



The Daylight Observation

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Daylight Division Summer Meet

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2013, IN SELMA

Coordinators: Steve Fischer and Don Smith

We are meeting this quarter at the Spike 'n' Rail Steakhouse located at 2910 Pea Soup Anderson Blvd (at the Windmill) in Selma, CA 93662 The Raisin Capital of the World!



We hope you can join us for a fun-filled day of activities, including clinics, model and photo contests, layout tours, door prizes, the "World Famous" Daylight White Elephant Auction (well, WE know about it!), and, of course, the obligatory quarterly Daylight Division business meeting, with the delayed election results.

"World Famous" Daylight White Elephant Auction (well, WE know about it!), and, of course, the obligatory quarterly Daylight Division business meeting, with the delayed election results.

Come at 8:30 AM and enjoy a hearty breakfast to start off the day.

Schedule of Events

9:30 am – Registration, Contest Item Check-Ins. Registration is \$4.00 for NMRA members, \$5.00 for non-members.

2014 Officer Elections. If you did not mail your ballot to Doug Wagner, you may submit them at this meet to be counted. Ballots arriving after this meet will not be counted.

10:00 am – Daylight Business Meeting with election results, Door Prizes, White Elephant Auction

11:15 am – Adjourn for Outside Activities

Clinics. For a change of pace, there will be no clinics at the restaurant. See "Outside Activities" below for what is in store for us.

Contests Categories. Models: Structures
Photos: Maintenance of Way (rolling stock)

Display-only models and photographs are also welcome. Awards will be presented to the winners of each contest as determined by popular vote. There will be no formal contest judging.

Daylight Call Board

Superintendent

Dave Grenier • Grenida@pacbell.net

Chief Clerk

Bob Sexton • geezerbob5591@sbcglobal.net

Paymaster

Bob Sexton • geezerbob5591@sbcglobal.net

Director

Paul Deis • Curlyp2@gmail.com

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Continued on next page

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The Daylight Observation
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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 officer and newsletter editors of other divisions in the PCR and NMRA.

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SELMA MEETING

There will be tables for display-only items, in addition to contest entries. Please bring whatever items (prototype, model or photograph) that you are especially proud of and would like to display for our enjoyment.

Door Prizes & White Elephant Auction

Donations of new, unused items for door prizes are especially welcome. Remember to bring plain-wrapped railroad-related items for the White Elephant Auction. The more the merrier! Think of it as "re-gifting!" All proceeds benefit the Daylight Division.

Outside Activities

Fresno Model Railroad Club – Totally revamped HO layout at the Depot in the Selma Historic Village. Their N scale layout will also be on display. Daylight member Steve Fischer has been one of the principles in reworking the layout. NOTE: HO layout is on 2nd floor of depot, with no handicapped access.

Hillcrest & Wahtoke Railroad – The tour of their facilities in Reedley includes a clinic on how a steam engine operates utilizing a cutaway working model. One of the locomotives will be fired-up for us to ride behind over the extensive trackwork. The H&W operates a live steam, 15" gauge railroad using locos and cars handmade at the on-site Hillcrest Shops.

Addresses and driving directions/maps for the outside activities will be distributed after the Daylight Business Meeting.

Driving Directions to Meet <http://mapq.st/14A6g01>

Driving from Fresno and points North:

- Drive south on CA-99 toward Bakersfield.
- Merge onto Highland Ave / CA-43 S/S Highland Ave, Exit 118, toward Hanford/Corcoran
- Turn left onto Pea Soup Anderson Blvd (Chevron station is on the left)
- **Spike 'n' Rail** is on the left at the windmill. (If you reach Auto Mall Dr, you went too far)

Driving from Bakersfield and points South:

- Drive north on CA-99 toward Fresno
- Take the Floral Ave exit, Exit 118, toward Highland Ave
- Turn left onto Floral Ave (Shell station is on the corner)
- Turn left onto Highland Ave/S Highland Ave
- Turn left onto Pea Soup Anderson Blvd (Chevron station is on the left)
- **Spike 'n' Rail** is on the left at the windmill. (If you reach Auto Mall Dr, you went too far)

Daylight Division Spring Meet

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, May 11th, 2013

The Division business meeting was called to order by the Superintendent at 11:30am. There are 17 voting members present.

The Superintendent welcomed two guests: Jim Gilmer, a new member and Jim Posey, a former member.



The previous meeting minutes were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes as read by Richard Fulkerson, seconded by Don Smith. The motion carried.

The paymaster report was read. A motion to approve the financial report as read was made by Doug Wagner, seconded by Richard Fulkerson. The motion carried.

The following Bills were submitted for payment:

\$77.17 submitted by Doug Wagner for post card mailing for this meeting; \$29.34 submitted by Industrial Liaison, Mike O'Brien, for cost of envelopes to mail certificates of thanks to companies that donate items to the Division.

A motion to pay the bills submitted was made by Don Smith, seconded by Jim Gilmer. The motion carried.

The AP Chairman reported that no advancements were awarded, but three submissions are in process at NMRA HQ. They are for Chuck Harmon for Master Builder Cars and Andrew Merriam for Master Builder Cars and Master Builder Structures. Both Chuck and Andrew will have completed 6 of 7 items to receive Master Model Railroader when these are awarded.

The Superintendent reported and announced the following:

Suzie Paff withdrew her nomination and resigned as Chief Clerk/Paymaster on 5/02/13.

June 15, 2013, is Fun Day at the Depot in Tehachapi, CA.

June 22, 2013, is the Bay Area Prototype Modelers Meet at Richmond.

August 28-31, 2013, the 33rd National Narrow Gauge Convention will be held at Pasadena, CA.

April 30-May 4, 2014, will be the Coast Rails 2014 PCR Convention at San Luis Obispo, CA. It is hosted by the Daylight Division.

Old Business.

Elections for Superintendent and for Chief Clerk/Paymaster were scheduled for this meeting. Nominee for Superintendent is Dave Grenier, Clovis and for Chief Clerk/Paymaster is Bob Sexton, Clovis. A motion to close the nominations was made by Richard Fulkerson, seconded by Ed Keogh. The motion carried.

Celebrating John Allen

JAM

BREAKFAST

From John Le Forestier,
Toronto

Join the worldwide 100th Birthday John Allen Memorial (JAM) Breakfast on July 2 2013! (ed note: Sorry its past but you can still have one anytime in his honor.)

It's a traditional railroader's breakfast of flapjacks and jam from strawberries, the big crop 'round Monterey where John lived, with tea or coffee. Substitutes are ok of course.

Form a group or enjoy your breakfast at home. Take a little time on this special day to remember John, model railroading's Wizard of Monterey, creator of the astonishing Gorre and Daphetid Railroad, and take another look at some of the fabulous photographs and innovations he introduced to our great hobby.

Help spread the word, not just the jam! It's easy. Tell your club, your online forums and groups about it. This initiative has been undertaken by a small group of volunteers - model railroaders. We depend completely on you to get the word out wherever you can at home and abroad, ASAP.

Get the official poster, more info and downloadable files in several languages including this one here: <http://tinyurl.com/md57tum>

Many readers here will not want to miss this. John Allen's home section of the NMRA are organized a big group breakfast, and this idea has now spread, (like jam) around the world, thinly, but all over. Enjoy the comraderie and JAM.

Continued on next page.

Coming Events

Summer, 3rd Quarter: August 17, 2013, Selma, CA. at the Spike n' Rail Steakhouse off Highway 99 at Route 43.

Fall, 4th Quarter: November, 2013, to be determined. Meet **may** be held on Saturday, October 12, in conjunction with the Central Coast Railroad Festival, in San Luis Obispo.

Winter, 1st Quarter 2014: February, 2014, to be determined.

Spring, 2nd Quarter: April 30, 2014, San Luis Obispo, at the PCR Convention (Business meeting only)

Newest Division Members

Welcome Aboard

and please come to the quarterly meets.

<u>Member</u>	<u>City</u>
Geoffrey Steuer	Lompoc
Victor Rux	Porterville
Patrick Ray	Rosamond
Tami McCoy	Rosamond
Stephen Arnold	Paso Robles
Tom Van Horn	Atwater
Emy Mizuno	Reedley
Charley Warren	Porterville
Josh Copeland	Lemoore

In Memoriam

Our condolences to the families of our recently deceased members.

<u>Member</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Joined NMRA</u>
Roy Schupferling	Lompoc	1/1/1973

Chuck Mitchell Coast Div

MINUTES

Hopefully, Ballots will be mailed out before the end of June to be counted at the August Meet, in Selma.

New Business.

A question to convert the Daylight Observation newsletter to all digital format was presented. A discussion pro and con about having the Daylight Division newsletter provided in a digital only format, that can be viewed on and/or downloaded from the Division's web site was conducted.

Gary Saxton volunteered to print out the Observation for those members who could not get it from the internet and would request a hard copy print. That is, if the Observation was to go to the digital only format.

An advisory vote may be included in the election ballot for input on the Observation converting to digital only format since the officer positions up for vote are unopposed.

No decisions were made at this meeting concerning the newsletter and advisory vote.

There was a discussion concerning the Daylight Division getting a 501 c3 tax status.

The board will conduct further discussion on these matters.

Future Meets.

Summer, 3rd Quarter: August 17, 2013, Selma, CA. Meeting will be held at the Spike n' Rail Steakhouse off Highway 99 at Route 43. Tours will include a visit to the Hillcrest 15" gauge railroad with rides and facilities tour available. Contests for Selma Meet: Models—Structures; Photo—Maintenance of Way.

Fall, 4th Quarter: November, 2013, to be determined. Meet may be held on Saturday, October 12, in conjunction with the Central Coast Railroad Festival, in San Luis Obispo.

Winter, 1st Quarter 2014: February, 2014, to be determined.

Spring, 2nd Quarter: April 30, 2014, San Luis Obispo, at the PCR Convention (Business meeting only).

For the Good of the Division. Brewster Bird invites everyone by to see his home layout.

Contest Winners:

Logging — Mike O'Brien's logging train

Favorite Model — Rick Fulkerson's roundhouse

\$25.00 Door Prize Drawing — John Houlihan was the winner

Raffle Prize Drawing was held. Winner not identified.

A motion for adjournment was made by Mike O'Brien, seconded by Doug Wagner. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:47pm by the Superintendent.

Respectfully Submitted, Doug Wagner, Acting Recording Secretary



Spring Division Meet

DAYLIGHT MEET IN BAKERSFIELD

By Mike O'Brien

Photographs by Mike O'Brien

Well with installment no. 2 of this year's 4 scheduled meetings in the bag. It has been bestowed upon me to give a report concerning May 11, 2013 meeting.



We all met this time at the Coco's Family Restaurant, 955 Oak St, in Bakersfield. Once everyone finished the great breakfast the first clinic began at about 9:40. Doug Wagner - presented a video about the Southern Pacific in California during 1940s & 50s. He presented informative videos of SP steam power rolling through various scenic areas of California.

On conclusion, we woke up and due to the busy day planned for members because of National Train Day, we proceeded to get on with the meeting.



The call to order was gavelled in by Dave Grenier at 11:30 where there was 17 voting members and 2 guests present. The normal agenda was presented - the bills paid and reports presented. See the meeting minutes for the details.

The AP report announcing that two members - Chuck Harmon & Andrew Merriam are waiting on their certificates to complete 6 of the 7 items to receive Master Model Railroader AP Certificates - Good Luck guys.

Members also discussed converting the Daylight Observation newsletter to digital only format. The discussions will be continued.



Dave Grenier reported that NMRA is trying to get permission to include Regional and Divisional organizations under their 501c3 status wing so we can utilize the tax advantages.

Before adjourning, the Contest winners were announced by Steve Biggs.

Favorite Model - - - Rick Fulkerson's roundhouse

Logging - - - Mike O'Brien's logging train



The door prize winner was John Houlihan and the winners of the infamous red ticket raffle were the announced by Mike O'Brien.

Doug Wagner closed out the morning with the world famous white elephant auction. There were some major bids being offered for the mystery packages. Once the auction concluded everyone was off to do their traditional layout visits to finish the day.

Continued on next page.

Bakersfield Meet

Members were offered a visit to Bakersfield's AMTRAK station to see some of the local train action celebrating National Train Day and to view two portabe layouts there.

And/or they could visit the GEHAMS (*Bakersfield's hidden little gem*) to view their two layouts. Everyone had plenty of opportunities to take many photos of central California's largest model railroad layouts.

Also included in the afternoon venue was Kevin Birbeck's home N-scale layout. This is a freelance type layout that represents the Northwestern US during the 1950's. The layout consists of diesel and steam power, scratch built buildings and a fiddle yard. This is a really nice layout and the members say thanks to Kevin for the opportunity to visit.

The eventful day came to an end and we all drove off into the sunset to await with great expectations our next meeting on August 17 in Selma.

Mike O'Brien

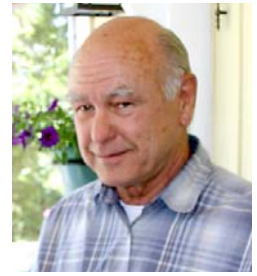


Stay up to date on your division by visiting the Web Site regularly at www.pcrnmra.org/daylight

Spring Division Meet

CONTEST REPORT

By Steve Biggs, Contest Chairman



CENTRAL COAST
RAILROAD FESTIVAL
ANNUALLY IN EARLY OCTOBER
(Oct. 4-8, 2012 & Oct. 10-13, 2013)

Celebrate Rail's History, Future & Fun!

Featuring events and activities at rail related locations throughout San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties.

- Special Excursions on Amtrak's Coast Starlight and Pacific Surfliner
- Amazing Model Layouts
- Historic RR Buildings & Equipment
- Concerts, Programs & Exhibits
- Family & Children's Events
- Plus Beaches, Wineries and more!

Info at: www.ccrf.com



Rabobank



Enjoy the journey.™



At our May meet in Bakersfield Mike Obrien's Log Train was the favorite Logging Themed Model. The Narrow Gauge Roundhouse displayed by Rick Fulkerson was the Favorite Model. Unfortunately there were no photographs brought to display.

For our next meet in August in the Fresno area bring your Structure Models, and Photographs of Maintenance of Way Rolling Stock. And as always everyone enjoys seeing other models and photos that individuals wish to bring and share with us.

For the remainder of this year the Model Themes will be: November – Diesel Locomotives. The Photo Subjects are: November – Passenger Trains.

The Model Themes for 2014 will be: February – Display/Railroad Scene 1 SQ Ft. (see the note below), May – Caboose, August – Passenger Cars, November – Steam Locomotives. The 2014 Photo subjects will be: February – Track and Rail, May – Bridges, August – Line side, November – Diesel Locomotives.

The Display/Railroad Scene in February 2014 will need to be kept to an approximate size of one square foot (1ft x 1ft, 2ft x 6in, etc). The reason for this restriction is to allow room to display them at the meet. We don't usually have the room to display several larger dioramas. Start thinking about this category now, it would be great to have several of these dioramas to view.

Any changes to the Themes will be posted on the Daylight Division Web Site, and also in the Observation. We look forward to seeing your work.

Irish Tracklayer

O Gauge Track Products



2682 W. Palo Alto Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711-1107
www.irishtracklayer.com

John Houlihan

(559) 435-0874
Fax (559) 435-2874

e-mail: john@irishtracklayer.com

Do You Receive Your **DAYLIGHT AND NMRA EBULLETINS?**

By Doug Wagner, PCR
Membership Chairman

I just wanted to notify you, the members, that if you didn't receive the latest NMRA eBulletin, that was mailed out in early March, it's either because your SPAM filter blocked it, or because we don't have your current email address.

What is the NMRA eBulletin? The NMRA officially launched its first electronic publication, on March 5, 2013. This inaugural edition was sent to all members whose email addresses are in the NMRA database. The issue, a production of the NMRA Publications Department and compiled by the team of Gerry Leone, Chuck Diljak, and Tracy McKibben, features a message from President Charlie Getz, upcoming election notices, and other up-to-the-minute NMRA news. Initial plans are for the eBulletin to be published every-other month and automatically emailed to members. We also send out updated notices concerning meets and other pertinent information concerning the Daylight Division, Pacific Coast Region and the National Model Railroad Association, through emails.

If you are an NMRA member and have not received your issue of the free NMRA eBulletin, please make sure your email information is current. If you haven't notified us that you have changed your email address, you are who this is addressed to. Please visit <http://www.nmra.org/member/content/member-info-update> and correct your info online. It only takes a minute!

2014 PCR Convention

COAST RAILS 2014, TRAINS TO HADLEY JUNCTION

By Paul Deis, Division Director

Come join the fun in San Luis Obispo. Your 2014 PCR convention will be held April 30-May 4 at the Sands Hotel in beautiful San Luis Obispo. This convention is co-sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum.

San Luis Obispo is rich in Railroad History. The first railroad in the area was the Pacific Coast Railway. Constructed in 1882. A 3-foot gauge railroad that connected Port Hartford (now Avila Beach) with San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria and Los Olivios. The Pacific Coast Railway transported Oil and Agricultural products to Port Hartford to be loaded on steam ships. We will be offering a bus tour of the 'right of way' of this historic railroad.

The Southern Pacific Railroad arrived in San Luis Obispo in 1894 after 5 years of construction to climb over the mountain from Santa Margarita. San Luis Obispo was the main maintenance and crew change point between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The Union Pacific and Amtrak now service the city. We will have tours of the historic railroad district and Amtrak rides over the famous Cuesta Grade.

The San Luis Obispo area is known for its beaches, farmlands, wineries and of course our wonderful Thursday night party know as the Farmers Market. A little to the north but of course on tour is the Hearst Castle.

Karl Hovinitz (our Outside Activities Chair) is putting together a list of many different tours to attract your interest.

Dorothy Deis, my wife, is making sure that there will be plenty for the rest of the family to enjoy whether it is sight seeing, playing golf, shopping, enjoying the many local wineries in some very picturesque surroundings, going to one our beaches, or just sitting back and enjoying the company of others in our hospitality room. You just may want to go on some of the activities yourself.

We will have the normal convention fair also. Our committee is hard at work recruiting Clinicians to educate you, Layout Tours to entertain you and Operations session for your enjoyment.

Robert Chaparro is setting up the layout tours and Rick Anderson putting together the Convention Timetable at will again make sure that you have the proper maps to find them. There will be operating sessions at several of these layouts. All registrants, hosts, and crews for the Convention are eligible to participate in these OPs sessions, with the intention that many who normally do not participate in these structured operating events will take advantage of this opportunity to try it.



Continued on next page.

COAST RAILS

No previous experience is necessary, just a desire to run a model railroad as if it were a real transportation system. Again this is open to all. All layout tours and operating sessions are self-guided, with carpooling encouraged.

Of course there will also be contests. Matt Hoffman (Contest Room Manger) is looking for volunteers to help judge and provide security for the contest entries. Speaking of volunteers, Karen Keifer (Volunteer Coordinator) is looking for some people to help us in the following areas: Registration Desk, Clinic Hosts, Contest Room, Contest Judges, Switching Contest, Swap Meet & Non-Rails Hospitality Room.

Registration will start at 9am Wednesday, 30 April The first of the clinics which are being scheduled by Bruce Morden & John Houlihan start at 10:30am Wednesday.

In addition to the normal clinics, we will be offering six Modeling with the Masters Clinics. Special note here: *These clinics are not open clinics. You must buy a ticket and pay a materials fee to attend. You may do so when you register for the convention or, if already registered, go to the "[Company Store](#)" page. Attendance is limited to 18 participants for each clinic so be warned as we expect them to fill up before the convention.* Each session lasts 2½ to 5 hours and starts with a workshop, followed by a hands-on session where you will actually build a model aided by Master Model Railroader Clark Kooning. He will assist you, answer your questions and share his modeling expertise, skills and techniques. When the session is finished, you will be able to take your project home.

Another note: Tools are the participant's responsibility. Materials, paints, and adhesives are included in the cost of the clinics and will be provided. Tool lists will be available about six months before the convention. The clinics are **BUILDING A LASER STRUCTURE KIT** in N or HO scale; **SCRATCH BUILDING IN STYRENE** in N, HO, S & O scales; **LEARNING TO BUILD A DPM KIT PROPERLY** in N or HO scale; **BUILDING A TURNOUT USING FAST TRACKS** (24 spaces in this class) and having the opportunity to have it looked over for the NMRA Achievement Program; **SCRATCH BUILD A CATTLE RAMP** in HO scale only; and **SCRATCH BUILD A PUDDLE JUMPER BRIDGE** in HO Scale only.

One change that you should be aware of: Saturday will not be at the Santa Margarita Ranch as the facility can not promise to have its outdoor steam layout in full operation for our convention. Instead we will have the Hobo Breakfast headed up by Rod Smith our Hobo-In-Charge, a swap meet, more clinics and tours including not only a bus tour of the Pacific Coast Railway but you can also visit the recently renovated San Luis Obispo Southern Pacific freight house that is the pride and Joy of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum.

Sunday (May 4th) will be the PCR meeting followed by more layouts for you to visit.

The GEHAMS GOLDEN EMPIRE HISTORICAL & MODELING SOCIETY

The Bakersfield **GEHAMS**, founded in 1987 have been in their current location since March '94. They are a dual-scale model railroading organization.



They boast layouts of 30' x 100' in HO-scale, and 18' x 80' in N-scale. These layouts are based on the Southern Pacific's route from Bakersfield to Mojave with the famous Tehachapi Loop. Though under construction, the mainlines are in with monthly operations.



If you are interested in more information and scheduling a visit go to their web site at www.gehams.com or contact Doug Wagner at 661-589-0391 or by email: carldw@aol.com

Stay up to date in your hobby. Go to the On Line sites of the NMRA, the magazines and the manufacturers. Start with www.nmra.org and connect to the manufacturers listed there. Don't forget to check in on **Your Division Web Site** also at www.pcrnmra.org/daylight

Continued on next page.

Visit the Pacific Coast Region
Web Site for information on
happenings in our region.
Go to www.pcrnmra.org

COAST RAILS

Dave Grenier has put together an informative set of web pages at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2014> which includes an on line registration page that will pass your information on to our Registrar, Doug Wagner. have a Special 'First Timer' fare for those members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions. Why not see what you have been missing? Youth Fares are a great savings also. See all the details on the Web Site.

All participants in the Coast Rails 2014 PCR Convention must be members in good standing of either the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) or the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. Membership information is available at the www.nmra.org or at www.slorm.com.

The Coast Rails 2014 Convention Hotel is the Sands Inn & Suites, 1930 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA, located just south of US-101. Their web site is <http://sandssuites.com> and their phone is (805) 544-0500 – Call this number to make reservations using Group Code "PCR2014". The convention room rates are: King or Queen Suites @ \$127.50, King Deluxes or Double Queens @ \$119.20 and Single Queens @ \$95.20.

Both Paul Deis (Convention Chair) and Hilding Larson (Vice Chair/Facilities) have been working hard to help bring you another fun filled convention that you will remember for years to come.

FRESNO'S TOM'S TRAINS IS CLOSING

Posted by: Doug Wagner

Tom's Trains, originally opened on Hammond Avenue here in Fresno, CA in 1960 is closing soon. Charles Worstell (Tom's youngest son) passed away recently and his family has decided to close the store. With Tom's departure now and Roy's back in January, the Fresno area is completely without a "trains only" hobby shop for the first time in over 50 years.

Posted by: Chuck Harmon

Not true, yet. **Bulldog Trains** on Belmont Ave. is making a valiant effort. While he is not trains only, trains are the predominant offering. We need to support our local hobby shops while they still exist.



The Central Coast Railroad Festival's Wine Rail Excursions feature a ride on Amtrak's Coast Starlight across the famous and scenic Cuesta Grade between San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles. Trips include complimentary wine tasting at rail related wineries such as Templeton's Pomar Junction, a light lunch, rail history and a private Ride-On bus journey to complete the round trip. The starting city alternates between Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo.

Wine Rail Excursions offered:

- Monthly on Every Second Sunday Afternoon
- Additional Excursions for Special Events
- Private Excursions are available for groups

The CRRF also offers Family Excursions on the Coast Starlight and on Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner using stations in Paso Robles, San



Luis Obispo, Grover Beach and Santa Barbara County. These trips occur on National Train Day, during the early October Railroad Festival and for other special occasions.

Full Details, Video and Online Tickets at:
www.crrf.com

Central Coast Railroad Festival 805-773-4173

Layout Design Challenge **WHAT CAN YOU DO IN 36 SQUARE FEET?**

By George Pisching

In an effort to encourage interaction and exchange between our members, I am initiating a semi-annual challenge or contest (so to speak). This is based on the effective Design Challenge held at the Oklahoma Region's conventions.

To start this series of challenges I ask "what can you do in 36 square feet?"

Here are the rules or guidelines:

1. You are limited to the defined space/size for the layout design. The layout can be any shape up to the specified size limit.
2. The layout can be any commercial model scale.
3. The author must write a 200-400 word descriptive and explanatory narrative. This is to advise us on what you intended the design to accomplish.
4. The author must include a layout schematic diagram of the layout in $\frac{3}{4}"=1'$ scale.
5. Additional staging on additional levels or extensions are OK, but not counted in the design evaluation.
6. Additional drawings and photos depicting the layout operation or references to the design are permitted and encouraged.
7. A \$25 prize or gift certificate will be awarded – if we get more than three entries else a recognition certificate will be awarded. So get your buddies to participate to bring out the money!

A Valid Segment of the Hobby –

ARMCHAIR MODELING

Posted by Glen Wasson

The April issue of *Model Railroad Hobbyist* mag (<http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com>) contained disparaging remarks about 30% of their readers. The *Armchair Modelers*. Some would say 'it takes one to know one' and that would be me.

For over 2-1/2 years I have kept my lamps filled, wicks trimmed and held the banner high, standing in the face of ridicule and derision. I took the dreaded name upon myself, *Armchair*, and spread it far and wide in my blog, *Armchair Modeling*. Even the search engines were against me, returning sites for **fashion modeling**, or pages of **armchairs**.

It seems '*real model railroaders*' believe we don't have layouts. Not true! As a child in the 1940s I had American Flyer on the floor and as an adult I started a layout in 1962, another in 1963, 1965, 1971, 1978, 1990 and 2002. Only 2 or 3 adult layouts ran any trains, an Athearn Hustler was my power of choice.

Someone blogged about '*procrastination*'. Procrastination is an art form that must be carefully honed and guarded lest someone mistakenly believes you are producing something. In the comic strip *Dilbert*, Dilbert's co-worker, *Wally*, exemplifies what many of us strive for, do nothing they can blame on you. Ongoing vigilance is the price we must pay to achieve procrastination. My wife, Daisy, says I have arrived.

There are '*thinkers*' and '*doers*'. Doers get in trouble by not thinking it through, putting the cart before the horse, often resulting in disaster. Thinkers, on the other hand, know that pitfalls are out there and are diligent in moving forward at a pace that can be halted if danger is sensed.

All Armchair Modelers are thinkers, and probably procrastinators. We are the ones with a vision of the future and it is written, '*Without a vision the people perish.*' We always have tomorrow to look forward to and contemplate what it will bring. What will you do tomorrow if you do it all today?

Armchair

About 'Armchair' Glen Wasson

I am a retired tool and mechanical engineer, now driving cars for a rent-a-car company part time. I now live in Yuma, Arizona, USA, but have moved around a lot including two years in Sierra Leone, West Africa, as a linguistic missionary. I have a lot of interests including model railroading in HO and On30 scales and model building with wood and card stock.

I set up this shot after finding my favorite caboose wrinkled up from the heat while left in my car during a Yuma, AZ, summer week. I pretend it derailed into the gully and wrecked. This cropped scene shows how I use the diorama to photograph my models.

