026

JAN-FEB-MAR 2027 issue
 Articles due by
December 10, 2026

APR-MAY-JUN 2027 issue
 Articles due by
March 10, 2027

Please direct questions to the
Branch Line Editor,
 Chip Meriam at
chipmeriam@comcast.net
 Or phone (530) 228-1544

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The Hobby Business



**Chip Meriam,
PCR President**

Clearly, there is an endeavor known as “the model railroad hobby business.” Think of such giants as Walthers, Kadee, and Athearn. These are all companies in the business of producing and selling model railroad hobby equipment.

Then there are model railroaders that have created a business from their hobby. Some examples might be Lance Mindheim, Custom Model Railroad Building; Rick Rideout, Rix Products; or Jason Shron, Rapido. When you think about it, there must be hundreds, if not thousands of large and small businesses whose primary focus is the hobby of model railroading.

And there are the folks involved in “the business of the hobby.” These are the men and women who thrive on keeping the hobby alive. They are the model railroad club presidents, the NMRA division superintendents and regional officers, the NMRA Board of Directors, the newsletter editors, the contest managers, the achievement program managers, and countless other volunteers.

All of us are connected to, and supportive of the hobby of model railroading. The primary goal of the businesses is to make a profit. The primary goal of the volunteers is to.....?? Good question! Why do we do it? Well, Jim Providenza gives us a little insight on the “why” in his column in this issue. He cites “Anticipation” and “Camaraderie” as motivators. Jim looks forward to seeing the fruits of his volunteer labor delight other modelers, and he enjoys the company and kibitzing of his fellow volunteers in the process. Indeed, as many have said, one of the greatest benefits of involvement in model railroading is joy of social interaction with like-minded individuals.

Perhaps you could benefit from a little anticipation and camaraderie, too. The truth is, the hobby needs you just as much as you need the hobby. Possibly you’ve been thinking about “jumping in” for quite some time. Maybe you’re new to the hobby and seeking an opportunity to get in a little deeper. Well, here’s a great way to start:

The Pacific Coast Region convention is coming up at the end of April. Volunteers are still needed in many areas from contest judging to audio visual support. Please contact the volunteer coordinator, Frank Markovich, at volunteers@pcr2026.org. Frank will be happy to put you to work in “The Business of the Hobby.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Markovich', written in a cursive style.

Have you joined the NMRA Interchange? It's the newest tool to help you connect with other members, gain knowledge and learn to modeling techniques. The Interchange is hosted on the Discord application which is available for Windows, Apple OS, Android and Apple devices. See instructions below for signing up.

Joining the NMRA Interchange

Speed Muller

IT Manager, NMRA

Have you joined the Interchange yet? If not, follow these steps to get connected!

1. Go to nmra.org/nmra-interchange
2. It will ask you to log in to the NMRA website if you're not already logged in. If you are not registered with the NMRA website yet, now's the time to do it. Click the "Need a username? Register now" button, and get set up. Use the email address on file in the NMRA membership system (probably the one where you got this eBulletin). The system will email you a link to set your password.
3. Now you should be in the [NMRA Interchange](#) page. If not, click this link.
4. Click on [Member Info](#) in the top right corner and scroll down get your exact Member ID. You'll need that later.
5. Read through the page and then follow the "Interchange Server Invite" link at the bottom. This is a special link just for you and will look something like <https://discord.gg/xxxxxxx>
6. You will be taken to Discord (the platform that hosts the NMRA Interchange) where you will be prompted to sign in, if you already have an account there, or prompted to register, if not. If you need instructions for creating an account or logging into Discord they can be found [here](#).
7. Once you accept the NMRA Interchange Invite, and you are logged in, you will land in **#the-lobby** with a message on what to do next.
8. We suggest that you read and agree to the **#rules** first. Just click on **#rules** and then click on "thumbs up". Then click on **#the-lobby** again to do the most important step.
9. Discord and the NMRA need to check with each other, in order to verify that you are a current NMRA member with an email on file. You start the process with the **/onboard** command. Now, this is very sensitive to the type of device you are using, so just type the first few letters **/onb** at the bottom where you see a + sign in a circle. It will complete the command for you in a pop-up just above that. Click on the **/onboard** command. Add your membership number (6 characters followed by a space and then two more characters) just as you noted in step 4. Example: **/onboard input: 123456 0A**
10. Discord and the NMRA computers will have a chat, and then you will receive an email containing a **/clearance** command. That's your entry ticket. Copy and paste the whole line into **#the-lobby** (at the + sign again). Example: **/clearance input: 654321**
11. You're in! You will not have to do any of this again. If anything derails, you'll get a message telling you what to do next, and we also have Moderators in the Interchange standing by to help.
12. If all went well, you'll now see more than 350 channels (those # things). We suggest you start by going to **#introduce-yourself** and then scroll up to **#the-workbench** to see what others have done and shared! Then find your Region and Division and say "hello" there. And then start participating and enjoy!



Membership

In Memoriam

<u>Member</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Coast		
Robert Brown, MMR & Lifetime Member	Los Altos CA	1/1/1962
Allen Gravelle	Alameda CA	2/1/2025
Terry Craig	San Francisco CA	5/1/2008
Sierra		
Emil Witzens	Elk Grove CA	1/1/1985
Ken Smith	Reno NV	1/2/2007
Redwood Empire		
Ronald Kaiser	Santa Rosa CA	3/14/2001
John Huckaby	Santa Rosa CA	12/1/2018
Doug Smith	Santa Rosa CA	2/1/2014

PCR Membership Gauge

February 29, 2016—989
 February 28, 2025—758
 March 31, 2025—765
 April 31, 2025—760
 May 31, 2025—744
 June 30, 2025—741
 July 31, 2025—740
 August 31, 2025—743
 September 30, 2025—724
 October 31, 2025—723
 November 30, 2025—691
 December 31, 2025—697
 January 31, 2026—684
 February 28, 2026—673

Have you changed your address or other membership information?

Please Notify Headquarters.

Email: nmrahq@nmra.org

Phone: 423-892-2846 (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM eastern)

PCR Membership Tracker

<u>Division</u>	<u>#Members</u>
Coast	294
Sierra	206
Redwood Empire	90
Daylight	<u>83</u>
TOTAL	673

Welcome Aboard ! PCR's Newest Members

Member	City, Sate	Date Joined
Daylight		
Visalia Electric	Woodlake CA	12/16/2025
Cheryl Peterson	Visalia CA	12/22/2025
Paul Gaines	Visalia CA	12/28/2025
Jack Erhart	Paso Robles CA	1/6/2026
James Powell	Fresno CA	1/8/2026
Art Sasaki	Fresno CA	2/19/2026
Martin Winter	Fresno CA	2/19/2026
Connor Rock	Merced CA	2/21/2026
Coast		
Michael Escobar	Berkeley CA	12/8/2025
Christopher Long	San Leandro CA	12/30/2025
Matthew Covington	Belmont CA	1/20/2026
Sierra		
Glenn Holley	Carmichael CA	12/8/2025
Peter Fishburn	Carson City NV	12/8/2025
Steve Cowan	Sacramento CA	12/8/2025
Debra Fryman	Lincoln CA	12/8/2025
Charles Sutter	Roseville CA	12/8/2025
William Simpson	Pilot Hill CA	12/8/2025
Tom Rambo	Stockton CA	12/17/2025
Charleta Spinks	Auburn CA	2/5/2026
Richard McCready	Orangevale CA	2/17/2026
Paul Christoferson	Stockton CA	2/21/2026
Redwood Empire		
Christopher Zanella	Santa Rosa CA	12/8/2025
James Dunn	Cotati CA	12/23/2025
Jonathan Rodriguez	Guerneville CA	12/29/2025
Peter Schmidt	Hydesville CA	1/13/2026

LAST RUN

Ron Kaiser



Ron grew up in the Los Angeles area and became an Eagle Scout. He went on to Stanford University, where he received an undergraduate degree in Geology, then a masters degree in business administration. After graduation, he became a founding partner in a very successful financial and asset management firm. His firm continues to this day to receive awards for distinction in their field.

As a young man Ron with his father had done some camping in Tahoe National Park which he loved. He continued hiking in the Sierra and has an extensive collection of peaks he had “Bagged” (climbed). Ron as a young man had spent a few summers at his grandfather’s farm in the Midwest. Farming became a desire he just had to experience. He satisfied that desire buying a vineyard on the Russian river. The vineyard was completed with a 1000 sq. ft. train room. This was the out growth of his American Flyer train from his youth. The farming urges waned and he moved into the Santa Rosa area where his train room grew to 1250 Sq .ft.

Ron modeled the Western Pacific RR in HO, running from the Bay Area to Winnemucca Nevada. This allowed him to model the Sierra area he roamed earlier in his life. Shortly upon completion of his first train room, he took art lessons so he could paint the Sierras as a backdrop.

Ron’s Western Pacific is an end-or-end layout design with the possibility for continuous running. A full ops session requires fifteen operators to complete a schedule. A session will run three or four passenger trains and an extensive range of freight trains including; reefers, coal, grain, stock and mixed train consists with about sixteen or so cars.

A year ago Ron was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. He passed away in January of this year at 81years of age. He has many fine friends who continue to operate and display his layout as Ron so wanted.



LAST RUN

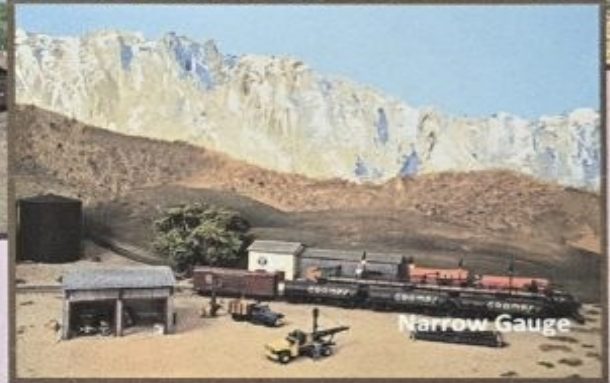
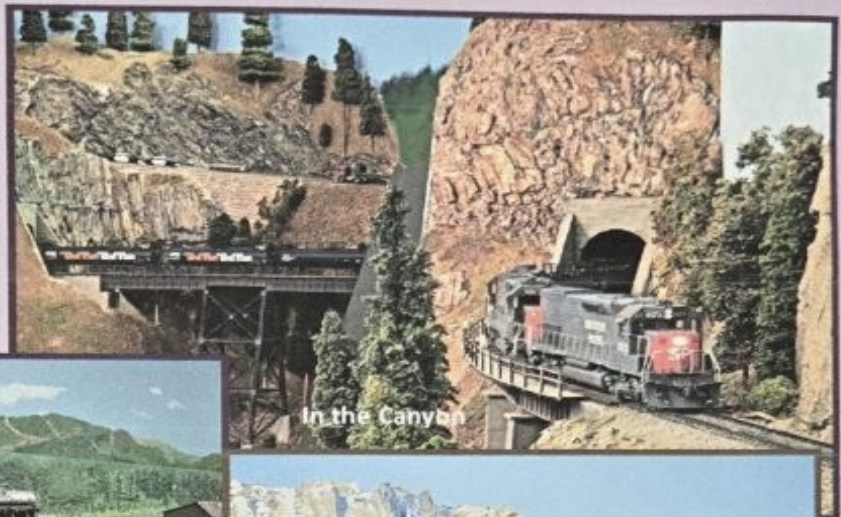
Doug Smith



We are deeply saddened to share that Doug Smith has recently passed away. Doug was passionate about model railroading and spent many years as a dedicated member and volunteer with both the NMRA and PCR. He served as Superintendent of the Coast Division and, after moving to Sonoma County, became very involved with the Redwood Empire Division, the Hi-Baller's Operating Group and later served as the Redwood Empire Division Superintendent.

Doug made a lasting impression on everyone he met in the model railroading community, and his contributions to the PCR will not be forgotten. We are grateful for everything he did over the years. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family during this difficult time, and we wish them comfort and peace in the days ahead.





Model Railroad Show

Spring Open House

Saturday, May 30, 2026 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday, May 31, 2026 10 am to 3 pm

Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society

1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento, Ca. 95838

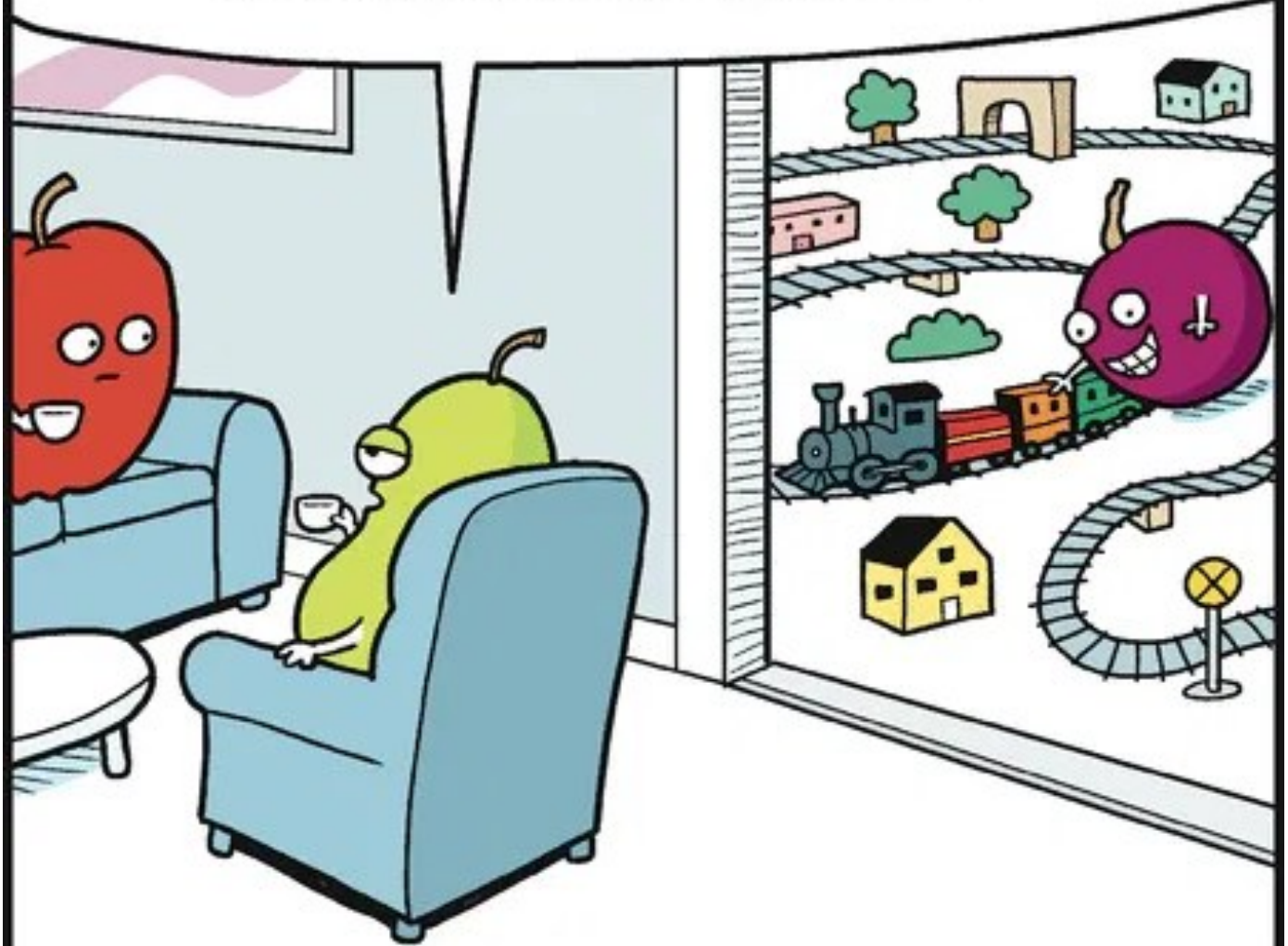
Admission:

\$3 Adults 18 and over, \$1 under 18

Details at SMRHS.COM



A WORD OF ADVICE... BEFORE
MARRYING A PASSION FRUIT,
FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE
PASSIONATE ABOUT



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MARK
PARISI

The Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association
invite you to



EXTRA 2026 NORTH

PCR Convention

Hosted by the Redwood Empire Division of PCR

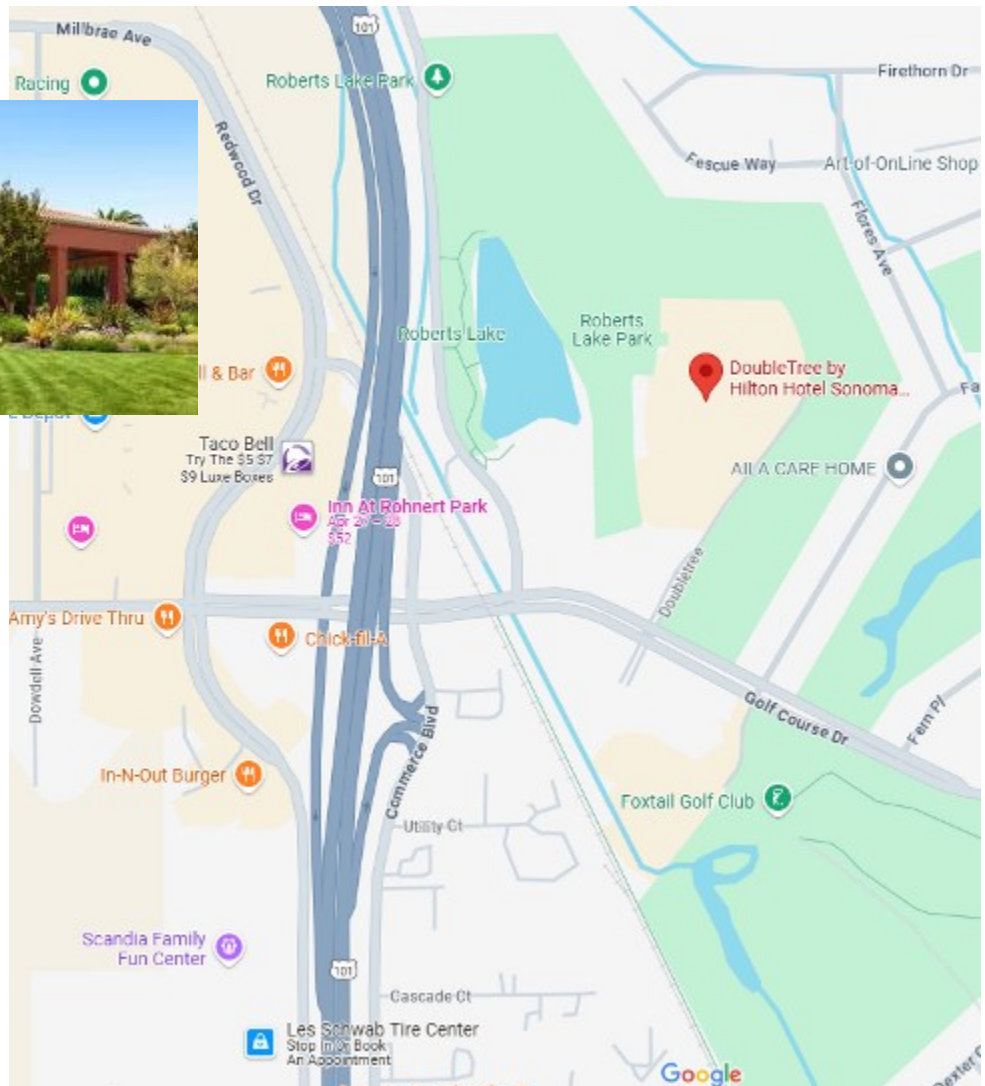
April 29 – May 3, 2026

Doubletree Sonoma Wine Country, Rohnert Park

For more information go to

www.pcr2026.org

- Full three-day program
- Over 40 clinics including several Make and Takes
- 17+ Layout Tours
- Operating Sessions
- Contests
- Excursions
- Member Swap Meet
- **FREE Companion Fare with Full Fare registration**



Continued on page 17



EXTRA 2026 NORTH PCR CONVENTION ROHNERT PARK, CA

You're Invited!

Join your fellow modelers at the **DoubleTree Sonoma Wine Country Hotel in Rohnert Park, April 30 – May 3, 2026**, for the next annual **PCR Convention!**

The official website is live at pcr2026.org with everything you need to start planning. Take advantage of our special convention rate of **\$169 per night**—with **free parking** and **no resort fees**.

Get ready for an outstanding program:

- **Brand-new clinics** never presented before, plus **7 hands-on Make & Take sessions**
- **17+ layout tours**, including exciting new layouts making their PCR debut. Check out some of them on the website.
- **7 memorable excursions**, featuring:
 - Sturgeon's Mill (a fan favorite)
 - Russian River Rail Bikes (new for 2026!)
 - Western Railway Museum with picnic lunch & nostalgic train ride

This is shaping up to be one of the **best PCR Conventions yet**—don't miss it!

Register Today

Registration fees remain the same!

FULL FARE – \$160

Includes full convention registration, access to all clinics, contests, layout tours, and the Sunday Business Meeting/Awards Breakfast. Also **includes a FREE Companion Fare**, which grants the same access for one additional person.

EXPRESS FARE – \$110

Includes convention registration, clinics, contests, and layout tours for all three days. Does not include the Sunday breakfast.

DAY FARE – \$60 per day

Includes registration, clinics, contests, and layout tours for one specific day only—Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

The Clinic Schedule is now available on the website - <https://pcr2026.org/clinics/>

Clinicians Wanted!

Do you have knowledge, skills, or stories to share with fellow modelers, rail history buffs, or layout design and operations fans? The **2026 PCR Convention** is looking for enthusiastic presenters!

Whether it's a new modeling technique, a fascinating piece of railroad history, a hands-on skill to teach, or lessons learned from your own layout—we'd love to hear from you.

Submit your **clinic title** and a **short description** of your presentation, workshop, or session idea, and help inspire and educate others in the hobby.

 Visit pcr2026.org/clinics to fill out the clinic submission form.

Questions? Contact **Jim Providenza** at clinics@pcr2026.org.

Your participation makes the convention a success—share your expertise and be part of it!

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**EXTRA
2026
NORTH**
PCR CONVENTION
ROHNERT PARK, CA

Layout Tours

Self-guided layout tours will be available on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons. If layout owners are available, additional tours may be offered on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Detailed tour information, including addresses, will be provided to registered convention attendees during the event.



Ron Kaiser
Western Pacific



Dave Croshere
A B & Old C



Ed Merrin
Northwestern Pacific

Continued on page 19

Layout Tours



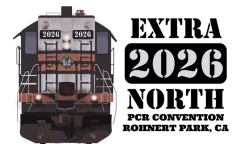
Gus Campagna
California Western



Jon Schmidt
Nicasio Northern



Mick Spilsbury
The Black Canyon



Continued on page 20

Layout Tours



Ed Jameson

Southern Pacific & Santa Fe



Tom Comyns

TCRR



Ron Learn

Northwestern Pacific

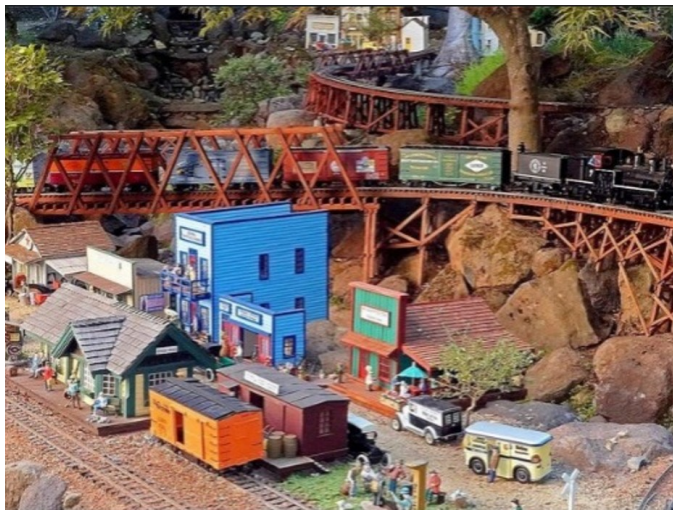
Continued on page 21

Layout Tours



Richard Schoenstein

Large 3-Rail O Gauge



Ed Brodie

The Westie Line



**EXTRA
2026
NORTH**
PCR CONVENTION
ROHNERT PARK, CA



Giuseppe Aymar

Southern California Railroads

Continued on page 22



**EXTRA
2026
NORTH**
PCR CONVENTION
ROHNERT PARK, CA

Excursions

We've lined up a fantastic selection of excursions for each day of the convention—there's truly something for everyone! Some are long-time favorites, while others are exciting new additions. A few are designed specifically for companions who may not be attending clinics but anyone is welcome to join.



**Northwestern Pacific
Restoration Yard and Barn**



Russian River Railbikes

Continued on page 23

Excursions



Western Railway Museum



Sturgeon's Mill



Continued on page 24



HOBO'S BREAKFAST

The Hobo Breakfast will be held Saturday morning, May 2, 2026 from 7:00-8:30 AM at Shari's Cafe and Pies, 301 Rohnert Park Expy. Breakfast will be **\$30 per person** and includes meal choice (see menu below), beverage, tax and gratuity. **Please bring cash.** There will be a signup sheet at the Convention Registration Desk.

Hobo Breakfast Menu

Farmer's Breakfast

Pancake Combo

Denver Omelet

Eggs Benedict

Oatmeal, Fruit and Toast



**EXTRA
2026
NORTH
PCR CONVENTION
ROHNERT PARK, CA**

Convention Merchandise Now Available

Order your convention merchandise today! Prices may increase later, so now's the perfect time to secure your items.

[Order HERE](#)



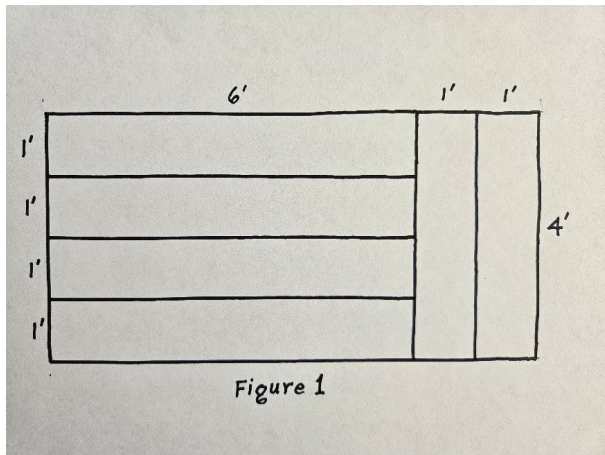
The Answers Are Out There By Robert Pethoud

Operational Model Railroad for Grandchildren

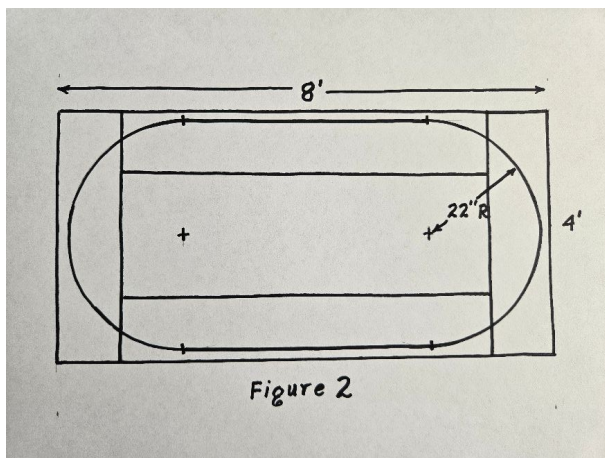


My wife and I have three grandsons, currently 10 (nearly 11), 9, and 7 years old, and they all like model trains. They began playing with Brio trains; a few years ago, they tackled and quickly mastered a manual switching game I built from wood; and now they regularly operate on my Fall Creek Branch. I have helped each of them construct and paint HO scale structures from wood and styrene, and the oldest has learned how to make conifer trees from chopsticks and furnace filter. All of them want to build a model railroad.

Neither their parents nor I have the space to store three individual layouts, and I dread the potential interpersonal conflicts likely if they all work on the same one. So, here's my plan: I purchased one 4'x8' sheet of 1/4" thick plywood and cut it as shown in figure 1. Each grandson will receive one section measuring 12"x72", leaving the last 6-foot section for Gampy (yours truly).

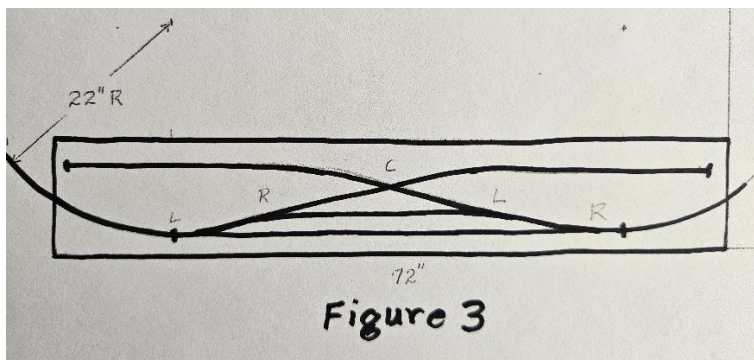


We will add a frame of 1"x2" softwood to the underside of each piece and then we can bolt four of the pieces together as shown in figure 2, using 5/16" bolts and wing nuts. Flex track can then be fastened down as drawn in an oval shape, using 22" radius curves resting mostly on the 4-foot long end pieces. I will use a Dremel cutoff disk to slice the rails where the sections come apart. That leaves 4 feet of tangent track on each 6-foot section where turnouts may be installed. Each boy will have four turnouts which may be installed as he chooses—subject to Gampy's approval—but each child must design his track plan before any track is fastened down on his section. Joshua, the oldest grandson, has decided that he wants his section to look like figure 3.



Assembled for operation in a family room or garage, the two 4-foot sections containing the curved track will rest on two folding tables I often use to support Fall Creek Branch. NCE's PowerCab DCC system will attach to one of the curved sections. The boys will be able to add nearly flat scenery—roads, ground cover, rocks, grass, and bushes—and install removable trees and buildings. To clean up after an operating session, rolling stock, trees, and buildings will be removed, and then the sections can be disassembled. All six sections can stand in a closet, resting on their short sides.

Anyway, that's the plan as it stands today. I will keep you apprised of the progress as we continue this never-ending hobby. As ever, you may reach me with comments and/or questions at pethoud@comcast.net



Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

By: Jim Providenza

Just Having Too Much Fun



Looking back at various Tales, it wouldn't surprise me if readers would think I always have a difficult time with the Santa Cruz Northern. But maybe not. Maybe you understand the nature of the beasts we build and try to tame, and the joys and sorrows that come along with them.

But regardless, today, I'm just having too much fun.

Being in charge of clinics for the upcoming annual PCR convention, Extra 2026 North, I'm working up the schedule for the 3 days of clinics – over 24 individual presenters. There is some juggling involved – you have to watch for conflicts, you don't want to schedule two clinics at the same time more than once, those sorts of things. But these are just ordinary nuts and bolts sort of things. Where is the fun?

Anticipation and camaraderie...

Anticipation? Well, you see, for me this is kind of like the feeling I get wrapping Christmas presents! I can't wait until they get opened, and the joy they will bring. Looking at the list of clinics makes my mouth water. Why? I mean, I'm not going to get to attend more than a few if I'm lucky. No, the fun for me comes from knowing how much YOU will enjoy all these clinics.

Camaraderie? Yesterday, while working on the schedule, I talked to six or seven guys. Ironing out details, filling in blanks, massaging a clinic description to fit 'in the box' – only 250 characters allowed! Each of these phone calls could have been completed in 5, maybe 10 minutes at most. None was that short. Four of them lasted over half an hour. Talking to friends, frankly just schmoozing... squeezing out the needed info between catching up, laughing, telling stories.

Hey, I got to talk to Doug Harding, I'm so looking forward to seeing him out here at PCR again. I've asked him to give his clinic on the Mason City & Clear Lake / Iowa Traction Railway – the last remaining electric freight railway in the US. Doug's clinic is matched by a clinic from local historian Fred Codoni on our local Petaluma & Santa Rosa freight operations... Fair warning, Doug is making noise about wanting to also doing a clinic on Poultry along the lines of his famous meat packing clinics – with photos of Petaluma...

Sent a note to Paul Hobbs in New Zealand – I've known Paul for 40 years, since the Non Railroad Spouse and I went to New Zealand for our honeymoon... how cool to have a clinician coming from half way around the world.

Several interesting tech clinics including two from Seth Neumann (A Simple ABS System and an Arduino Introduction / Make and Take) and two from Mike Hardwick (Arduino Based Staging Route Controller and Using SolidWorks and a Laser Cutter to build a helix). Michael Eldridge will be presenting How to Use AI Tools to Model Figures and Details.

Continued on page 30

Tales of the SCN, continued

Scenery? Got you covered – Frank Markovich MMR and Mike Blumensaadt to the rescue with Make and Take clinics. Miles Callan will discuss blending traditional and cutting edge scenery techniques in one of his two clinics.

More structures? Take your pick – small passenger station (Phil Edholm), canneries and packing houses (Robert Bowdidge) and a scratchbuilt sawmill complex (Richard Newmiller, out here from Philadelphia, no less!). Hmmm, speaking of sawmills – I think Saturday should be called Sawmill Saturday. In addition to the Sturgeon Sawmill tour and Richard Newmiller’s clinic we also have Larry Tidball’s clinic on the equipment inside the West Side Lumber Co.’s mill.

Jack Burgess’ clinic, a ‘tour’ of his Yosemite Valley RR, will spend some time looking at his model of the Yosemite Lumber Co. mill at Merced Falls – and Miles Callan is musing about adding a ‘mucky’ log pond to his scenery clinic.

Operations? Oh yeah. Bryn Ekroot is the Superintendent of Operations for the world famous La Mesa Model Railroad Club’s Joint Line over the Tehachapi mountains. This is a [model] railroad that really does need not only trick dispatchers but a Chief Dispatcher, a position Bryn routinely fills during op sessions. His ‘Lessons Learned’ clinic should be eye-opening. Tony Thompson has a new clinic on modeling the role of the Agent. Michael Litant’s Clerk Wanted... Who Me? looks at modeling the job of the Clerk on both a small and a large model railroad.

And so many more – go to the convention website, check it out. Register and come and enjoy what we have put together for you! I just hope you have a much fun attending the clinics as I’ve had setting them up for you!





Learn More About the Hobby by Attending the University of YouTube

By Dave Theis, Daylight Division Member

When I first got back into the hobby a few years back, I was surprised to see just how much things had changed in the in the past 20-25 years and how far behind the power curve I was when it came to understanding modern model railroading and layout operations. The world I used to know was simple DC powered Transformers that were connected to the track and when you moved the dial the trains moved. Now there was Digital Command Control, layout wiring for power and accessories had certainly become more complex, and people were actually running their layouts and trains just like real life railroads. In all honestly, in the beginning it was just a bit overwhelming.

Fortunately for me there was a local train club in my area and when I went there for an open house, I found a group of folks that were welcoming and even willing to be a bit patient with the new guy and his many questions. As part of the club, I was able to learn some of the basics of running trains and using DCC, and I even began to learn some of the common terms and the language used for operations. Ultimately it was a great exposure to modern model railroading in general.

And while the members of the club were certainly helpful, and I learned quite a bit, the club was only open on Saturday mornings so my opportunity for learning was slightly limited. I actually mentioned this to one of the members and he made a suggestion that has significantly altered my approach to learning and really allowed my understanding of the hobby to grow. His suggestion: check out some videos on model railroading that can be found on YouTube.

While I admit that as someone who has seen the Earth travel around the Sun quite a few times, that I was not as familiar with YouTube or even how I was supposed to navigate the site to find anything; let alone information specific to model railroading. However, my son was very familiar with YouTube and with just a little bit of instruction I was off and running. In actuality, I found that it was really as easy as typing in “YouTube” on the search engine, and then typing in the topic that I wanted to search and boom, there it was. To my surprise, there wasn’t just some information on model railroading, but there was what seemed like an infinite amount information and videos available on every topic I could think of, and even more on topics that I had never even considered.

As I dove into the various topics that were available I found that I was drawn to both the “how to” style videos and the channels that gave product reviews on the various new trains and equipment that were coming to the market. I especially liked the Model Railroader channel by Larry Pucket, the DCC Guy, who literally had hundreds of videos available that ranged from the basics to advanced operations. I found his style to be easy to understand and extremely informative on whatever topic he was covering. Another channel that I really enjoyed was John Abatacola’s TSG Multimedia; a channel with over two thousand videos covering product reviews, how to videos, layout tours, a segment of chasing trains, and a monthly podcast which covers all things related to model railroads and real-life trains. There is actually a lot more to his channel and I would encourage readers to check out his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/tsgmultimediaface/> or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-zwxncFt-DtNrr9GRGVKw>.

Continued on page 30

When I first got back into the hobby a few years back, I was surprised to see just how much things had changed in the in the past 20-25 years and how far behind the power curve I was when it came to understanding modern model railroading and layout operations. The world I used to know was simple DC powered Transformers that were connected to the track and when you moved the dial the trains moved. Now there was Digital Command Control, layout wiring for power and accessories had certainly become more complex, and people were actually running their layouts and trains just like real life railroads. In all honestly, in the beginning it was just a bit overwhelming.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention at this point that the NMRA also has a very nice You Tube channel with several hundred videos with topics covering NMRA events, instructional videos, and informative content related to the hobby from other You Tube Channels. You can check them out at <https://www.youtube.com/@NMRAonline>.

Whatever your cup of tea, or whatever subject you want to learn about, especially if you are newer to the hobby like I was, chances are you can probably find what you are looking for at the University of You Tube. It is a great source of information and I know that for me, the more I learned about the many facets of model railroading, the more fun and enjoyment I got out of the hobby.

By the way, one final hint that I would suggest is that when you find a channel that you like, subscribe to the channel so that you can find it easier on the at the You Tube home page. Doing this will also notify you when new videos are coming out and you can stay up to date with their channels latest content.

As always, I hope this article has been an encouragement to your growth in the hobby.

Note: Please feel free to email me at Pastordave.jsaw@yahoo.com and share your favorite You Tube channels or content creators that have inspired you in the hobby. I am always interested in seeing the different opportunities that are out there.



Daylight Division Report

By Walter Mizuno



One of the highlights of the past quarter was the Bakersfield Train Show. The event was a great success, and we extend our thanks to the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society for hosting the show and welcoming our division to participate. To help attract interest and give visitors a hands-on experience, we featured a Timesaver switching layout that Steve Lowe constructed especially for this event. Steve spent the day hosting many interested visitors, including families and small groups of friends who enjoyed trying their hand at switching cars and learning more about model railroading. It was a great way to introduce new people to the hobby and to showcase the kind of fun and fellowship that our organization represents.



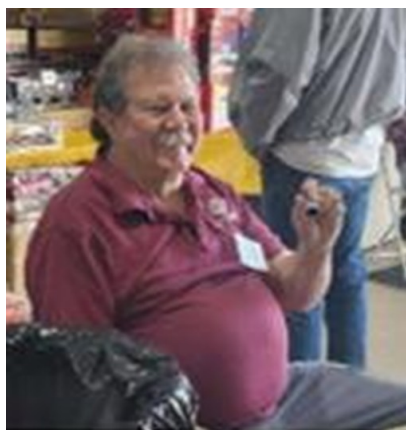
Steve Lowe (right) introduces the Timesaver layout to Matthew at the Bakersfield Train Show.

Photo: Dave Theis



The newest member of the Daylight Division, Ron Jones (left), shares a moment with outgoing director Walter Mizuno, and the President of the Fresno Model Railroad Club, Martin Winter (right).

Photo: Dave Theis

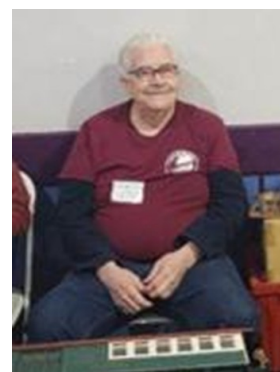


Daylight member, Mike Harris, is all smiles as he prepares to hand stamp show goes for readmission to the show. *Photo: Dave Theis*



Tom Osterdock shares his dead-rail On30 locomotive at the show.

Photo: Dave Theis



Geff Brown takes a break from selling at the show. Geoff joined last year and just renewed his membership. *Photo: Dave Theis*

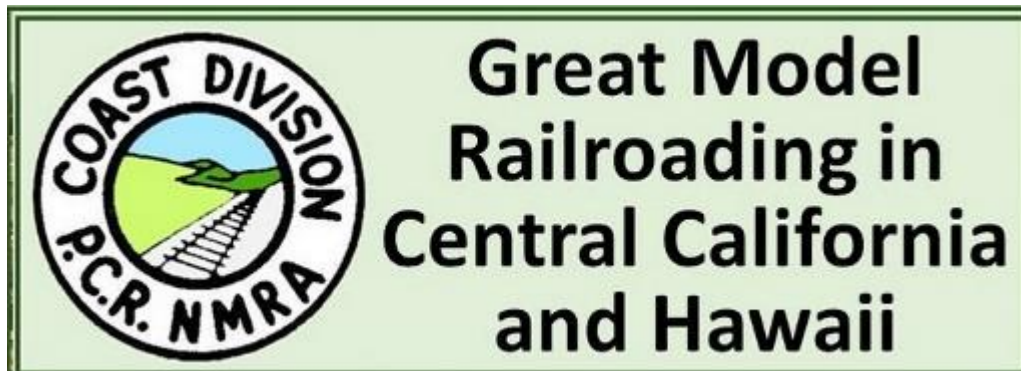
Coming up in the next few months are several events to look forward to. Our next quarterly meeting will be held on May 16th in Bakersfield, followed by a late-summer gathering on the Central Coast. We will wrap up the year with our traditional holiday meeting in Fresno, featuring several new layouts on the annual layout tour. I hope many of you will join us for these events.





GEHAMS welcomes visitors
on any Saturday, (closed on Dec. 25)
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM,
to view trains operating over
Central California's largest
HO and N Scale layouts.

For more information, please email
carldw@aol.com, phone (661) 331-6695
or visit our web site at gehams.club



VISIT THE COAST DIVISION YOUTUBE CHANNEL



[LINK](#)



There are currently 109 recorded videos comprising nearly sixteen hours of model railroading content. Make sure you have plenty of time!!





We had a packed meeting room with three new members and one guest: Bennett and Erin Dekleva, Hal Kwalwasser, and guest Marcus Nofi. We encourage all members to bring guests to our meetings. And a big thanks to Ed Merrin for putting the meeting together and Al Merkrebs for taking the pictures for this issue of the Callboard.

Eight members participated in the Show & Tell part of the meeting, with Bennett Dekleva

awarded \$75 for his scratch-built icing platform and Ed Merrin awarded \$25 for his scratch-built model of the Shamrock Building Materials building in Petaluma. All of the Show & Tell presentations can be seen on the next seven pages. Unfortunately, we did not get pictures of Hal Kwalwasser's entry, which we will rectify in the next issue of the Callboard.

Dave Croshere, Giuseppe Aymar, and Rich Mossholder showed how a model is judged for an AP (Achievement Program) award for members working their way to becoming an NMRA Master Model Railroader.



Show & Tell

Dave Grundman - One Room School House



Show & Tell

Ed Merrin - A re-creation of the old Shamrock Building Materials building in Petaluma





Show & Tell

Michael Davis - Southern Pacific Locomotives



Show & Tell

Giuseppe Aymar - First Models

"The models represent a nostalgic look at my adolescent years as they are my very first two models dating back to 1956 and 1957. They are the seedlings from which my current love of trains sprouted. I still feel the joy when I first touched them knowing they were mine. A kid will always be a kid. The joy of model railroading has no end."



Show & Tell

Joe Deveny - Interurban Models





Show & Tell

David Norris - Modeling Double-Stack Containers



Show & Tell

Bennett Dekleva - Icing Station





Clinic - AP Judging

Dave Croshere - Giuseppe Aymar - Rich Mossholder



Clinic - AP Judging

Dave Croshere - Giuseppe Aymar - Rich Mossholder





Door Prizes & Raffle



Every person attending the meeting received a door prize, with the first four raffle prize winners getting the first choice. Thank you to Dave Grundman for managing all the models, books, videos, etc., for each meeting.



Sierra Division Report



Sierra Division spent Valentine's Day playing with trains! We convened at the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society club layout, the Sierra Central, for our annual operating session visit. As always, the SMRHS club members were on hand to coordinate everything, man the dispatcher's desk, and offer helping hands to those of us unfamiliar with the railroad.

Our tremendous thanks to SMRHS for a wonderful day.



Michael Eldridge at the Sacramento 12th Street yard.



Dave Putnam Handling a train at the Oakland "Mole".



Continued on page 43

**Sierra Division
Report, ct'd.**



Ed Powell at the throttle (with a Coke®) as his train departs Sacramento.



Brandon Salas solving a switching puzzle at Oroville.



Gathered for lunch in the crew lounge.



30 APR, THU

- PCR Convention: Extra 2026 North DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, One Doubletr...

1 MAY, FRI

- PCR Convention: Extra 2026 North DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, One Doubletr...

2 MAY, SAT

- PCR Convention: Extra 2026 North DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, One Doubletr...

3 MAY, SUN

- PCR Convention: Extra 2026 North DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, One Doubletr...

6 MAY, WED

- O Scale West 432 Stierlin Rd, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

7 MAY, THU

- O Scale West 432 Stierlin Rd, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

9 MAY, SAT

- 10:15am Sierra Division Meeting

13 JUN, SAT

- 10:15am Sierra Division Meeting

11 JUL, SAT

- 10:15am Sierra Division Meeting

Continued on page 45

Monthly Activities

First Thursday - 10:00 AM / Siskiyou Model RR Club. / Currently meeting at member's homes. Info: Tom Brass, (530) 842-4921,

First Saturday 10:00 AM / San Leandro Historical Railway Society (HO, O, G), Monthly meeting / 1302 Orchard Ave, San Leandro, CA / Eugene 510-963-2985 / Info: info@slhrs.org.

First Saturday 11:00 am to 12:00 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. Free coffee and doughnuts.

First Saturday 12:30 PM / European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) Sacramento Chapter (HO, HOM, N) 3600 J Street, Sacramento, CA. (entrance from 36th Street near East Sacramento YMCA). Social and H0 layout running 12:30 to 2:00 PM, then program/show and tell, followed by 2:30 PM business meeting. / Contact: Dusan Petras (650) 300-9504 or Jim Fischer (916) 965-7117, e-mail: dusanpetras@aol.com / See the website for additional information: www.ete.org.

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

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 (and Fourth) Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (and every Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM) • Admission: Free / Bay Area N-Trak Model Railroad Club (N) Wells Fargo Express Room, Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, 900 Loring Ave., Crockett, CA • Map / Donations are welcome. / Contact: Jim Gray, send text to 925-260-5804 or e-mail to gray-marks@hotmail.com

Second Saturday 1PM-4PM / West Bay Model Railroad Association, Open House, We run trains run for our visitors, 1090 Merrill Street, Menlo Park, CA / e-mail westbaylines.com

Second Saturday 1:00 to 5:00 PM / European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) San Francisco Bay Area Chapter (HO) Location varies / Contact: Brian Hitchcock, brianhitchcockdba@gmail.com / See the website for additional information: www.ete.org.

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 5:30 PM Dinner, 6:30 PM Meeting/ Visalia Electric Railroad Modelers & Historical Society / Meets at Apple Annie's Restaurant, 1165 N. Blackstone, Tulare, CA 93274/ Mike Harris, e-mail: rrmike2003@yahoo.com.

Third Wednesday 8:00 PM / West Bay Model Railroad Association, Monthly Business Meeting, 1090 Merrill Street, Menlo Park, CA / e-mail westbaylines@gmail.com

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: harmonsta@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 Railroaders 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: kenatttr@thirdrail.com

Fourth (and Second) Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (and every Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM) • Admission: Free / Bay Area N-Trak Model Railroad Club (N) Wells Fargo Express Room, Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, 900 Loring Ave., Crockett, CA • Map / Donations are welcome. / Contact: Jim Gray, send text to 925-260-5804 or e-mail to gray-marks@hotmail.com



Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Alameda County Central Railroad Society

ACCRS is an HO and O scale club with layouts in a 30x100 building on the Alameda Co. fairgrounds in Pleasanton. With over 60,000 annual visitors, ACCRS is a great showcase for the hobby. Layouts reflect Alameda County and California and are continually improving and updating. Open for Fair events and Fridays, 6-9 PM. Lowest dues in the area.

Contact: Gary Lewis 925-455-8135
 Email: glgslewis@comcast.net
 Web: www.pleasantonmodelrr.org/index.html

Amador County Model Railroad Museum

The ACMRRM is located at 13828 Gold Mine Road, #1, Pine Grove, CA. Gold Mine Road intersects with Hwy 88 in Pine Grove. 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. The BDL has been in continuous operation since 1981. Our Club is open to visitors on Tue. & Fri. from 5 to 7PM. We hold monthly Operations Sessions (4 hr.) on the LAST Saturday of each month, from 10 AM to 2 PM using Train Orders. We are a DCC (only) layout and we are kid friendly, although anyone under 18 has to have a related adult present, to run on the layout. For more information, 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

CMRS models the line from Oakland to Sparks with a double track mainline and many well-known lineside industries on three levels. The layout is in the 36 x 60 foot main room of the recently renovated former Oddfellows building that dates back to the 1890's. New HOn3 branch-line coming soon. Entire railroad is NCE DCC-based with JMRI WiFi throttle support. We are open to the public bi-monthly with weekend open houses. Please see our web site (www.cmrstrainclub.org) and our listings in the PCR Master Calendar for more information. The club is open for perspective members and visitors during our Wednesday night work nights, 5PM to 9PM. We are located on the second floor at 645 Loring Ave., Crockett, CA 94525. Contact: Ron Lehmer, president@cmrstrainclub.org or Steve Huffstetter, secretary@cmrstrainclub.org. Club

number
 510-722-3025



Continued on page 47

Coastal Valley Lines Model Railroad Club of Sonoma County, LTD

Coastal Valley Lines Model Railroad Club of Sonoma County, LTD (Coastal Valley Lines) is an association of novice-to-expert model railroaders from the Sonoma County area, who operate a digitally command controlled (DCC) HO scale modular railroad at public and private events, and gather for clinics, work sessions and monthly meetings. Coastal Valley Lines is incorporated in the State of California with its primary purpose of educating the public about model railroading as a family hobby and is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization with elected officers and bylaws. Additional information can be found at 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.

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.

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: www.gehams.org

Golden State Model Railroad Museum – East Bay Model Engineers Society

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

Humboldt Bay & Eureka Model Railroad Club

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

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

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

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Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Nn3 Alliance

An Internet-based fellowship of over 700 members in nine countries who model narrow gauge in "smaller scales". The term "Nn3" is used generally to describe 3', 3'6", and meter gauges, modeled in N or 2MM Scales. Members include local groups in the USA, UK and Europe whose portable exhibition layouts and modules regularly appear at conventions and shows. The "corporate" entity of the group - The Nn3 Alliance - created and published "The Nn3 Handbook", 140 pages with 400 illustrations, covering all aspects of small-scale narrow gauge, which remains the standard reference.

Web: www.Nn3.org
<https://groups.io/g/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: bod@smrhs.com
 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: memberhip@sacmodularrailroad.com

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.

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 at the Scouts Hall, 4717 Elm Street, Denair, CA at 1:30 PM (doors open at 12:30) on the first Sunday of each month. Holidays or other events can change that. We always get there by 1:00 PM to visit and see what others have brought to show. For more information please call Ed Cathcart at 209-479-4432

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

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Continued on page 49

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 as 530-643-1556. 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.

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>

The Tidewater Southern MRC Inc. & Tidewater Southern Railway Historical Society Inc. We are Located in Building 1 at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds (1658 S Airport Way, Stockton, CA 95206), We have both HO and N scale layouts housed in a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove. The HO scale layout represents the former Tidewater Southern branch line of Western Pacific. We meet every Saturdays from 9am - 5pm except for major holidays and run trains on the last Saturday of the month. Admission is free! Email us at: tidewatersrhs@gmail.com for our schedule.

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 on last Friday of the month from 8:00 to 10:00PM for operations. Fares are \$3.00 for 6-12 and seniors over 60 and \$5.00 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). Please refer to www.wcmrs.org for the dates and times of our Annual, Weekend and Friday evening shows .

West Bay Model Railroad Association

The West Bay Model Railroad Association is accepting new members; all skills are invited. Construction and scenery are now complete on our DCC 2-level HO layout designed for operations; work on signaling is in process. Work sessions are Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Prospective members and visitors are always welcome. We run trains for visitors monthly on second Saturday afternoons. Business meetings are at 8 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, and operating sessions are on Saturday of the following week. We're located a few hundred feet south of the Menlo Park Caltrain station, in the former baggage building, at 1090 Merrill St., between the station and Ravenswood Ave. For more information, visit wbmrra.ning.com and facebook.com/wbmrra. Or e-mail westbaylines@gmail.com.



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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!





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