



# The Daylight Observation

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## Sugar Pine Centennial 2021 Convention Highlights

by Chuck Harmon, Convention Publicity

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Come to Fresno for the 2021 PCR Convention arriving April 22<sup>nd</sup> and leaving April 24<sup>th</sup>. A full schedule of the usual events is planned, including contests, clinics, swap meet, layout tours and op sessions, plus excursions to the Hillcrest and Wahtoke 5" scale railroad and the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad.

The Sugar Pine Centennial 2021 PCR Convention hotel is the Wyndham Garden Fresno Yosemite Airport, 5090 East Clinton Way, Fresno, conveniently located adjacent to the Fresno Yosemite International Airport. This facility offers modern comfortable accommodations and complete convention services under one roof.

**Early Registrant Bonus:** By the time you read this the time for the drawings may have expired, but just in case you are reading this before December 31, 2020 you could still get in on one of these drawings:

1, Two drawings for a cab ride in a YMSPRR Shay for everyone registered who purchases a ticket for the YMSPRR excursion by December 31, 2020.

2. One drawing for an opportunity to operate the live steam engine at H&WRR (with the help of a qualified engineer) for everyone who registers and purchases a ticket for the H&WRR excursion by December 31, 2020.

3. The BIG one: One drawing for a free YMSPRR excursion ticket, that includes the bus ride, train ride, dinner, and cab ride, (a \$95.00 value) open to everyone who registers by December 31, 2020.

If you haven't registered yet, go to the PCR web site



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**Convention (Cont.)**

(<http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2021/registration.html>) and click on Registration, then scroll down to the Online Registration Form, or use the Mail-in Registration Form.

Frank Markovich, MMR, was our December winner of a cab ride on the YMSPRR! An additional benefit for beating the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline is that the "early Bird" registration fee of \$80 expires then and goes up to \$85.00.

**Outside Activities at PCR 2021:  
Hillcrest and Watoke Railroad**

The Sugar Pine Centennial Convention Committee is



"Meets" like this are common on the Hillcrest & Wahtoke during holiday operations.

Photo by Chuck Harmon

planning to take a bunch of us for a ride on the Hillcrest and Wahtoke Railroad just north of Reedley, California about a half-hour drive from the hotel. This is a 15" gauge, 5" scale railroad on a tree farm east of Fresno.

In addition to the railroad that you can ride,

there are extensive shops where live steam equipment is built, maintained and restored. Many pieces of equipment from Disneyland have come through the Hillcrest shops for restoration. Our trip is planned to be an exclusive activity just for our convention, including a shop tour.

You can learn more about the railroad at their web site ([www.hillcrestreedley.com](http://www.hillcrestreedley.com)).

The Hillcrest and Wahtoke Railroad tour will take place on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, the day before the start of the convention. Participants will need to provide their own transportation to the railroad. Dinner is included with the \$35.00 extra fare.

**Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad**

The Yosemite Mt. Sugar Pine Railroad tour will be held on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. A bus will pick up participants at the hotel and return in the evening. The \$95.00 extra fare includes the bus trip, train ride and dinner. This event is limited to 40 people, so get your registration in early. The railroad is located near Fish Camp in the Sierra Nevada. Participants are to take the bus rather than drive.

**Non-Rail Hospitality Room:** Non-rail activities will include participation in the Arts and Crafts contest, as well as other categories, a luncheon, the non-rail hospitality room and a

Continued on Page 3



shopping tour. The convention committee is hoping that someone will volunteer to coordinate these activities. If you wish to participate as a volunteer at the convention, contact Walter Mizuno at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2021/volunteers.html>.

**Clinics:** Clinic chairman Bruce Morden presented a list of current clinics. Bob Chaparro plans to present multiple clinics on layout and rolling stock detailing, and citrus operations. Robert Pethoud will cover the basics of steam locomotives and the construction and operation of a portable switching layout. Jeff Johnson's two presentations will cover modeling the Sugar Pine Lumber Company and Minarets & Western Railway, and scratchbuilding /



**Ride the Logger!**  
Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad

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The Daylight Observation is published quarterly to inform members of division activities and to provide educational articles for the advancement of railroad history and the art and science of model railroading. It is distributed to all members of the Division and to officers and newsletter editors of other divisions in the PCR.

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kitbashing when modeling a little-known prototype. Doug Wagner will give a presentation on the Sunset Railway. Bruce Morden's presentations will cover tree modeling and the use of Sanborn Maps for layout design. Seth Neumann will gather SIG members for a roundtable discussion.

**Swap Meet:** One of the latest additions to the schedule of convention activities is a swap meet. It will be held at the Wyndham Garden Yosemite Airport Hotel on Friday evening April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7 to 9 pm in Terraces A & B. Six foot tables are available for \$10.00 each, limit 2 per registrant. Tables include power and chair. The swap meet is open to convention registrants.

Sugar Pine Centennial 2021 will host a Swap Meet during the convention for all attendees. Any registered attendee can participate in selling off those treasures that only you thought you could love. Here's a chance to convert your surplus railroad inventory to cold, hard cash!

Continued on Page 4

## Daylight Membership by County

County	#Members
San Luis Obispo	25
Kern	22
Fresno	22
Santa Barbara	17
Tulare	12
Madera	2
Merced	2
Mariposa	2
Total Members	104

## Volunteers Needed

## Swap Meet Rules and Procedures

Sellers will have 30 minutes for set-up and 30 minutes for teardown.

Tables (30" x 72") cost \$10.00 each, limit 2 per person.

Order when registering, or if already registered, on your RegFox account.

Tables will be selected or assigned in the order received.

Limit of 15 tables available.

Bring your own extension cords.

All transactions are the responsibility of the buyer(s) and seller(s). The Sugar Pine Centennial 2021 committee has no involvement with the transactions and will not get involved.

Rules are subject to change without notice.

By adding a Swap Meet Table to your shopping cart or registration form, you agree to these rules and agree to abide by them.

**Layout tours and op sessions:** There will be multiple self-driven layout tour opportunities during the convention. These tours provide an excellent opportunity to meet other modelers, and conversations in the car on the way frequently result in lasting friendships.

Here's the current (as of 12/12/2020 21:54:01) list of layouts that will be open for layout tours and/or operating sessions. More will be added, so please check the convention web site.

Belmont Train Group HO

Rob Briney - Sierra, Clovis & Western - HO \*

Tom Davis - Southern Pacific - O

Bob Jakl - UP, AT&SF, CB&Q, Katy - O

Jim Niell - SP LA Division/Bakersfield Sub - HO \*

Robert Pethoud - Fall Creek Branch - HO (On-site) \*

Steve Silva - UP, CN, Milwaukee Road - HO \*

Tom Sovulewski - San Joaquin & Sierra Railway - On30 \*

Glenn Sutherland - Sierra Railway - HO \*

\* Op Session Scheduled.

**Banquet:** The keynote speaker at the banquet will be Mike Osborn, who has served as a switchman and conductor on the Southern Pacific, then on the Union Pacific, in Southern California. Mike was scheduled to speak at one of the recently cancelled railroad conventions and has agreed to bring his fascinating experiences of "workin' on the railroad" to our banquet on Saturday night, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Contests at PCR 2021:** The Sugar Pine Centennial Convention will feature the full spectrum of contests, giving everyone a chance to earn a plaque and Achievement Program points toward becoming a Master Model Railroader. It's important to consider entering at this time of year so you will have time to plan and construct your contest entry or entries. You can find everything you need to know about the PCR contest at the PCR web site, <http://pcrnmra.org/pcr/contest/contest.shtml>.

There are nine model contest categories: Steam Locomotive, Diesel and Other Locomotives, Passenger Car, Freight Car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way, Structures, Displays, and Traction and Self-Propelled Cars.

In addition to the model contests there is a Photo contest, a Module contest, and an Arts and Crafts Contest.

Besides the plaque and ribbon awards, any model that garners 87-1/2 points or more receives a Merit Award. For those working toward their Master Model Railroader, 3 Merit Awards are required in the Motive Category, 4 Merit Awards are required in the Car Category, and 6 Merit Awards are required in the Structure Category. See the NMRA web site for more information about the Achievement Program.

Continued on Page 5

**Contest Room Schedule (Subject to review and approval)**

Thursday	9:00 AM to 5:30 PM	Open during lunch break
Friday	9:00 AM to 5:30 PM	Open during lunch break
Saturday	9:00 AM until completed	
Contest Judging	3:00 PM to 5:30 PM	
Contest entry pick-up if judging is completed		After dinner to 10:00 PM
No exceptions please!		

**Convention Shirt:** This year's convention shirt is a 5oz. 65% poly/35% cotton pique, mint green polo shirt with the convention logo embroidered on the left side. It is available in sizes small to 5X and has flat knit collar and cuffs, metal buttons with dyed-to-match plastic rims, double-needle armhole seams and hem, and side vents.

SIZE	COST
Small	\$28.00
Medium	\$28.00
Large	\$28.00
XL	\$28.00
2XL	\$30.00
3XL	\$32.00
4XL	\$34.00
5XL	\$36.00

Includes CA state sales tax

Shirts must be ordered by March 31, 2021 and can be picked up at the convention. Order on your mail-in or online registration form or, if already registered, on the Company Store page.

Shirts may also be ordered before the convention directly from the vendor, Daylight Sales (not affiliated with Daylight Division), at prices stated on their website, for shipment to your home prior to the convention. California state sales tax plus \$7.95 for shipping will be added to your order. Arrive at the convention in style wearing this comfortable classic polo, embroidered with the Sugar Pine Centennial 2021 convention logo.

NOTE: Orders placed on RegFox PCR NMRA or on the Company Store page include California state sales tax and shipping to the convention

**Convention Car:** A Convention car is being worked on by Milton SansSoucie, our convention treasurer. Milton is proposing a 3-D printed flat car lettered for the Sugar Pine

**Robert Pethoud models our convention shirt.**



Lumber Company. (See photo) This will be a limited edition. See web site for price and other details.

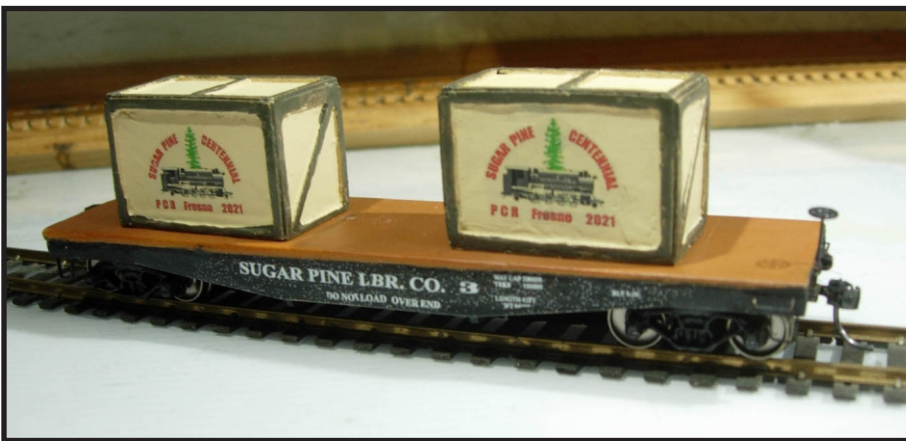
**Volunteers and Contest Judges Needed!**

Volunteers are needed to judge and staff the Contest Room to provide security for the entries. Model contest judges earn 2 time units towards their AP Association Volunteer Certificate.

Contact the Contests Chair, Chuck Harmon, or the Volunteer Coordinator, Walter Mizuno to assist in this very important function.

Volunteers are needed for the

Swap Meet. If you can spare an hour or two, please let Walter Mizuno know. 🚂



Pre-production sample shown - Production version will have one crate.



## From the Superintendent

By Mike OBrien, Daylight Division  
Superintendent

It's been a hectic year for everybody. Many of us have had our daily routines upset and life is topsy-turvy.... So... First and foremost, I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a Merry New Year.... I hope next year will be better for all and your families

In case you missed it, Congratulations to Doug Wagner on being selected as winner of the prestigious John Allen award. Doug is well deserved of the award with all his work and time he has given over the past years to the Division and the NMRA.

Also, I would like to recognize John Houlihan for his Service to the Division. John has decided for personal reasons that its time for him to step away from the limelight of offering his time to the Division and post his resignation from his current duties. So, with that, I would like to tip my hat to John and Doug. Like many others, these two gentlemen have worn many different hats during his tenure as a NMRA member. THANK YOU for your service to the Division.



We have converted over to ZOOM for the most part to present our quarterly meetings. Our average attendance has stayed even over the past year, and we will continue to do the ZOOM meetings until further notice. Please keep an eye out in Daylight Division publications for updates concerning future meetings and other affiliated NMRA - groups with their virtual meetings and

### Daylight Division Membership Gauge

November 30, 2019—109  
December 31, 2019—108  
January 31, 2020—105  
February 29, 2020—105  
March 31, 2020—104  
April 30, 2020—104  
May 31, 2020—103  
June 30, 2020—104  
July 31, 2020—107  
August 31, 2020—108  
September 30, 2020—106  
October 31, 2020—103  
November 30, 2020—104

get-togethers. There is something happening almost every weekend for model railroaders and lots during the week. See our website <http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/nextmeet.html> for more info.

Our next scheduled Daylight ZOOM meeting is set for February 2021: discussions will include working on updating the Division BYLAWS to be more consistent with current times. i.e.: Digital meetings and getting more members involved by filling open positions

The upcoming 2021 Conventions:

#### **Sugar Pine Centennial 2021 PCR**

**Convention** - April 22 – 24, 2021 Fresno, California

Website: [www.pcrnmra.org/conv2021](http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2021)

#### **Rails By The Bay 2021 NMRA National**

**Convention** - July 4 – 11, 2021 Santa Clara, California

Website: [NMRA2021.com](http://NMRA2021.com)

Doug Wagner will be giving a presentation titled,

"A Look At The Southern Pacific's McKittrick Branch And The Sunset Railway—Then and Now". These two branch lines, which are located in western Kern County, was to connect the vast oil fields, located in western Kern County, to Bakersfield, for shipment of the oil to other locations. While Doug was still active with the Kern County Fire Department, and was stationed in western Kern County, he began researching the locations of the 2 branch lines. Doug was able to access areas that were not open to the general public, but as a firefighter, he was able to pretty much following the lines, that were not visible to the general public. Doug put together this presentation to show The Sunset Railway and McKittrick branches as they looked in the early 1900's to what they look like now.

One last item which is very important ... is that each one of us in the upcoming year need to help promote the hobby to our younger crowd.. suggestions and ideas are welcome to bring younger people to model railroading. One easy one that could be accomplished is by coordinating with various schools, and kid oriented organizations, to share your

Continued on Page 7

### Division Super (Cont.)

experiences thru online presentations, virtual layout tours to show off what can be accomplished in this hobby... just about all kids have a cell phone, notepad or some device that they have access to. Having access to ZOOM is a great way to spread our knowledge around.

Over the course of this year's meetings we have acted upon and or had discussions including: Ed Merrin as the new Division Director, Mike OBrien as the new Division Superintendent, Bob Sexton as temporary Clerk/Paymaster, purchasing a ZOOM account for the Daylight Division and presentation of a ZOOM clinic given by Robert Pethoud.

Members in the Division have been having separate ZOOM meeting/get-togethers to discuss model railroading and related topics, as follows:

The Valley is represented by Bob Sexton on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.

Bruce Morden has been busy hosting ZOOM meetings over on the coast. South Coast Society of Model Engineers twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays. San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum has been having "Parlor Car Chats" for several months. One of the Garden RR clubs has been having in person meetings, they are outside - they require masks and physical distancing. The Southern Pacific Historical Society Meeting on Saturdays. Frank Markovich's Weathering Master Class. On Sunday the OPSIG Virtual Meet-Up <https://www.opsig.org/Virtual/Index> NMRA-X meetings.

Cordially and Happy Holidays  
Mike OBrien 🚂

## History and Operation of the Air Brake

By Robert Pethoud, Member Aid

There was a time, not that long ago, when a train wasn't a train unless it had a steam locomotive on one end and a caboose on the other. On my model railroad I still enforce the caboose rule, but I've relaxed the locomotive rule to allow a few early internal combustion types. Still, there's no denying the esthetic appeal of that clever invention that earned the moniker "choo-choo." To increase the popularity of this legendary motive power, it might help to teach the younger generations



something about how these engines functioned. To that end I've created a clinic to explain what the various parts of a steam locomotive are, how they work, and how the "iron horse" evolved over time. I hope to present the clinic at Sugar Pine Centennial, the 2021

PCR convention in Fresno, and again at Rails by the Bay, the NMRA national convention in Santa Clara a few months later. What follows is an excerpt from that clinic to give you a sense of what to expect.

George Westinghouse's 1872 invention, the automatic air brake, became standard equipment on railroads by the 1890s. Train crews appreciated the safety of the new system, and management liked the increased train speeds and lengths possible once overcoming a train's momentum was no longer a large problem. The locomotive carried the air compressor which supplied the brake system. Basically, a steam-driven piston pump, the compressor was generally mounted on the left side of the boiler and supplied air under pressure to the main air reservoirs.

Compressed air from the pump reached the reservoir by passing through a long, narrow pipe folded back on itself to form cooling coils. Compressing a gas causes its temperature to rise (remember  $PV = nRT$  from your high school chemistry class). Without cooling coils, as the heat gradually dissipated

Continued on Page 8

## Air Brake (Cont.)

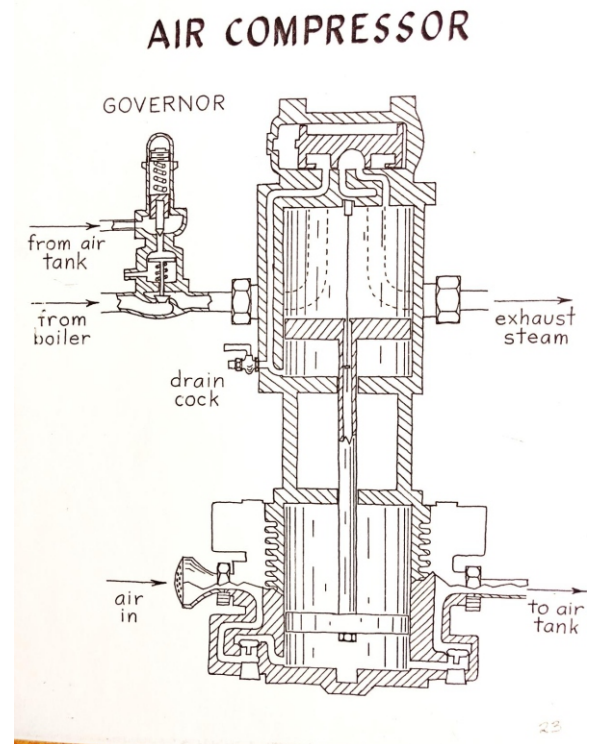
from the air tank, the pressure would drop, possibly causing a false application of the train brakes. Cooling coils made sure the compressed air was at or near the ambient temperature by dissipating the heat before the air reached the storage tank.

Study the diagram to see how the compressor governor automatically turns on the pump when the pressure in the reservoir is low, and turns it off again when the pressure is high. The upper tube admits air from the air tank and, if the pressure there is high, that pressure keeps the lower valve (from the boiler) closed. But if the pressure drops, the steam pressure will open the lower valve, admitting steam to the upper cylinder, pushing the piston either up or down depending on the position of the slide valve at the top of the compressor.

Movement of the slide valve is activated by the small rod or wire running through the center of the cylinder: as the piston nears the bottom of its travel, it pulls the rod down to move the valve one way; near the top, it pushes the rod to move the valve the other way. The lower cylinder draws in and compresses air using two one-way valves: as the piston is raised, outside air is drawn in

through the left one while the right one prevents already compressed air from returning; on the down stroke, the newly compressed air pushes past the right valve while the left one prevents its escape to the outside. Very clever, is it not?

Until next time, you can reach me with comments and/or questions at [pethoud@comcast.net](mailto:pethoud@comcast.net) 🚂



## Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

By Dave Grenier, Achievement Program Chair

In this installment, we will review the requirements for the Model Railroad Engineer – Civil certificate, the first of three in the “Engineering and Operations” area. While the requirements for this certificate may seem



long and daunting, they really are not. It just seems that way because there are so many options for you to choose from. There are only four basic requirements that need to be completed to qualify for this certificate.

1. Prepare an original

scale drawing of a model railroad track plan, identifying overall size, scale, track elevations, curve radii, and turnout sizes. It does not have to be in ink or drawn with CAD software, although it must be neat and legible.

Before drawing your track plan, look at requirements #2 and #3 to see what features you may want to include in your track plan. Also look at the requirements for Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical category and Chief Dispatcher category when planning your layout to also include those requirements from the beginning. It is much easier to do it now in the planning stage than to add them later during construction.

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## Civil Engineer (Cont.)

Your plan **must** include:

Adequate terminal facilities for handling freight and/or passenger cars

Adequate terminal facilities for storage and service of motive power

A minimum of one mainline passing siding

Four switching locations, not counting yards, interchanges, wyes, and reversing loops

Provision for turning motive power

Provision for simultaneous operation of at least two mainline trains in either direction

Remember, you do not have to build all these facilities, just show them on your plan to demonstrate that you understand what the design of these facilities would look like.

2. Construct and demonstrate, the satisfactory operation of a completed section of the model railroad from your layout plan that consists of at least 25 linear feet of track in Z, N, or TT scale, or 50 linear feet in HO or S scale, or 75 linear feet in O scale, or 100 linear feet in G, F, or

#1 scale, with appropriate ballast, drainage facilities, and roadbed profile. All track counts toward the linear feet requirement, including spurs, yards, sidings, not just mainline track. Using commercial products, including flex track and turnouts, is perfectly acceptable.

The track work must have examples of **six** of the following features:

- Passing siding
- Spur
- Crossover
- Reversing Loop
- Wye
- Simple Ladder (minimum of 3 tracks)
- Compound Ladder
- Turntable

- Transfer Table
- Super Elevation
- Simple Overhead Wire (such as trolley system)
- Compound Overhead Wire (catenary)
- Scale Track
- Cog Railway Track
- Coal Dump Track
- Ash Pit
- Service Pit Track
- Grade Elevation

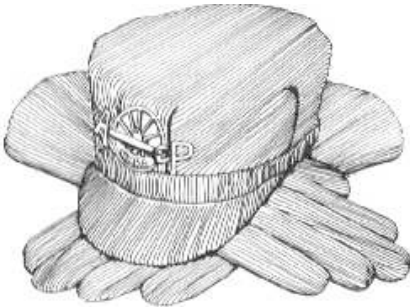
3. Construct for Merit Judging, scratch-built models of any **three** of the following, and demonstrate their satisfactory operation:

- Turnout (point or stub)
- Crossover
- Double Crossover
- Single Slip Switch
- Double Slip Switch
- Crossing
- Gauntlet Track
- Gauntlet Turnout
- Dual Gauge Turnout
- Gauge Separation Turnout
- Double Junction Turnout
- Three-Way Turnout
- Spring Switch
- Operating Switch in Overhead Wire

Commercial frogs are **NOT** permitted to be used on any of these items, however you may use commercial rails, spikes, ties, and Fast Tracks™ jigs. The jigs are considered “tools” and are permissible. These items may be built and demonstrated as part of your layout or on separate pieces of wood and may be a different scale or gauge.

If they are built separately, include enough track to demonstrate their satisfactory operation. A unit of motive power must be able to run through all possible routes under its own power. It is not enough to push or pull a car through by hand.

Continued on Page 10



## Civil Engineer (Cont.)

4. Earn a Merit Award (there are three pass/fail criteria) with the three items in requirement #3, using the “2019 Evaluation Form” below to show that each of the models meets all applicable NMRA standards. The track items in requirement #2 do not have to be judged at all, except to demonstrate that they work.

5. Submit a Statement of Qualification (see SOQ link below) which includes the following attachments:

- Copy of your track plan from requirement #1
- List of all scratch-built features
- List of all commercial components used
- Materials used in building the model
- Description of the track work features, methods of construction and identification of commercial components used in paragraph #3
- Verification of the Merit Awards (copy of certificates or signed “2019 Evaluation Forms”)

- Copy of your NMRA membership card

Submit your SOQ and its attachments to the Daylight Division AP Chair, currently yours truly. I will then review it and forward it to the PCR AP Manager, Jack Burgess.

The full requirements for this category are available on the NMRA website at: [www.nmra.org/civil](http://www.nmra.org/civil) . You can also get a copy of the requirements by contacting me, either by phone, e-mail, or letter. Do yourself a favor and read the two instructive articles on Model Railroad Engineer - Civil from the NMRA website's “The Masters Articles” at [www.nmra.org/masters-articles-updated-2009](http://www.nmra.org/masters-articles-updated-2009) BEFORE starting work on this category. You will be glad you did.

Forms available for this category:

- 2019 SOQ Form: ([PDF](#))([DOC](#))
- 2019 Evaluation Form: ([PDF](#))([DOC](#))

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the Achievement Program or Golden Spike Award, call me at (408) 431-8989 or e-mail me at [grenida@pacbell.net](mailto:grenida@pacbell.net)

Next installment: Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical 🚂



Remember the National Convention is coming to Santa Clara July 4 to 11, 2021. For details and registration see the NMRA web site, <https://nmra.org/conventions/nmra-2021-santa-clara>

### Observation Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Articles due</u>
Spring (Apr-May-Jun)	Mar. 10
Summer (Jul-Aug-Sep)	Jun. 10
Fall (Oct-Nov-Dec)	Sep. 10
Winter (Jan-Feb-Mar)	Dec. 10

#### In Memoriam

Member	City	Joined PCR
<b>No deaths reported this quarter</b>		

#### Welcome Aboard !

#### Daylight Division's Newest Members

Member	City/Sate	Date Joined
<b>No new members this quarter.</b>		

## From Our Director

by Ed Merrin, Daylight Division Director

Well, this is turning out to be the most unusual and difficult holiday season I can remember. If anyone can think of one that rivals this let me know. Here in Daylight Division we've got an added twist – we're hosting a convention in April in Fresno. To say that there have been and will be bumps in this road is an understatement. There is a large elephant in the room that has been looming over us, and that is the uncertainty brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. It's time to talk about it in an open and frank manner.



The Convention Committee has been doing just that and has mapped out a plan of action. It has also attracted strong opinions from outside the committee. Apparently, in the eyes of some not having the convention would basically be the crime of the century and doom PCR to oblivion. In the eyes of others, not cancelling the convention immediately would likewise be a heinous felony.

So here are the facts, for now at least.

Sugar Pine Centennial really is happening.

The website is up, the arrangements at the hotel are finalizing, clinics are being scheduled, a speaker has been chosen for the banquet, swap meet tables have been arranged, op sessions and layout tours lined up, excursions are scheduled and ready for ticket purchase, a convention car is in production, and so on. All that's left is to deal with two potential obstacles.

The first is getting enough PCR members to register and numbers are far below expectations for this stage of the process. The reason? Possibly because of the uncertainty of what's happening with the pandemic. Because last year's convention was cancelled for the same reason, there may be a negative and negativistic expectation about what will happen this year. Another possible factor, again because of last year, there were no early registration signups that we usually get at the previous year's convention.

Our heroic Convention Committee has responded to this challenge with aggressive promotion at virtual Division meets, in model

railroad publications, and (with the aid of PCR President Chris Palermo) in frequent PCR electronic news reports. These efforts have resulted in a recent “surge” in registrations. However, the totals are still far short of what would be a financial break-even point.

At some point, a point I hope we won't have to deal with, a decision will have to be made as to whether there is enough “interest” in continuing. There is such a date selected, far enough in advance to avoid any hotel penalties for cancellation. So I am basically appealing to you all, if you haven't yet registered to please do so.

I have a previous experience with a convention that took place under trying circumstances. While I was PCR President a glitch (so to speak) in the PCR Convention Department left us with no host committee and no plans for the 2019 convention with only fifteen months to go. The possibility that we would have to forgo having a convention that year was suggested to me. Instead, I paid a visit to a Sierra Division meet and basically unloaded the problem on them. They made it happen, despite all the obstacles, and we had a pretty dang good convention in Sacramento that year.

So let's not have this convention flop on us because of something we have control over. Let's give us a chance to prevail.

Now for the second obstacle. Yes, there are external circumstances that we don't have any control over. Yes, it is possible that our plans and efforts may be for naught. What are the chances? I sure don't know the answer to that. April is kind of on the cusp; by then it may be fine to “gather,” as they say. Or, public health authorities may tell us we can't. What I can tell you is this - if we don't get enough registrations to go on and have to cancel, we for sure won't have a convention no matter what happens with the pandemic. Be assured, if the pandemic prevents us from meeting, all of us who have registered will receive refunds. There is absolutely nothing to lose and a lot to gain.

Meanwhile, keep yourselves and your families safe through these difficult times. We want you all around this Spring to enjoy the Sugar Pine Centennial. 🚂



## Membership Missives

By Doug Wagner, Daylight Division  
Membership Manager

Well, since I am the Membership Department Manager, I guess I should mention something about membership, because that's what the folks that pay me for this expect me to do. What, you thought I did this for free? {Editor's note: Doug is not paid, we just have to put up with his babel.}

Anyway, be that as it may, and I doubt if it ever was (those folks old enough will remember that as a quote by the great Steve Allen. For those not old enough, Google "Steve Allen"), here is your Membership thingee for this issue: If you change anything related to your NMRA membership contact info, be it your name, mailing address, phone number or email (I just knew he was going to include that dreaded email thing, again!), please contact your

Division membership manger, or you can bypass the middleman and make the changes directly on the NMRA's web site. Just please—and pretty please—make someone aware of any contact changes so that we can keep you informed on any events happening in the Daylight Division! OK, that's it for the Membership Department! Now on to more fun stuff!



All photos by  
Doug Wagner



Police  
cruiser  
checks out  
the A & W on  
Doug's  
layout.

At the time I wrote this article we were mandated to 'Stay At Home' and to not even make visits outside of your household. Anyway, the anti-social hermit in me just saw this as another excuse to not get out and get some more progress done on my layout. One thing about this Pandemic—at least for model railroaders—is that we were already equipped and trained for situations just like the one we

are currently experiencing, since you can't get out and don't visit anyone which means no one to drop by and take valuable time from your trains! So, while my wife—the schoolteacher—is ZOOMING with all her students, she sure doesn't want me in the house to be maybe yelling at the dogs in the background so her students can hear some of my more colorful English. She teaches them English—but not that kind of English! So, I stroll on out to my layout room to get some necessary work (it's not really work, is it?), accomplished on my layout.



Paco's Tacos is on Doug Wagner's layout

In the last issue of the *Observation*, I had just started construction on Main Street, Porterville, California. I'm still nowhere even close, but Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, was the Grand Opening of Paco's Tacos. It was even more appropriate as I had my first meal at Pacos Tacos, and it was—you guessed it—Taco Tuesday! The next item to get started on the Main Street project, is to get the used car lot, Dewey, Cheatem & Howe Used Autos, established next to the lumber yard. I will have photos of that for the next issue of the *Observation*.

In closing, we are blessed in Daylight Division, to have some of the most talented layout builders in the hobby. I'm not the only one in the Daylight Division who is constructing a layout. I'm going to challenge those who are constructing layouts to let us see some photos of your progress. Until next time, may all your signals be green and your trains on time. Time to highball it!

*Feliz Navidad y Prospero Ano Nuevo!*







# Sugar Pine Centennial 2021

PCR/NMRA 2021 Convention  
 Hosted by the Daylight Division  
 Wyndham Garden  
 Fresno Yosemite Airport  
 5090 East Clinton Way, Fresno, CA  
 April 22—24, 2021

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

NMRA / PCR  
 c/o Doug Wagner  
 14008 Tierra Blanca Ave  
 Bakersfield, CA 93314

E-mail: [SPC2021registrar@pcrnma.org](mailto:SPC2021registrar@pcrnma.org)  
 Website: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2021>

To pay with credit card, please visit RegFox website:  
<https://pcrnma.regfox.com/pcr-nmra-2021-convention>

## Registration Form

Please Print

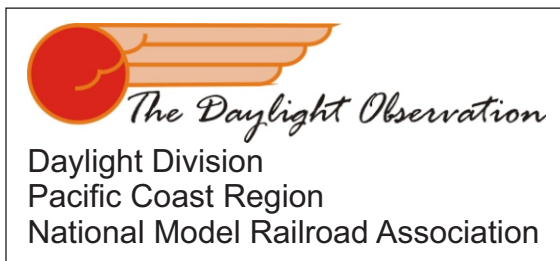
Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Address		City		State	Zip Code	
Home Phone	E-mail Address			NMRA #		
Registration Type (Please check one)				NMRA Region (if other than PCR)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail or Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Day						
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"/> Other:						
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form for more than 1)						
Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Registration Type (Please check one)				NMRA #		
<input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail or Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Day						
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"/> Other:						
FARES: Please fill in QTY and Total				QTY	Unit Cost	Total
Early Bird Registration-Banquet Included (Ends 12:00 AM - at midnight - 12/31/2020)					80.00	
Full Fare Registration-Banquet Included (Begins 12:00:01 AM-01/01/2021)					85.00	
Non-Rail or Spouse Registration(may be modeler)-Banquet Included					65.00	
Youth Registration(12 - 18 years. Must be accompanied by an adult)-Banquet Included					65.00	
Child Registration (Under 12 years. Must be accompanied by an adult) )-Banquet Included					30.00	
Day Fare (Saturday Banquet Not Included) <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat (\$30.00 for each day)					30.00	
Saturday Banquet Only (Banquet is included in all fares EXCEPT Day Fares)					30.00	
EXCURSIONS: Please fill in Qty and Total. See convention's website, "Excursions" for full details and info				QTY	Unit Cost	
Hillcrest and Wahtoke Railroad Meet & Greet. ADVANCED SECTION Wednesday, April 21, 3 PM to 7 PM					35.00	
Yosemite Mt. Sugar Pine Railroad. Thursday, April 22, 2 PM to 9:30 PM					95.00	
Visit to the Woods. Thursday, April 22, Morning to early afternoon before Yosemite Mt. Sugar Pine Excursion					10.00	
MERCHANDISE: Please fill in QTY and Total. Price includes state sales tax when applicable				QTY	Unit Cost	
Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL					28.00	
Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL					30.00	
Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL					32.00	
Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL					34.00	
Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> 5XL					36.00	
Convention Car (1 Car) Limited to a total of 3 cars per person. Decals supplied for up to 6 different numbers					30.00	
Convention Car (2-car set) Limited to total of 3 cars per person. Decals supplied for up to 6 different numbers					58.00	
SWAP MEET: SWAP MEET: Fri, April 23, 7-9 PM. See <a href="https://bit.ly/3kqTfo8">https://bit.ly/3kqTfo8</a> for Rules & Procedures.				QTY	Unit Cost	
6' Table (Limit 2 Tables Per Seller/Registrant)					10.00	
Chairs (Limit 2 Chairs Per Seller/Registrant) Check box if you need electricity <input type="checkbox"/> No charge for chairs or elect.					0.00	
Payment by <input type="checkbox"/> Check** <input type="checkbox"/> Cash [Please use RegFox website listed above for credit card payment]					TOTAL:	
** Make Checks Payable to: "PCR / NMRA" <span style="color: red;">No Refunds After March 30, 2021 Unless Canceled By Pandemic</span>						

**January 30 & 31, 2021** – Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Virtual Weekend, Sponsored by Pacific Coast Region-NMRA, Layout Design SIG, and Operations SIG. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 meet will be a two-day event held virtually using the Zoom and Slack platforms. Registration is now OPEN on the newly updated website. UPDATED: 20 November 2020. The meet is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. NMRA, PCR, LDSIG, OPSIG membership is NOT required! TSG video report of Live Crew Lounge Panel Discussion at 2020's meet (Starts at 0:49)

**February 18, 2021** - 7:00 pm PDT, Daylight Division Winter Virtual Meet, via Zoom. Zoom Meeting ID and passcode will be emailed to Daylight members at a later date. If we do not have your email address, please email Doug Wagner, Daylight Membership Chair, to receive meeting notifications. Non-members of NMRA are welcome to attend this event. Non-members who attend three (3) events in their lifetime are cordially requested, as a courtesy to others, to apply for membership in NMRA as a condition for attending a fourth event. Join NMRA online now. See the Daylight Division website for more information.

**April 3, 2021** - 16th Annual Pacific Model Loggers' Congress, Camp 18 Restaurant and Museum, U.S. Highway 26, Elsie, Oregon. We're still working on our schedule of a full day with special speakers, clinics, a model contest and dealer sales area. We are actively soliciting clinic presenters for the event, and we can use modeling or historic prototype clinics that pertain specifically to logging. See the website for complete details. For general information, phone Lon Wall (971) 265-1060, or Jeff Johnston (541) 914-1152. E-mail us with questions or for more info. Admission: \$15.00 per person at the door. There is no pre-registration.

**April 22 – 24, 2021** - Sugar Pine Centennial 2021, PCR/NMRA Convention, Hosted by Daylight Division, Wyndham Garden Fresno Yosemite Airport, 5090 East Clinton Way, Fresno, CA



**Daylight Observation**  
**1644 E. Goshen Ave.**  
**Fresno, CA 93720-2756**

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