



The Daylight Observation

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Daylight Division, PCR / NMRA
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Come one, Come all to San Luis Obispo Aug. 22

by Terry N Taylor

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The San Luis Obispo Model RR Association (go to either <http://www.slomra.org/> or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SLOMRA/>) and the Thursday Nite Boomers will be hosting the Daylight Division's Summer Meet at Hilding Larson's home at 7050 Lewis Lane in San Luis Obispo (just a bit southeast of the airport-see directions on page 10). This meet is open to both members of the NMRA and non-members. Two clinics, lunch, a business meeting, a white elephant auction and a regular auction will be featured.

Registration cost is just \$4 if you are an NMRA member and \$5 for non-members. This fee pays for the soft drinks, donuts, water etc with any surplus or deficit going to the Division. Non members may wish to become a member at the door as they will then be eligible to participate in the auctions as well as all the other benefits. For first timers and those whose membership has lapsed for over 2 years, a trial Rail Pass Membership in the NMRA is only \$9.95 for 6 months, which includes 6 issues of Scale Rails Magazine. This is a one time deal in that you can't join at this rate, quit for a couple of years and then rejoin at this rate again. So why not try it and see part of what you have been missing?

Due to the expanded time for the auctions and business meeting, we will only have two clinics instead of our usual three, but we hope you will like the two we have scheduled. They will be both on model railroads this time as the prototype clinics will be seen during the SP Historical Convention at SLO in October.

Matt Hoffman & Rick Anderson will present the first clinic on laying track and making turnouts using a jig from Fast Tracks. Very reliable good looking results on both and much faster than I expected. The trackwork on Rick's layout has to be seen (and operated on) to really appreciate how good these two are at laying track.

Paul Deis will do a clinic on both his outdoor and indoor layouts. We had a Shay moving on his outdoor track a couple of weeks ago and it was very nice seeing and hearing it come thru the small forest of living scale trees that he has planted in his front yard. Track laying is progressing down the side yard and we

This Daylight Division meet will feature our first regular auction! This one will be for Daylight members who want to buy or sell excess or estate items. Bring your auction items and we'll try to get you top price. The Division will earn 10% of the sale price.

(More about the meet on page 2)

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SLO Meet (Continued)

have been working on the right of way in the back yard. Track laying is just starting in the engine yard on his indoor HO layout that in time will take up several bedrooms.

Lunch will be the usual very nice tri-tip sandwich, home made potato salad, beans and chocolate cake - Cost for the lunch will be \$6.00, which is the same I believe as last time.

In addition to the usual white elephant auction (please bring your no longer wanted items wrapped in newspaper etc but no mice please), we will have the new Division Auction where any railroad related item is auctioned off by/for members (or their estates) with 10% of the selling price for the Division. Go to http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/Auction_rules.pdf or to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/daylightdivision/files/> for the rules and the required forms if you have items that you want to enter in the auction. It will help a lot if you fill these forms out ahead of time. (White Elephants do not need any forms.)

There will be tables set out for both railroad related display items (please bring whatever items (prototype, model or photograph) that you are especially proud of), contest entries (model & photographs) as well as items brought for the auction.

Layout Tours will be hosted by Charlie Burns, Paul Deis, George Gibson, Hilding Larson, Andrew Merriam and the SLO MRA, who will have several layouts running at the Oceano Depot with maybe one or two more tours available by 22 August. George Gibson is a new host for our tours and his DK & Pacific Mountain Railway (HO Std with a Narrow Gauge branch) should not be missed.

As you can see, there is plenty to do and time to make new friends as well as get into 'mischief' with old friends; so drop by, come on over and plan to have a good time.



DAVE'S DISPATCH **From the Super's Desk** **By Dave Grenier**

Daylight Division held its Spring Meet on Saturday, May 2, at the home of **Patricia and Marlin Costello** in Fresno. **Gary Saxton** presented his clinic "Quick Jigs for Bridges and Trestles", followed by **Bert Greeley's** clinic "Weathering Techniques." After the clinics, we broke for lunch, prepared by Patricia. Thank you, Patricia for a sumptuous spread. Following lunch, the business meeting was held on the patio. New NMRA member **Boyd Cline** of Fresno was welcomed to the Division. We had the usual business meeting (see Suzie's minutes on page 7). At the conclusion of the white elephant auction, we adjourned and visited several local layouts. Thanks to everyone that helped to make the meet a success and a special thanks to all the layout hosts for opening your layouts for us.

At the recently completed Rails Across the Bay PCR Convention in Fremont, **Gary Saxton** was named "2009 Daylight Division Member of the Year." Yours truly was presented with the "2009 PCR President's Award" by PCR President Ron Plies. Both awards were framed "Signature Series" prints by artist Michael F. Kotowski, entitled "S.P. 4100 at Niles Tower." Member **Ron Baker** won a 2nd place award in the PCR Model Contest for his HO-scale display module. Congratulations all.

(More of Dave on Page 3)

Dave's Dispatch (Cont.)

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DIVISION HISTORIAN

Vacant

Meet Schedule

0900-1000 Registration, contest entries, bidder cards, & auction items (donuts and drinks available).
1000-1015 Welcome by Dave Grenier & Hilding Larson
1015-1100 Clinic #1 - Good Looking Track & Turnouts that you can Operate on by Rick Anderson & Matt Hoffman
1100-1115 Break
1115-1200 Clinic #2 - The D&P Lines by Paul Deis
1200-1215 Break
1215-1300 Lunch of Tri-tip etc. as presented by the Larsons with some assistance by Glenn Geissinger
1300-1400 Business Meeting
1400-1415 Break
1415-1500 Door Prizes & White Elephant Auction
1500-1515 Layout Maps & last minute notes by Rick Anderson
1515-1545 Regular Auction
1530-1900 Layout Tours

The next Daylight Division meet will be August 22 at the hillside home of **Mary Carole and Hilding Larson** in San Luis Obispo, with early registration starting at 9:00 AM. **Hilding, Terry Taylor** and the Thursday Night Boomers have quite a slate of activities planned for us, which is described elsewhere. One of the activities is the Daylight Auction, being held for the first time. If you've ever been to a PCR Coast Division Auction, then you'll be familiar with how ours works. After all, it was patterned after theirs. (Hey, I'm a former "Coastee") Start looking around now and get your unwanted railroad-related items ready to sell off and convert into cash.

Be prepared for a significant change from previous meets. Because the Daylight Auction and White Elephant Auction are functions of, a benefit of membership, and conducted by the Daylight Division Pacific Coast Region, only current NMRA members may participate as either a seller or a buyer. The PCR Manual of Operations and Daylight Division By-laws are quite clear on this. The underlying reason for this is according to California State law, sales of tangible property at events where only members participate is exempted from sales taxes. If we opened the auctions to non-NMRA members, we would be liable to collect and pay state sales taxes! Thanks in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

The Auction Rules are posted on the website and on our Yahoo group. Please read them and familiarize yourself with them so you will know what to expect. If you are bringing items for the auction, please fill out the Auction Item Tags (one per item or lot) at home to save time at the meet. Check the "Files" section on the [Daylight Division](#) Yahoo! Group for Auction Rules and Auction Item Tags. They are also posted on the website under "Announcements" on the home page.

At the meet, when signing out a bidder card, as either a seller or buyer, be prepared to present your current NMRA, PCR, or other division membership card. We will also have a current Daylight Division membership list available for anyone not having a card with them. Membership applications, including the 6-month Railpass, will be available at the meet.

White elephant auction items should only be wrapped in plain or wrapping paper. No auction tag is necessary, or desirable. After all, if you knew you were bidding on a old rusty spike, would you bid \$5.00 for it, as was done at a previous meet? Not mentioning any names here, but his initials were "DG". (It was re-auctioned off at the Fresno meet! He-he)

The Auction Committee is still forming. If you'd like to help out during the auction, please call or e-mail me for more information. So far, we have a Chair pro-temp (me), Cashier – Suzie Paff, and Clerk – Walt Schulze. We need a few more people to move the auction items around during the auction. Members of the committee may also bid on items during the auction. For future auctions, I would like to have a few people from each area to help out. Come on and join us. It's be fun! If no one volunteers up front, we'll get an early start with some "railroading" fun of our own!

For the Fall Meet on November 7th, we'll be taking US-101 south to Santa Barbara and Gary Siegel's, home of his nationally known L&N EK Division.

Check the PCR Master Calendar, www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.html, for more upcoming events. It's the one best place to check for events in the PCR and beyond.

See you in SLO!

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. Please put Observation in the subject box so I won't mistake it for junk mail.



Dave Grenier received the President's award for 2009

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, and the PCR Master Calendar, www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.html

Union Pacific Allows Use of Daylight Logo

By Jay Smith

On June 11, 2009, Debra Schrapfer, of Union Pacific's Corporate Relations Office, informed me that Union Pacific, who owns the rights to the Daylight logo, has no objections to the logo's use by the Daylight Division. This allows us to freely use the Daylight logo on shirts, caps, mugs, etc., for the benefit of the Daylight Division. On behalf of the members of the Daylight Division I want to thank Union Pacific and Ms Schrapfer for their kind generosity.

2009 Fresno/Clovis Open House Set for December 5 by Gary Saxton

With the successful first annual Fresno/Clovis open house under our belt, we will do our second open house on Saturday, December 5. We have added one to the list to replace one lost due to relocation. We need more so volunteer or buy a sling. I will be out twisting arms.

Most hosts said they could accept a few but not a lot more visitors. We want to introduce the hobby to others and have a nice family outing. Thus, we need a step, but not a great leap, in publicity. John Houlihan suggested letting the Scouts know and that sounds good. It should produce a few and it is a good group. I welcome other suggestions.

For anybody else coordinating an open house or layout tour I have two documents that may be helpful – a host's guide and a visitors guide. These are amalgamations of other people's effort and can be used "as is." They are MS Word .doc files and easily edited or can be customized to meet your needs. Contact me (gbs46@sbcglobal.net) for copies.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 5.



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*Gary Saxton is Daylight Division's
Member of the Year for 2009*

Magnificent May Meet Makes Marlin's Marvelous

by Jay Smith

Nothing like a little alliteration* to get things popping in the Daylight Division. Many thanks go out to Marlin Costello for opening up his home for our Spring 2009 meet. He and his lovely wife Patricia made all of us feel very welcome and at home. The raffle was, again, another great success with the most donations yet since I became Industry Liaison in November 2008. We received donations from hobby shops and national manufacturers. In addition, we received donations from several Daylight Division members.

This time around I decided to do something a little differently in acknowledging our donors. I thought you might be interested in knowing what is being donated and taken home to enjoy by those lucky members with a winning raffle ticket number, so I have listed what each business has generously provided. If you like knowing what specific prizes were donated/won let me know. If you don't care or find it boring let me know. I would appreciate hearing from you.

Donors this quarter included four local hobby shops: 1) Charlie Worstell of **Tom's Trains** in Fresno-Westerfield HO USRA Steel Box Car Kit (Undec.); 2) Dave and Terri Baker of **Terri's Timeless Treasures** in Clovis-Walther's HO 50' FGE Insulated Box Car (BN) and a pewter locomotive belt buckle; 3) Roy Ogle of **Roy's Trains and Things** in Clovis-N EMD GP35 (SP); 4) Jon and Kayanne Yung of **Hobby Town, USA** in Fresno-Athearn HO 50' Gondola (Gondola Connection), Proto 2000 HO 36" wheel set, and Chooch HO New Wheels Load for Gondola.

We also received donations from two national manufacturers: 1) **Bar Mills Scale Model Works** of Bar Mills, ME-HO Combination Passenger/Baggage Shelter and weathering powders; 2) **Broadway Ltd. Imports** of Ormond Beach, FL-\$50 Online Store Gift Certificate which miraculously transformed itself into an HO EMD Switcher SW7 Phase 2 (IC).

And finally, we received donations from three of our Daylight Division members: 1) John Houlihan of **The Irish Tracklayer** in Fresno-HO 2008 Commemorative Convention Car (Sierra Memories), Sierra Memories polo shirt w/embroidered logo, and Number Board (HO- G scale); 2) **Dave Grenier** of Clovis-HO 2005 Commemorative Car (SBHRS) ; 3) Jay and Celest Smith of **Creative Promotions Resource** in Clovis-Daylight Division logo T-shirt, Daylight Division train T-shirt, and Still Plays With Trains T-shirt.

I feel fortunate that so many businesses and individuals have decided that it is worthwhile to support the Daylight Division. I hope you feel the same way. If you do, please contact these donors and let them know how truly grateful you are for their support. I know they would appreciate hearing from you and, if you can, give them your business. Let them know that we support them as well. See you in SLO in August.

**The Editor apologizes for allowing such frivolity to be published.*

The Answers Are Out There: A Roof for the Loading Dock

By Bob Pethoud, Member Services



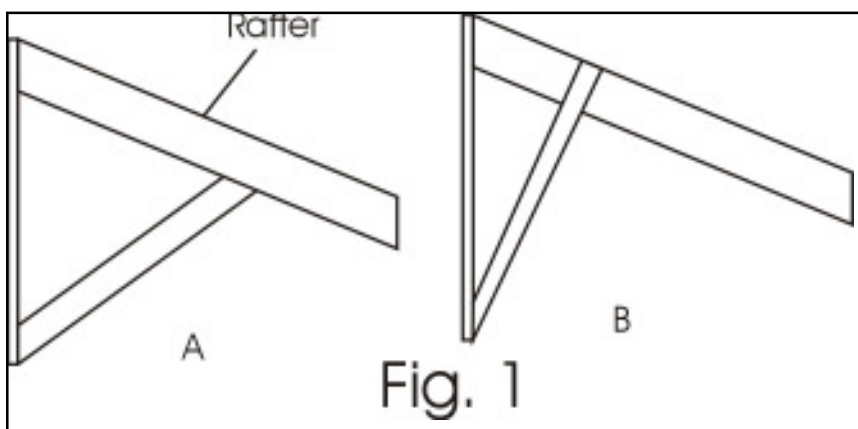
There is a fine line between kitbashing and scratchbuilding. Both require the same basic skills, but unless you are hoping to win a competition or you're duplicating a particular prototype, kitbashing can get you a good looking structure with less time and effort. Then "scratching" a few details can be less intimidating and will make your structure unique.

Last time I described how I scratchbuilt a loading dock for a lineside industry, which I am kitbashing from a couple of DPM's Laube's Linen Mill kits. This time I will tell you how I built a roof over that loading dock.

The brackets to support the roof attach directly to the brick wall of the mill. Again the structural material represented is wood, but this time I chose to use styrene in order to speed construction and because the end product will be painted

rather than stained. The first decision was the design of the brackets. Figure 1 shows two designs commonly used. I chose the more complicated but stylish design, B, since my mill is prominently located at the front of my layout.

The next, and most critical, step was to draw the bracket full size (for the HO scale model) on paper. This was tricky, because the only dimension I knew for certain was how far from the wall I wanted the roof to extend. The roof pitch and the placement of all the bracing pieces were all negotiable. After much experimentation, I decided that the bracket looked best with the diagonal brace



perpendicular to the rafter and with the overlapping right triangles roughly the same size.

Once I was satisfied with the drawing, cutting the styrene pieces for a total of four brackets was straightforward, if a bit tedious. I assembled the pieces for each bracket in the order illustrated below, using MEK and a small brush.

See Figure 2. The rafter (1) and horizontal brace (2) are 4x8 inches in cross section. The diagonal braces (4) are 2x8 and are doubled, with one on each side of the rafter. The vertical braces (3) are 2x4 and are also doubled. 2x10 was used for the vertical mounting plate (5).

After the brackets were assembled, I drilled small holes in the pilasters of the wall where they were to be mounted. I installed short lengths of brass wire into the holes, allowing about 1/16" of the wire to protrude, and secured them with CA. Matching holes drilled in the mounting plates (5) allow me to hang the brackets on the wall. Before attaching the brackets permanently, I painted them using cheap craft paints from Michaels in my trim color.

Finally, I will add styrene purlins across all four brackets and attach some Campbell corrugated metal pieces.

If you like the appearance of the brackets, but would like to spend less time creating them, Depots by John offers soft metal castings of them at 8 for under \$3.00 (Item HO-128 Eave Brackets).

That's all for this time. Until the next issue, contact me at pethoud@comcast.net.

Minutes of the Fresno Meet 5/2/09

The Daylight spring meet was held in Fresno at the home of Marlin Costello. The business meeting was called to order by Superintendent Dave Grenier at 1:00 PM.

A motion was made by Ron Cox and seconded by Bill Scott to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as they were printed in the Daylight Observation. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Doug Wagner and seconded by Steve Dicks to accept the treasures report as published in the Daylight Observation.

There were three bills submitted: Chuck Harmon – Observation \$233.38, Jay Smith – Supplies & copying \$22.83 and Suzie Paff – Supplies 20.78 and Folding Table \$35.00. Ron made a motion to accept the bills and Jim Posey seconded it. The motion carried.

John Houlihan gave a short directors report reminding everyone that the next PCR convention is in Sparks, Nevada. Also he said the Amtrak does not stop in Sparks. You have to go to Reno and the come back by car.

Announcements: At the 2009 PCR Convention Gary Saxton won the Daylight Division Member of the Year award

Treasury Report 6/28/09				
DATE	TRANSACTION	DEBT	CREDIT	BALANCE
2/28/109	CORRECTED BALANCE			\$3,154.94
2/28/109	DONATION FOR USE OF	\$100.00		\$3,054.94
5/2/109	WHITE ELEPHANT		\$133.00	\$3,187.94
5/2/109	REGISTRATION		\$127.00	\$3,314.94
5/2/109	RAFFLE		\$63.00	\$3,377.94
5/2/109	OBSERVATION	\$233.38		\$3,144.56
5/2/109	SUPPLIES-SUZIE PAFF	\$20.78		\$3,123.78
5/2/109	SUPPLIES-JAY SMITH	\$22.63		\$3,101.15
5/2/109	REGISTRATION TABLE	\$35.00		\$3,066.15

and Dave Grenier was present with an award for Web Page God from the Convention Committee and he won the Presidents award from the PCR

The next meet will be August 22 in San Luis Obispo at Hilding Larson's home. The November meet is in Santa Barbara. February and May 2010 are open.

Chuck Harmon reported on the status of the train show in Fresno. They are currently working on finding a location and TTOS may be interested in partnering with us on the show. They are looking at April next year for the show.

Gary Saxton told us about the layout tours and operating sessions for today.

Jay Smith gave a report about the division shirts and name tags. Bill Scott made a motion to form a committee of Suzie Paff, Dave Grenier and Jay Smith to decide on some choices and prices of shirts and put them on the web page to be voted on. We will also get some input at the San Luis Obispo meet. Jim Posey seconded the motion. After some discussion about the name tags Bill Scott amended his motion to include the Name tags. Chuck Harmon seconded the motion and the motion carried. The committee invited Chuck Harmon to be part of the committee and he accepted.

Dave Grenier spoke about out last division auction and said that San Luis Obispo would like to have one at there meet. It was agreed to have an auction at the next meet and members will bring items to be auction. The division will keep 10% of the sales. We will have them every six months and advertise them to get more interest and let people know we will do estate auctions as well.

Contests: Doug Wagner won the photo contest and Dave Grenier won the model contest. Following the meeting we had the Door Prize Drawings and a rousing White Elephant Auction.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Paff, Chief Clerk / Paymaster

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Calling All Model Railroad Clubs, Round- Robin Groups and Layout Owners Within The Daylight Division

In an effort to connect model railroaders throughout the Daylight Division with model railroad clubs, layout construction “round-robin” groups and layouts, I’m attempting to create a list of the mentioned groups, so that we can enlarge the fellowship of all model railroaders in the Daylight Division. This way we can increase our chances of bringing in new members, and maybe getting that ol’ spark of current model railroader’s interests going again. I’ve seen several emails to the various model railroad lists I belong to from folks looking for model railroaders in a certain area. This way, we can get those folks who are just starting out in the hobby, looking for advice from all the experts we have here in the Daylight Division. So, I’m not just looking for model railroad clubs in the Daylight Division, but for “round-robin” groups and individuals who have home layouts, who wouldn’t mind showing off their layout to someone who is interested, or just getting started out in model railroader. This is an excellent way to get folks into our hobby!

If anyone that is willing to have their layout, round-robin group or club listed, so that we can pass on that information to other model railroaders, please contact Doug Wagner, by either email (the best way) at carldw@aol.com, or the old fashioned way, by telephone, at (661) 589-0391.

Membership and Clinics

By Doug Wagner

I’m sure most of you have been seeing all the doom-and-gloom that the NMRA is dying because new members aren’t coming on board and we can’t keep the current members! At the PCR Board of Directors meeting, in Fremont, this item came up for discussion. It was felt that a one-two punch was needed to keep up the membership in the NMRA/PCR.

The first punch was to keep the current members. Sounds easy enough. But how do we do that? It will have to be a “grass roots” effort. My theory is that people join not to belong to the NMRA, but to the PCR. After all, it’s the PCR and the Divisions where you have all the fun! Quarterly Division meets, where you get to enjoy the “how-to” clinics and local layouts, and the yearly PCR conventions where you get to enjoy even more clinics and visit layouts that you have probably never have seen – like I did at the Fremont Convention! I finally got to visit Jack Burgess’ Yosemite Valley layout after reading about for over 20 years! Quarterly Daylight Division meets aren’t just scheduled so that we can have our quarterly business meeting. They are put on for the benefit of the Daylight Division members. This is why we try to schedule local layout tours and put on interesting clinics and seminars. This is the “grass root” effort that I was speaking of earlier. I do get a kick out of learning something new at one of the clinics or visiting a layout and learning how the layout owner accomplishes a certain aspect on his/her layout – and I’m sure I’m not the only one!

Come on out and enjoy one of the quarterly meets that some of your fellow members have volunteered their time for your enjoyment! The next one is in San Luis Obispo, August 22nd, and I’d sure be wanting to be in San Luis Obispo, on August 22nd, visiting layouts, than sweltering in the San Joaquin Valley heat! But that’s only my own humble opinion!

The second section of the “one-two” punch was how do we attract new members to the Daylight Division and PCR? Another not an easy answer question! What do we have to offer a new member? The answers will vary and there are many! Anyway, I have been developing a brochure aimed toward what the PCR has to offer to members. I first brought this up at the April Board of Director’s meeting, in Fremont, and I hope to have a rough draft ready to show to the Board at the October 24th Board of Director’s meeting, in Reno. This brochure will be made available at model train shows and other model railroading events throughout the PCR.

Last and not least, is the clinics part of this article. I want to thank the number of Daylight members who have stepped forward to deliver great clinics at all the Daylight Division meets! Without them, we’d just have a business meeting and White Elephant auction to offer to all you members at the quarterly meets! I’m attempting to compile a list of clinic givers in each area, so that we can continue to enjoy – and learn – clinics given at all the Daylight Division meets! So, if you can at all give a clinic – even a slide program of your favorite railroad – please consider giving a clinic at one of the Daylight Division meets. Besides, you earn points toward your Apprentice Program Award!

Well, that’s it for this issue of the *Observation*. I hope to see a lot of you at the August 22nd Daylight Division meet, in San Luis Obispo, August 22nd. I can assure you I will be there, as I sure don’t want to be in the sizzling Valley heat that day!

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

By Dave Grenier

In this installment, we will review the requirements for the Model Railroad Engineer – Civil certificate, the first of three in the “Railroad Construction and Operations” area. While the requirements for this certificate may seem long and daunting, they really aren’t. 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.

The first requirement is to 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, check the requirements for Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical, and Chief Dispatcher when planning your layout to also include those requirements from the beginning. It’s much easier to do it now in the planning stage than to add them later during construction.

Your layout drawing **must** include the following features: 1) adequate terminal facilities for handling freight and/or passenger cars; 2) adequate terminal facilities for storage and service of motive power; 3) at least one mainline passing siding; 4) four switching locations (not counting yards, interchanges, wyes, and reversing loops); 5) provisions for turning motive power; 6) and provisions for simultaneous operation of at least two mainline trains in either direction. Remember, you do not have to build all of these facilities, just show them on your plan to demonstrate that you understand what the design of these facilities would look like.

The second requirement is to 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 or #1 scale. The track must be complete 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 flextrack and turnouts, is perfectly acceptable.

The completed 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, superelevation, simple overhead wire, catenary, scale track, cog railway track, coal dump track, ash pit, service pit track, or a grade elevation change.

The third requirement is to construct for Merit Judging, scratch built models of any **three** of the following, and demonstrate their satisfactory operation: turnout (point or stub), single or double crossover, single or double slip switch, crossing, gauntlet track, dual gauge turnout, gauge separation turnout, double junction turnout, three-way turnout, spring switch, operating switch in overhead wire. These items may be built and demonstrated as part of your layout or on separate pieces of wood. If they are built separately, include enough track to demonstrate their satisfactory operation. An engine must be able to run through all possible routes under its own power. Just pushing a car through by hand is not sufficient. You must build your own frogs, however you may use commercial rails, spikes, ties and Fast Tracks™ jigs. The jigs are considered “tools” and are permissible.

The fourth and final requirement is to win a Merit Award (at least 87.5 points) on the three scratchbuilt items in the third requirement. The track items in the second requirement don’t have to be judged at all, except to demonstrate that they work. The judges for merit judging are appointed by the Regional AP Manager and must sign the Record and Validation form and the Judging form, available on the NMRA website. (See link below)

After completing the above four requirements, submit a completed Statement of Qualification, including copies of your track plan, Record and Validation form and Judging form, along with a copy of your NMRA membership card to the PCR AP Manager, Jack Burgess.

The full requirements for this category are available on the NMRA website at http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement/ap_civil.html. You can also get a copy of the requirements by contacting me, either by phone, e-mail, or letter. Also check *Scale Rails*, July 2008 issue, page 9, for an informative article on earning this certificate.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the Achievement Program or Golden Spike Award, call me at (559) 297-1345 or e-mail me at grenida@pacbell.net.

Next installment: Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical

Directions to the Meet

If you are coming from the north (or from SLO) take Broad St past the airport to Los Ranchos Rd and turn Right at the signal.

If you are coming from the South, take the Price Cyn exit from the freeway (at Pismo Beach) to 227/ Broad St, turn left, go to next signal which is Los Ranchos Rd and turn Left.

Once on Los Ranchos Rd, follow it past the school on the left and the gated community on the right to Country Club Drive (a divided street). Turn Right. Go up the hill, past the club house and turn left on Lewis Lane (which is even with the tennis courts). Follow Lewis Lane past the houses and out into the fields to 7050 Lewis which is on the right side almost at the end of the road. There is a post with 7050 on it (and probably a road grader also). Turn in the driveway and go up the hill to the house where there is parking in front and on the lower level.

In case of any problems Hilding's phone number is 805-543-1133.


**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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