



# The Daylight Observation

Official Publication of the  
Daylight Division, PCR / NMRA  
Volume 23, Issue 2  
Apr-May-Jun 2009

## Spring 2009 Meet May 2 in Fresno

Daylight Division will hold its Spring 2009 meet at the home of Marlin Costello's Goshen and Goosechase Railroad in Fresno on May 2.

Activities will begin at 9:30 AM with registration, contest entries and good visiting. The contests are favorite model and favorite photo.

We will begin our first clinic at 10:00 AM, Quick Jigs for Bridges and Trestles by Gary Saxton. The second clinic will start at 11:00 AM with Bert Greeley demonstrating his weathering techniques. We will break for lunch at 12:00 noon and reconvene at 1:00 PM.

The business meeting will start at 1:00 PM, followed by our customary white elephant auction. Please bring you white elephants for the auction.

We expect to be ready for layout operations and tours by 2:00 PM. In addition to operation on Marlin's layout, several area layouts will be open for tour or operating sessions. Maps will be provided at the meet.

All during the meet you will have a chance to view the contest entries and browse the Goshen and Goosechase. Everyone is advised that since this meet is being held at a member's home to be thoughtful of others in the neighborhood when you park your car, pick up and properly dispose of any trash, please don't smoke and be sure to thank our hosts, Marlin and Patricia Costello.

Both NMRA members and non-members are welcome. The donation at the door is \$4.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members. We do not request a donation for children under 12 accompanied by an adult.

For those who have not been to Marlin's home, there is a large building at the end of the driveway that is disguised to look like an RV garage. This really is a layout building. Sign in for the meet will be on the driveway in front of the layout building.

You will find a map and directions to Marlin's home on the back page.



*A scene on the Goshen and Goosechase.*

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# Christmas Comes Early to Visalia

By Jay Smith

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While there was no snow on the ground, no turkey or pumpkin pie, and no jolly old elf to be seen, there were some very happy train lovers at the most recent Daylight Division meet in Visalia. In addition to the white elephant sale and an auction of epic proportions, we had another successful raffle with an assortment of model railroad-related goodies donated by various hobby shops and national manufacturers.

Donors this quarter included **Jon and Kayanne Yung-Hobby Town, USA of Fresno, Connie Denny-Visalia Hobbies, Dave and Terri Baker-Terri's Timeless Treasures of Clovis, Proto Power West/A-Line of Carlsbad, CA, Atlas Model Railroad Co. of Hillside, NJ, and Humpyard Purveyance of Roseburg, OR.** We are very grateful for their kind consideration and generous donations. Please contact these businesses and let them know how much you appreciate their support and then return the favor and support them. If you would like contact information for any of our donors let me know and I will be glad to email it to you. Let's build those relationships!



*What is your bid? Bob Randall auctions items at Visalia meet.*

Our next meet will be this May 2 in Fresno at Marlin Costello's home. My intention is to gather donations from as many local hobby shops as possible. But do not worry boys and girls. I will also be contacting some of the big manufacturers. I hope to see as many of you as possible in May.



## Director's Report

by John Houlihan

Getting ready for the PCR convention and the Daylight Division meet is the current focus. Four days of talking and listening to other railroaders will generate a wealth of information and ideas to use on the layout. Like most model railroaders, I haven't built a model or taken a picture for the contest. The world of procrastination or just too busy with maintenance and up keep is the excuse. Yes, I have entered the model contest with in the past 30 years. Have you? I dream of making that highly detailed model that will the envy of all spectators. Some day dreams will become reality.

If you don't want to take the model to the contest, at least show them off with an operating open house session during the Daylight Division meets. My layout will be open.

As to the business side of being a director, no one has presented any information to bring up at the board meeting. I thought I had an item, but was told it can be handled outside of the board meeting. Because of the late date, you now have six months to get your issues to be brought before the board.

## CLINICS

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## DIVISION HISTORIAN

Vacant

# May 2 Meet Operating Sessions

by Gary Saxton

The host committee is lining up a few local layouts for operations during the 2 to 7 PM time slot. There will be a sign up sheet to avoid an overload at one spot and maximize the fun.

So far we have the following three layouts:

Chuck Harmon's San Joaquin Central - Modeling the Southern Pacific's Sacramento Division from Roseville to Truckee (Donner Pass) in the spring of 1949, plus a fictional branchline located on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada. The HO mainline is 200' long, with another 100' on the branchline. Most of the trackage is hand laid on milled pine roadbed. Especially nice is the gauntlet trackage across Long Ravine Trestle. Control is by Lentz DCC. Scenery is about 20% complete.



*The old and the new meet in April 1949 on Chuck Harmon's Layout.*

Gary Saxton's New York Ontario & Western - Featured in Model Railroad Planning 2003, this N-scale layout models the 200 miles of New York Ontario and Western between the Hudson River and the anthracite coalfields around Scranton, PA. This is your chance to stand inside a 7 layered helix where 4 of the layers are up and running. Control is by North Coast DCC. Originally build in the dining room of the house in Houston, TX, and recently moved to Clovis. See the layout now and compare with the website (<http://home.swbell.net/gary46/>) pictures taken in Houston.



*Overlooking Tehachapi loop on the Goshen and Goosechase.*

Marlin Costello's Goshen and Goosechase - Our well known host's railroad fully occupies a large 40' x 40' garage. Its three decks are supported on welded steel benchwork. The scenery for the Tehachapi Loop and Caliente Loop used over 100 photos and computer-matched colors. Other local spots include Fresno Calwa Yard and Foster Farms Grain Facility. A double bascule bridge frames the entryway into the layout room and leads to an exposed "herniated" helix. There are 24 staging tracks for 1,000' of storage and staging, plus the yard throats leading in and out. Control is by Digitrax DCC.

Other layouts may be added by the time of the meet. They will be announced at the meet.

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## Upcoming Events

**May 2, 2009**

Daylight Division Spring Meet  
Marlin Costello's home  
1125 E Holland  
Fresno, CA

**April 15-19, 2009**

Rails Across The Bay 2009  
PCR Convention  
Fremont Marriott Silicon Valley  
Fremont, CA

**August 22, 2009**

Daylight Division Summer Meet  
Hilding Larsen's home  
San Luis Obispo, CA

## Observation Now On-line

Save your Division some postage money. E-mail the Observation editor and ask to be notified when the Observation is posted on the Web site. You will not receive a hard copy through the mail, saving us first class postage four times a year. You will receive an e-mail when the Web posting is available. You can download the .pdf file to print or whatever. The savings can be returned to you in the form of better meets and activities.

Please send your e-mail to me at [harmonsta@aol.com](mailto:harmonsta@aol.com). Please put Observation in the subject box so I won't mistake it for junk mail.

## DAVE'S DISPATCH

From the Super's Desk

By Dave Grenier

Although it has only been a little over a month since my last report to the Division, it has been an exceptionally busy month in the Daylight Division and PCR. Several activities occurred during this short time, that if you did not attend, you missed out on some great opportunities to have a wonderful time.



On Saturday, February 28, we had our Winter Meet at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall in Visalia, put together by Sally and Brewster Bird. Thanks again for a good job, you two! After the usual welcome and announcements, Brewster conducted a hands-on clinic to build a laser-cut structure kit in either HO or N-scale, while Sally kept busy in the hall's kitchen preparing lunch. There were also N-

scale Timesaver and HO-scale switching layouts for more hands-on fun. Following the business meeting, we had our first ever Daylight Auction of numerous items donated to the Division. Auctioneer Bob Randall garnered bids for all but one of 49 items, bringing in over \$400 for the Division. If you missed it, you missed another great Daylight Division meet.

The following Saturday, March 7, the Toy Train Operating Society Central California Division presented their Spring Train Show at the Clovis Senior Citizens Hall. Several of us went over and had an enjoyable time talking with our brethren of that ilk and laying the groundwork for future Division-sponsored community events. Members of the Fresno Model Railroad Club were in attendance with their HO modules, so the Daylight Division and scale modelers were well represented. Nearly a thousand people attended the daylong event and got exposed to the great hobby of model railroading. It was also a good opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones.

Winterail 2009 was held the following Saturday, March 14, in Stockton with its trademark multi-media presentations and Railroadiana Show. Many railroad historical societies and groups were there with displays to show off their activities and sell books, china, keys, lanterns, timetables, and much, much more. If you have never been to Winterail, you owe it to yourself to give it a try. It's an extravaganza of railroad sights and sounds.

The weekend of March 14-15 took us to the southern reaches of the Division to Bakersfield for the Annual Train Show, presented by the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (GEHAMS). In addition to the 100+ vendor tables and modular layouts on display at the Kern County Fairgrounds, the Daylight Division, in conjunction with the Model Railroads of Southern California group, presented layout tours of several more layouts in Bakersfield, Tehachapi, and the Lake Isabella area. The Division had a table at the show both days to promote the Division and the PCR/NMRA, including the upcoming Rails Across the Bay 2009 PCR convention April 15 to 19. Thanks to Chuck Harmon, Jay Smith, Brewster Bird, and Neil Fernbaugh for helping me to man our table. The breaks were greatly appreciated. Boyd Cline, of Fresno, joined the NMRA and the Daylight Division at the show. Welcome aboard, Boyd!

A few days later, BayRails 2009 started its 3-day celebration of Western prototype railroading in the San Francisco Bay Area with operating sessions on some of the best-known layouts in the country. There were also clinics and social gatherings throughout the event, culminating with dinner at Outback Restaurant Saturday evening. Daylight Division members Gary Siegel, Bruce

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## Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Morden, and myself joined 75+ others from all over the US and Canada in an "Op 'til you drop" weekend, with everyone operating all day on at least 3 layouts during the 3-day event. If you love operations, you have GOT to sign-up next year. You will not regret it. Watch for it on the PCR Master Calendar.

The [Rails Across the Bay 2009](#) PCR Convention starts in a few days on April 15 at the Fremont Marriott Silicon Valley in Fremont. Get your taxes done early or file an extension and join us for over 50 different clinics, layout tours, prototype tours, operating sessions, Niles Canyon Railway tour, speeder rides, contests, and more. Register at the door or on the website at: [www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009](http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009) (PayPal accepted)

The Daylight Division Spring Meet starts at 9:30 AM, May 2, at Marlin Costello's home in Fresno. See the write-up elsewhere in this issue.

The next Daylight Auction will be at the Summer Meet, August 22, 2009, at Hilding Larsen's house in San Luis Obispo. Start looking around now for things you'd like to sell off and convert into cash. Check the "Files" section on the [Daylight Division](#) Yahoo group for auction rules.

Also check the PCR Master Calendar, for upcoming events. It's the one best place to check for events in the PCR and beyond.

I can't encourage you enough to join either or both of the Yahoo Groups maintained by the Division and the PCR to stay informed. I want everyone in the nine counties served by the Daylight Division to know that they have an open invitation to attend and participate in our activities and enjoy the fellowship of other like-minded members. As you prepare for the May meet, think of a friend who is interested in model railroading and invite them to come along with you to the meet. You can also bring an inactive NMRA member. Both are welcome!

## Internet Links

Click to join daylightdivision group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/daylightdivision/join>

Click to join PCR-nmra group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCR-nmra/join>

Other sources of information are the Daylight Division website,

[www.pcrnmra.org/daylight](http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight)

and the PCR Master Calendar,

[www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.html](http://www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.html)



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# Minutes of the Visalia Meet February 28, 2009



**Be sure to reserve your  
spot for the  
2009 PCR Convention  
Fremont, CA  
April 15 through 19**

[www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009/index.htm](http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009/index.htm)



**CFC 12286**

**Federal Employees!** For the first time, the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) will be included in your annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to be conducted at your workplace. To offer the NMRA your support please designate #12286 on your CFC contribution form.

The Daylight Division February meet was held at St Paul's Anglican Church in Visalia. The Business meeting was called to order at 1:20 pm by Superintendent Dave Grenier. A motion was made by Ron Cox to accept the minutes from the last meeting as published in the Observation. The motion was seconded by Jay Smith and the Motion carried. A motion was made By Chuck Harmon to accept the Paymasters report as printed in the Observation. Joe Paff seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Gary Saxton reported on the Layout Tours. There were tours on December 6, January 31 and the next one will be on March 15, 2009 in Bakersfield. Dave Grenier reported that there was one achievement award given. Dave Grenier received the Volunteer award.

Announcements: Jay Smith has been appointed Assistant Contest Chair. Also the Bakersfield Train Show will be March 14 & 15, the next meet will be on May 2, 2009 at Marlin Costello's home in Fresno.

Future meets: August 22, 2009 at Hilding Larson's home in San Luis Obispo, November 2009 in Santa Barbara at Gary Siegal's home.

Doug Wagner made a motion to give St Paul's Anglican Church a donation of \$100.00 for the use of their facility. Joe Paff seconded the motion and the motion carried. Dave announced that meets will start at 10:00 with registration starting at 9:30 as stated in the bylaws.

Bob Randal was the winner of both the favorite model contest and the favorite photo contest. After the meeting the Raffles and White Elephant auction were held, as well as the first ever Daylight Division Auction.

Respectfully Submitted  
Suzanne Paff  
Chief Clerk/Paymaster

## Daylight Division Treasury Report 2/28/09

DATE	TRANSACTION	DEBT	CREDIT	BALANCE
1/6/09	Balance Forward			\$ 3,355.55
2/28/09	White Elephant		\$ 59.00	\$ 3,414.55
2/28/09	Building Kits		\$ 100.00	\$ 3,514.55
2/28/09	Registration		\$ 98.00	\$ 3,612.55
2/28/09	Daylight Auction		\$ 419.00	\$ 4,031.55
2/28/09	Convention Cars		\$ 125.00	\$ 4,156.55
2/28/09	Observation	\$ 266.87		\$ 3,889.68
2/28/09	Raffle		\$ 80.00	\$ 3,969.68

# Visalia Meet Report

by Chuck Harmon



*Daylighters dig into Brewster's clinic to build HO and N-scale laser-cut buildings.*



*Brewster Bird was presented with a collector version of an Schrade Boy Scout Pocket Knife, in recognition of his work with the Boy Scouts.*

Daylight Division held its winter meet on February 28 at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Visalia, California. Brewster Bird and his wife Sally hosted the event and provided breakfast and lunch.

Brewster conducted a clinic on building laser kits. STS (Small Trackside Structures / Northeastern Scale Models) N-scale and HO-scale storage shed kits were provided. 11 folks participated in the "make-it/take-it" clinic.

Brewster also put on a slide show of railroad sites around Visalia. Maps of the area were provided for those who wanted to visit the sites after the meet.

Sally Bird provided a delicious lunch of tri-tip, beans, carrots, potato salad, and cheese-cake dessert.

During the business meeting with its usual tedious items, Norman Morrison presented Brewster Bird with a collector version of an Schrade Boy Scout Pocket Knife, in recognition of the work that Brewster has done with the Boy Scouts. Superintendent Dave Grenier proposed that the Boy Scout Railroading Merit badge program become a regular part of division meets.

The winner of the favorite photo contest was Bob Randall with his photo of a train crossing the Mississippi river. Bob also won the favorite model contest with his flat car lumber load. Joe Paff won the \$25.00 cash door prize.

A number of raffle items had been donated by **A-line/Proto Power West, Hobby town USA of Fresno, Hump Yard Purveyance, Atlas, Terri's Timeless Treasures/Dave's Trains of Clovis,** and **Visalia Hobbies**. The Bakersfield gang brought several brown paper wrapped items for our traditional and always fun White Elephant auction

Following the business meeting we held our first Daylight Division Auction. Forty-nine items had been donated to the division by Jerry Jackson. Jerry is changing to G-scale and wanted the division to dispose of the no longer needed HO scale items. A spirited bidding war was led by Bob Randall (no doubt chosen because he "hogged" the contest awards). Twenty-five attendees went away with treasures and bargains, and the division netted some much-needed cash. Thanks to Jerry Jackson and all the bidders.



*Auction items filled two tables.*

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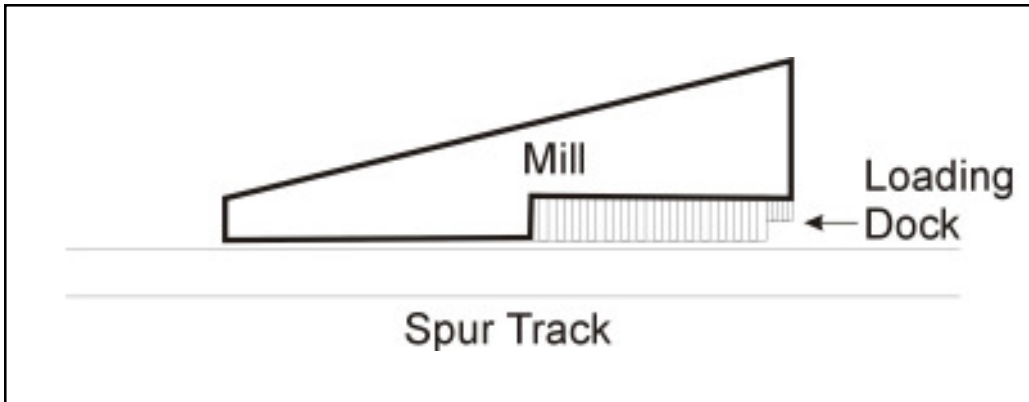
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# The Answers Are Out There: Scratchbuild a Loading Dock

by Bob Pethoud, Member Aid

I'm kitbashing an industry for my Cascade Northern RR from two DPM Laube's Linen Mill kits. Cutting and fitting the wall sections together was easier than I expected, and resulted in a building with the following shape (in plan view):



The building's notch in the southeast corner cried out for a loading dock as indicated. This article narrates how I built it one afternoon.

**Materials** - The loading dock is constructed of scale-dimensioned basswood stained with India ink and glued together with Elmer's carpenter's wood glue. I used HO scale 10x10s for the posts, 8x10 caps, 4x10 joists, and

2x10 deck planking. I built the steps from Micro Mark #84059 laser-cut stringers and #83957 treads (2x12s). I mixed the stain by placing 1 teaspoon of India ink into a 16 fluid ounce bottle of 91% isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. I also used a Sanford Prismacolor marker with the delicious color called Cinnamon Toast.

**Construction** - After gathering the materials and the usual assortment of tools, I began by staining all the wood with the India ink wash before cutting anything. After this dried a few minutes, I ran the Cinnamon Toast marker over one side of the 2x10 deck planking stock. Then I began cutting all the wood to length, a task made enjoyable by my Shay Wood Miter (long out of production, but similar to the NWSL chopper). On a piece of plate glass I glued together five supporting bents each consisting of three 10x10 posts and one 8x10 cap laid flat on top of the posts. To assemble the deck with all the planks aligned, I prepared a simple jig by using CA to fasten two lengths of styrene strips to the plate glass in an L-shape. Then I lined up all of the deck planks, placing some with the Cinnamon Toast stain up and others with that side down for variation. Next, the joists were glued to the planks. After the glue dried, I had six pieces: the deck with joists and the five supporting bents.

**Finish and Final Assembly** - Before gluing the bents to the deck I sanded the deck with 3M 03022 grit Wet or dry P800 abrasive paper. I sanded the edges to true them up and I sanded the top of the deck to simulate wear. The variation in

color from the individual planks, toned down slightly by sanding, resulted in a very realistic finish. Finally, I cut and stained the Micro Mark stringers and treads and assembled them following Micro Mark's instructions.

That's all there was to it: a few enjoyable hours at the workbench and a weathered loading dock to show for the effort. Until next time, you can reach me at [pethoud@comcast.net](mailto:pethoud@comcast.net).

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## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Master Builder – Prototype Models

By Dave Grenier

In this installment, we will review the requirements for the Master Builder – Prototype Models certificate, the third and final category in the “Railroad Setting” area. This category is the newest in the Achievement Program, being added in 1987. It is also the category that many consider to be the most challenging. It goes beyond the Master Builder – Scenery reviewed in the previous article.

The full requirements for this category are available on the NMRA website at [www.nmra.org/education/achievement/ap\\_proto.html](http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement/ap_proto.html). You can also get a copy of the requirements by contacting me, either by phone, e-mail, or letter.

To qualify for this certificate, you must construct an animated or static model of a prototype scene containing at least six models of prototype equipment or structures. Unlike the Master Builder – Scenery category, there is no minimum size requirement for your prototype scene. It only has to be big enough to adequately display the required models and give the overall effect of the intended scene.

At least four different types of models must be represented in the six models, including: 1) rolling stock; 2) railroad structure; 3) caboose or passenger car; and 4) motive power. Any two of the six models must be **scratch built**, with the remainder being **super detailed**. (Refer to the NMRA website for definitions) Plans or photographs must be provided to verify the final prototypical appearance of each model and of the total scene.

The prototype scene, with the six models in it, must earn a Merit Award with a minimum score of 87½ points. This does not mean the individual models must win a Merit Award individually. It means that the scene as a whole, with the models in place, is judged using the following Prototype Models criteria:

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

If you wish, either before or after their inclusion in a Prototype Model scene, you may also use the models as some of your qualifying models for other AP categories, such as Motive Power, Cars, Structures, and Scenery. None of this will affect, or be affected by, their use in a Prototype Models scene. Think of this as a “two-fer” and a very nice return on your modeling time investment.

Note that in this category, simply having the scene receive 87½ points in an NMRA-sponsored contest in the “Modules” or “Displays” class will not qualify it for the Prototype Models category. It must be judged according to the above criteria. However, if there is time, you may ask the contest coordinator or AP Manager to have the module judged according to the Prototype Models standards. It is suggested that you do this beforehand.

In addition to the models, you will need the usual paperwork describing what you did. Prepare a written description, along with 2 sets of photographs (or a video tape presentation), documented evidence and/or maps, which will verify the actual prototype scene used as the basis for the modeled scene. You need to describe, using photos and text, how your model scene has duplicated the prototype scene. Include a description of the intended setting of the model scene, including the scenic details and any towns or cities used to achieve the desired effect.

If possible, take photos of your model from the same angle as the photos you have of the prototype. This way you can have side-by-side photos showing how faithfully your model recreates the prototype. If you have created your own plans, which you most likely will have to do, also include them along with a description of how you developed them. This is one category in which you cannot have too much documentation!

Once you have satisfied all of the requirements, submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) form, which includes the required supporting descriptions and photos, the signed Achievement Program Master Builder Prototype Models Judging form (available on the NMRA website) and a photocopy of your NMRA membership card to the Daylight Division AP Chairman, and you are on your way towards another AP certificate!

For more insight and photos of what is involved in earning this certificate, look at the Scale Rails, June 2008 issue, starting on page 10. There you will find an article describing the personal experiences of Peter Magoun, MMR #396, when he earned his Master Builder – Prototype Model certificate.

If you are interested in learning more about the Achievement Program or Golden Spike Award, contact me for more details. My phone number and e-mail address are listed on the last page of the Daylight Observation and on the Daylight Division website at: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/callboard.htm>

There were no Achievement Program certificates awarded in the Daylight Division since the last Daylight Observation. Next installment: Model Railroad Engineer – Civil

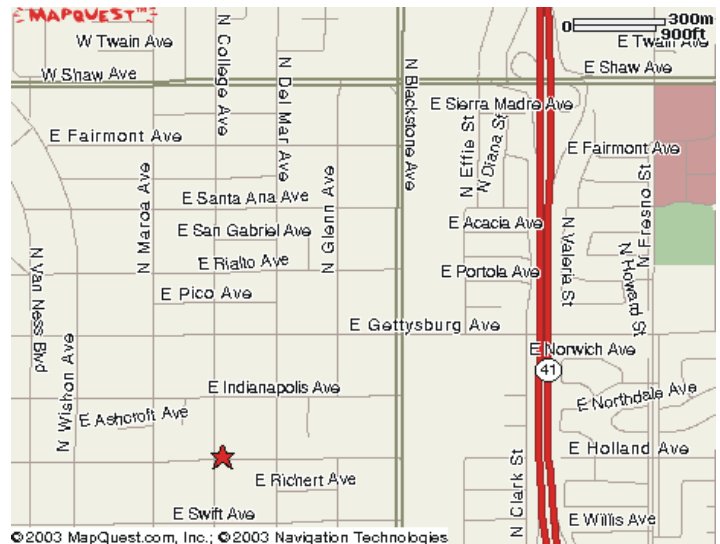
## Directions to Marlin Costello's 1125 E. Holland Ave, Fresno

From the South:

- Travel North on 99 to Freeway 41
- Take 41 North to Shaw
- Go West on Shaw to Blackstone
- Turn left at Blackstone and go south to Holland
- Turn right at Holland and go to Marlin's

From the North:

- Travel South on 99 to Shaw Ave.
- Go East on Shaw to Blackstone (about 4 miles)
- Turn right at Blackstone and go south to Holland
- Turn right at Holland and go to Marlin's



*Daylight*  
**Observation**

Daylight Division  
Pacific Coast Region  
National Model Railroad Association

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

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