



The Daylight Observation

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Volume 37, Issue 2
Apr-May-Jun 2023

Daylight Director's Message: Bakersfield Train Show!

By Walter Mizuno, Daylight Division Director

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Along with the rest of the Pacific Coast Region, the Daylight Division is actively recruiting new members. After years of declining membership, many divisions have taken it upon themselves to actively recruit new members. In January of this

year, the Sierra Division recruited new members at the Great Train Expo in Sacramento. Here, in the Daylight Division, we had the opportunity to reach out to fellow model railroaders when they recently attended the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society's (GEHAMS) 29th annual show in Bakersfield. Thanks to the support from Kevin Birkbeck and Doug Wagner, we were given a table at the event to set up our NMRA recruitment booth.

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Observation Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Articles Due</u>
Winter (Jan-Feb-Mar)	December 10
Spring (Apr-May-Jun)	March 10
Summer (Jul-Aug-Sep)	June 10
Fall (Oct-Nov-Dec)	September 10

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Bill Scott ready to sign up new members at the Daylight Division's recruitment booth.

In addition to Bill Scott, other Daylight members joining us were Neil Fernbaugh and Doug Wagner. Dave Putnam, Sierra's superintendent dropped by to lend us a hand as well. Thanks to all of you for your help. I enjoyed the chance to chat with prospective members and hearing about their modeling interests. During the two-day event we were able to chat with many train enthusiasts and explain the advantages of belonging to the NMRA. The final tally for the recruitment efforts was eleven (!) new NMRA members.

In between recruiting new members, I had a chance to stroll through the show and see some friends and some interesting sights.



The regular crowd of modelers looking for a bargain

Bakersfield Train Show

Our next Daylight meet will be on Saturday, April 15th in Bakersfield. We will be inviting all the new members encouraging them to bring other model railroaders who would be interested in meeting some new friends. We will be touring both GEHAMS' layouts, Doug Wagner's Porterville-Orosi N scale layout, Al Sandrini's Scott's Bay and Eastern branch layout, and Larry Saslow's HO scale Southern Pacific Shasta Division layout. [For more on the April 15th meet, see Doug Wagner's article starting on page 10. -Ed.]

After the meet in Bakersfield, I'll be heading up to Sacramento for the Rails by the River 2023 PCR Convention. I hope to see you there!



Even R2D2 made an appearance with his handler.



This module with the USS Arizona created a lot of interest among showgoers.



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Master Builder – Motive Power
Certificate

By Dave Grenier



In my previous column I discussed what the Achievement Program (AP) was and how to get started by earning the Golden Spike Award. In this installment I will be discussing the first of eleven Achievement Certificates that may be awarded to attain the ultimate goal of Master Model Railroader (MMR), the “Master Builder – Motive Power” certificate.

This is perhaps the most challenging and daunting of the Master Builder categories, but don’t let this category scare you off. If you recall from my previous column, you are only required to complete seven of the eleven categories. You do not have to complete this category to become an MMR. There are ten other categories to choose from, all of which will be discussed in subsequent articles.

Before getting to the requirements for the Master Builder – Motive Power certificate, let’s define what “motive power” is and what it is not. Motive power is any type of steam, diesel, or electric locomotive, traction unit, maintenance vehicle, or other type of self-propelled vehicle that runs on rails. This includes everything from speeders to streetcars to cab-forwards. It does not include things that are powered models of unpowered vehicles (like hand cars) or unpowered models of powered prototypes (like dummy locomotives).

There are three requirements for the Master Builder – Motive Power certificate:

1. Build three scale models of railroad motive power, one of which must be scratchbuilt.
2. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points with each of the three scale models of motive power either via an NMRA sponsored contest or AP Merit Award Judging.
3. Submit a Statement of Qualification.

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While one of the three models must be scratchbuilt, the other two can be commercial models that you have super detailed. To be considered as scratchbuilt, at least 90% of the model's pieces/parts must be constructed or fabricated by the modeler. You do not have to scratch build the following items, which are excluded from the "scratchbuilt requirement": motor, gears, drivers, wheels, couplers, light bulbs, electronics, trucks, paint, decals, bell, marker and classification lights, valve gear, brake fittings, and basic shapes of wood, plastic, metal, etc. Although these parts are exempt from the scratchbuilt requirement, they may be scratchbuilt to earn up to 15 additional bonus points. Basic shapes are things that builders of the prototype would have used as raw materials. For example, an "I" beam would be a basic shape, but a commercial door or window casting would not.

For steam locomotives, the frame, boiler, cab, tender, main and side rods must be scratchbuilt. For other motive power, the body, frame, cab, power truck frames, pantograph or trolley poles must be scratchbuilt. The power train for the models (motor, gears, wheels, etc) may be commercially made and need not be scratchbuilt.

All models must be super detailed either with scratchbuilt parts or with commercial parts. To be considered "super detailed", the model must have considerably more detail of excellent quality than is usually expected. The quality of the detail is more important than the quantity. Models that are cross-kitted, modified kits, parts built, or extensively altered to a different prototype may also be considered as "super detailed". The phrase "real individual craftsmanship is demonstrated" is key and figures in both the letter and the spirit of this and other AP qualifications.

The models must also be operable and capable of self-propulsion on the track of the same gauge as the model. They must be able to pull and negotiate track curves without derailing. The models can also be of any scale.

Once the models are completed, they must be merit judged and earn 87.5 or more points to meet the requirements of this certificate. The models are judged on the quality of the craftsmanship, including the finish and lettering, the quantity of details and amount of scratchbuilt parts, and how well it captures the look of the prototype. Up to 15 bonus scratch building points may be awarded if the modeler builds some or all of the parts exempted from the scratch building requirement, but the total scratch building score cannot exceed 15 points.

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Merit judging can be done in one of two ways: 1) at an NMRA-sponsored contest (NMRA or PCR convention); 2) arrange for judging at another time separate from a convention. You can bring your work to where the judges are, or they will even come to you! When you're ready to have your models merit judged, contact me to set up a time and place.

The final requirement for the Master Builder – Motive Power certificate is to submit a Statement of Qualification (SOQ), which includes detailed descriptions of each model and photocopies of the Merit Award certificates. The detailed descriptions must identify all scratchbuilt features, all commercial components used, and materials used in building the model. Copies of the plans you used are not required, but may be submitted. Photos of the model are helpful, but not required. Submit the completed SOQ, along with a copy of your NMRA membership card, to the Region AP Manager, Jack Burgess. (See PCR Callboard, www.pcrnmra.org, for his contact information)

The Master Builder – Motive Power certificate may appear daunting at first, but remember, it doesn't require you to scratch build a cab-forward or a Big Boy. A simple 4-wheel diesel switch engine will qualify just as well. One purpose of the Achievement Program is to encourage and challenge us to expand our modeling skills, which this category certainly does. Just imagine how much satisfaction you'd get earning this certificate. You would be held in high esteem among your fellow modelers.

For more information about the Master Builder – Motive Power certificate, visit the NMRA website at www.nmra.org.

Next installment: Master Builder – Cars



Daylight Division's Newest Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Michael Torosian	Fresno CA	1/25/2023



*Snow has fallen on Brad Joseph's Union Pacific Wyo-Colo Division
Brad was the co-chair of the St Louis Convention*

NMRA 2022 Convention in St. Louis, Missouri: Part 3

Text and Photos by Bruce Morden

The highlight of my week was probably the Layout Design Special Interest Group's Wednesday Layout Tour. <http://www.ldsigs.org/st-louis-wednesday-layout-tour-1> There were 11 layouts on this tour ranging from medium sized basement layouts to a large 60' x 81' layout in a warehouse building. Except for one DRGW Narrow Gauge Sn3 layout, all of them were HO scale. They were located all around the greater St Louis area including some across the Mississippi River in Illinois. I should probably confess that I have had a hand in organizing these tours for the past 15 years, including putting together the web page, the handout with directions and an online map with information on the tour. It all came off well and I especially had fun with my carpool partners from Iowa and England. We managed to see 10 of the 11 layouts in 9 hours including a stop for lunch. Discussing the layouts we had just visited as we traveled on to the next layout was truly part of that social interaction.

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April-May-June 2023



Floor to ceiling scenery on Randy Meyer's Sn3 Canyon and Rocky Mountain RR



Dispatcher's station with CTC Panel and Train Sheet on Jay Janzen's Kansas Division



Peabody Coal Tipline on Steve Goaring's Illinois Terminal Railroad Co, O'Fallon Branch



A portion of the huge 81'x60' K-10 hobby shop layout





Daylight Division Spring Meet in Bakersfield

By Doug Wagner

Daylight Division Membership and Clinic Chair

Spring is in the air and the Spring Daylight Division's Meet will be held in Bakersfield on Saturday, April 15th. The meet will start with a meet-and-greet breakfast at Tina Marie's Café Banquet Room, which is conveniently located on the ground floor of the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society's Clubhouse, at 1534 19th Street (northeast corner of 19th and "Eye" Street), in beautiful downtown Bakersfield. Breakfast will begin at 9:00 AM, and it is an order-off-the-menu-style breakfast.

Immediately after breakfast, Doug Wagner will present a clinic on using JMRI Operations Pro for setting up operations on your layout. You do not have to have an actual layout to use Operations Pro, so you can set up operations even before building your layout. Operations Pro is a part of the JMRI Decoder Pro software, which is free to download from their web site.

We have four layouts on tour. Maps will be provided to those in attendance at the conclusion of the in-person meet. After the presentation, those who want to visit the Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society's large HO and N scale layouts can just use the elevator to go upstairs for the visit. If you have a DCC loco that you want to run, then bring it along. If you do not have a locomotive, the club has plenty of locos that you may use.

The Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (GEHAMS) HO layout occupies a 37 X 110 foot room on the third floor of a commercial building in downtown Bakersfield. The layout has over 848 feet (14 scale miles) of mainline track that cross mountains, valleys, river canyons, and hillsides between the large classification yards and engine facilities located at "Bakersfield" and "Mojave". The scenery depicts landscapes typical of southern California with citrus orchards, oilfields, small towns and industrial facilities such as petroleum refineries and loading racks, packing sheds, lumber yards, cattle pens, warehouses, and manufacturing businesses. There is a one-mile branch line that serves the rich agricultural town of Norman. Operations are point to point over a single-track mainline that has 5 passing sidings and return loops that allow continuous running. The layout is designed to run along two-sided peninsulas so that the trains traverse separate scenes along the way. The railroad has 160 spotting points to serve 44 customers during operating sessions. There is a strong Santa Fe and Southern Pacific influence to the railroad property.

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An SP freight climbs the Tehachapi Loop on the GEHAMS N scale layout

GEHAMS's N scale layout is approximately 18' X 80', in size, and has 17.4 scale miles of mainline track. The current layout has gone through several makeovers to become the current "freelanced" Bakersfield to Mojave layout that it is today.

The layout has our rendition of the Tehachapi Loop, which was constructed to look similar the real Tehachapi Loop, by using Google Earth measurements, as best we could get in about 7 feet!

The city of Bakersfield, located at the north end of the layout, has a passenger terminal. Just east of Bakersfield is Edison. Railroaders operating in Edison have their job cut out for them, with the numerous packing sheds and other agriculture related industries.

After leaving Edison, the train makes it way up the mountains through Bena, Caliente, and Cliff, arriving at the Tehachapi Loop. After the Loop is the town of Tehachapi, where a branch line operation begins that takes you into the town of Kernville, where a local can spend hours sorting cars out at the various industries located there.

If you continue on the mainline east from Tehachapi, you will pass by the Monolith Cement Plant, and then the double track starts at Cameron, which will take you into Mojave. Eastward from the Mojave staging yard is the latest addition to the layout, where the Trona Branch is being constructed.

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Switching action on Al Sandrini's Scott's Bay and Eastern Railroad

Al Sandrini's home layout, The Scott's Bay and Eastern branch of the Espee, runs from Scott's Bay, California, through an agricultural area to a mountain logging town. The 1950's railroad is located in a 7x24 foot room, alongside of his garage. The layout is triple decked, with stacked helixes.

Scott's Bay is on the lowest shelf of the three levels. Above an 8-foot-long seawall there are a couple of fishing related businesses and a heavy industrial area. Nearly all turnouts are manually thrown on this level. The second level contains two towns. Valencia, the first town, has a packing shed, tractor dealership, oil distributor and a lumber/hardware dealer, in addition to a large orange orchard. Across the aisle, the second town is Fruta, a good-sized city featuring an icing platform, depot, cotton gin, and a slaughterhouse. From there the track winds through a pine forest, past a truck-to-rail log loading area, to appear in the logging area. A scratch-built sawmill, FSM depot, a door and sash company, a box factory and small loco facility are located here.

The railroad is 95% completed, only some scenery around the sawmill needs to be completed. The railroad is run on DCC, and several locomotives have sound.

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Larry Saslaw's HO scale Southern Pacific's Shasta Division layout is for the true SP fan.



Larry Saslaw's HO scale layout is based on Southern Pacific's Dunsmuir engine facilities and Shasta Division, circa 1954 (and last day of Southern Pacific operations on Sept 11, 1996). Larry has used plans of the roundhouse, machine shops, Mallet shed, sanding tower and station from MAINLINE MODELER articles of the early 1980s. The layout is built within the third stall of his garage and measures 12 feet x 21 feet.

The concept is based on climbing out of the Sacramento River valley from lower Dunsmuir yard, through the engine facilities, up the canyon past Shasta Springs, across Hotlum (Dry Canyon) up to a second level to what could be the summit at Siskiyou. Larry's intent is to portray the scenery and feeling of railroading in the Shasta Route. He uses Digitrax Radio DCC and has a examples of SP steam, diesels, the Shasta Daylight, and Klamath lumber trains of the 1954 era. He also can switch out all the motive power and rolling stock to portray the last days of the Southern Pacific with the Coast Starlight.

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If you're in the market for a dependable used car, a great place to shop for one is Dewey, Cheatem, and Howe Dependable Used Cars.

Doug Wagner's 10' x 20' shelf-style N scale Santa Fe RR layout depicts the Porterville-Orosi District in the year 1955, so you will see plenty of ATSF zebra-stripe locos operating. Doug has all the track installed and the area of Porterville where most of the scenery is in, but still has a long way to go, as this is a layout still under construction. Doug has implemented operations using JMRI Operations Pro to simulate the operations of 1955 as close as he can. Doug is cheating somewhat—the fancy term is proto-freelancing—by having a Doodlebug and a GP-7 Torpedo Tube with a combine baggage/coach supplying the passenger service on the branch line, even though passenger service ended in 1938 on the Porterville-Orosi District! Operations include local freight trains,

the Strathmore Turn and Lindsay Turn, providing freight service to the towns of Porterville, Strathmore, Lindsay, Exeter and Woodlake. Doug will even have music from 1955 streaming to really get you into the mid-50's mood!

We hope some of you will consider joining us Saturday, April 15th in Bakersfield, for our Spring Daylight Division Meet. Besides, Tina serves a mean biscuits and gravy platter and you can even order a Bloody Mary to go along with it!

If you have any questions, please contact Doug Wagner by email at carldw@aol.com, or by home phone at (661) 589-0391, or at his cell phone at (661) 331-6695. Please keep up with the latest information by visiting the Daylight Division's web site at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/>.



Problems Updating NMRA Membership Information?

by Doug Wagner,
PCR Membership Manager



I have heard from more than a couple of NMRA members that they had had issues when attempting to update their NMRA membership information when using the NMRA’s web site. Well, as one United States Presidential candidate once said, “I Feel Your Pain!” And having personally used the NMRA’s web site for that very same thing, I can admit that navigating the NMRA’s web site can be a daunting and frustrating task! For any member who has not been able to update any information pertaining to your NMRA membership

through the web site, I’ll make it easy for you. You may send an email to the NMRA HQ office staff, by visiting the NMRA’S web site at <https://www.nmra.org/>, and by clicking on the words “**Contact**” in the dark blue bar, on the right side of the NMRA’s web site, and that will take you to the next page. Under the words “**The Headquarters of the NMRA**” you will see the words “**Email to NMRA**” HQ. Click that and your email provider email sending process will pop up. Just write what information you are wanting to update and hit the “send” button. HQ staff is very good when it comes to replying to emails (at least in my experience). And I’ll make it even easier for you. You can send me an email at carldw@aol.com with the information you want to update, and I will personally send your information update to NMRA HQ. Heh, I have to justify my mega-PCR paycheck somehow! Hope this helps. May all your signal be green---it’s time to highball!

Daylight Division Membership Gauge

February 28, 2013	144
February 28, 2022	92
March 31, 2022	92
April 30, 2022	93
May 31, 2022	90
June 30, 2022	86
July 31, 2022	85
August 31, 2022	85
September 30, 2022	84
October 31, 2022	83
November 30, 2022	82
December 31, 2022	82
January 31, 2023	83
February 28, 2023	83



April 15, 2023 - 9:00 am, **Daylight Division Spring Meet** at Tina Marie’s Café, 1534 19th Street, Bakersfield. See more details starting on page 10 of the Daylight Observation above.

April 22 – 23, 2023 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. • [MAP](#)
Come visit this HO scale tri-level 36' x 60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains to Sparks, Nevada. Our walk-around model railroad allows you to closely follow a train as it traverses the railroad from Oakland to Sparks.

Admission: \$5.00; children under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

Info: president@cmrstrainclub.org or secretary@cmrstrainclub.org

April 22, 2023 - [West Side Reunion](#) presents the 34th Annual Logging & Mining Modeler's Convention at the Sonora Senior Center, 540 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA. ([MAP](#))
Join us for the all-day event, including clinics, contests, and dealer sales area. See the website for details on vendor tables. Admission is \$25.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door (this year your spouse is included). Dealer tables are available for \$20.00 for the first table, which includes one pass. Each addition 6' table is \$10.00. Each additional person at your table(s) is \$25.00 for their pass. Please reserve your tables early.

[See the website for new information!](#)

Contact: Frank Markovich, E-mail: frank@frankmarkovich.com, Phone: (408) 505-2727.

April 23, 2023 - 8:30 am, Sierra Seminar, Sonora Senior Center, 540 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA. ([MAP](#))

- Presentations on the history and modeling of the Sierra and other Tuolumne County railroads
- Free tables for related displays and for sale items
- Warm fellowship, free coffee, water, donuts and interesting discussions
- Pizza lunch included for \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door
- Plus much more.

Contact Glenn Sutherland at glennsutherland@sti.net for more information.

April 26 – 30, 2023 - [Rails by the River 2023](#), Joint PCR/FRRS 2023 Convention. Courtyard by Marriott Sacramento Cal Expo, 1782 Tribute Rd, Sacramento, CA 95815. • [MAP](#)

August 20 – 26, 2023 - [Texas Express 2023](#), NMRA National Convention, Hosted by [Lone Star Region](#). Convention Hotel: Gaylord Texan, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, Texas, USA • [MAP](#)

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Daylight Membership by County

<u>County</u>	<u># Members</u>
San Luis Obispo	22
Fresno	17
Santa Barbara	15
Kern	15
Tulare	6
Merced	3
Madera	3
<u>Mariposa</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Members	83

Welcome Aboard!

April 28, 2023 • 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, [Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society](#), in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. • [MAP](#)

The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. This model railroad features standard gauge, narrow gauge, and interurban (overhead electric) freight and trolley lines. Fares:

- \$5.00 Adults
- \$3.00 Seniors & Children (6-12 yrs)
- Children under 6: FREE

For information call: (925) 937-1888 Visit our website: wcmrs.org

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcmrs

May 7, 2023 - 9:30 am, [Coast Division](#) Meet & Auction, Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501, [MAP](#)

Auction items check in starts at 9:30 am, event starts at 10:00 am.

Must be NMRA member to buy or sell at the auction.

Bring your NMRA membership card!

May 20 & 21, 2023 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Weekend Model Train Show, [Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society](#), in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek,

CA. • [MAP](#) For information call: (925) 937-1888

Visit our website: wcmrs.org

May 26, 2023 • 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, [Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society](#), in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek,

CA. • [MAP](#) For information call: (925) 937-1888

Visit our website: wcmrs.org

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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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Come visit this HO scale tri-level 36' x 60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains to Sparks, Nevada. Our walk-around model railroad allows you to closely follow a train as it traverses the railroad from Oakland to Sparks.
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Visit our website: wcmrs.org

August 20 – 26, 2023 - [Texas Express 2023](#), NMRA National Convention, Hosted by [Lone Star Region](#). Convention Hotel: Gaylord Texan, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, Texas, USA • [MAP](#)





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Daylight Division

Pacific Coast Region

National Model Railroad Association

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