



# The Daylight Observation

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## Tehachapi Meet set for Saturday November 15th

By Doug Wagner

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Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, is the date for the next Daylight Division meet, in what is probably the Mecca of railroading in the Daylight Division – Tehachapi. We have 5 layouts – 4 ‘G’ scale and 1 HO/HO narrow gauge, slated to be on the tour. And then we will end the day by having a BBQ dinner, sitting above “Cable” siding on the Union Pacific mainline.

The meet will begin at 9:00 AM with a breakfast at the Mountain Crossing Restaurant (you can order off the menu and at your expense – sorry the Daylight Division doesn’t have enough money to buy breakfast!). The meet fare for NMRA members is \$4.00, and \$5.00 for non-NMRA members. The Mountain Crossing Restaurant is located at 416 West Tehachapi Blvd, in Tehachapi. To get to the Mountain Crossing Restaurant, either from the west or east of Tehachapi, you will be traveling on Highway 58. Take the freeway exit that is the first freeway exit west of Tehachapi, the Tehachapi/CA-202 exit, Exit 148, off of either westbound or eastbound Hwy. 58. After getting off the freeway and traveling south on Tucker Road/CA-202, travel ½ mile until you come to West Tehachapi Blvd. Make a left-hand turn onto West Tehachapi Blvd and travel approximately ¾ mile and the Mountain Crossing Restaurant will be on your right. After breakfast, we will be having the contests and any clinics that we may have on tap, so be sure to bring your contest models and photos to be voted on for favorite models and photos. Immediately following the clinics and contest voting, we will have the quarterly business meeting. At the close of the business meeting, we will be having the door prize drawing for the \$25 cash prize, and the always enjoyable “White Elephant” Auction, so please bring a “White Elephant” gift wrapped in newspaper or brown paper. The Mountain Crossing Restaurant also has an HO scale operating display layout of the Tehachapi Loop.

Immediately after the “White Elephant” auction, the layout tours begin. Maps to the layouts and train shops will be made available after the closing of the business meeting. Ok, what layouts are on tour, you may ask? OK, the layout tours will make you “Garden” railroaders very happy, as 4 of the 5 layouts are outdoor layouts.

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# November Meet at Tehachapi (Cont.)

The first one is Rick Passalacqua's RRBBRR – Rick's Rock Back-Breaking Railroad. Rick's layout is a garden railroad with 3 interconnected loops, with a passing siding on each loop. The layout has 1,000 feet of track, including a 4-looped staging yard in a train drive-in storage shed. Rick operates both steam and diesel over his empire, with 10-foot radius curves.

The next layout is George Noriega's Santa Fe freight yard layout. What George has basically done, is have a classification yard, with 4 loops running into and out of the classification yard – kind of like staging tracks – and then makes and breaks trains in the classification yard. George's layout is 30-feet by 50-feet, with 650-feet of track.

Next on the "Garden Railroad Express" is Dan Steinberg's Stone Mountain Railway. Dan's layout has 2 independent loops. The mainline loop is 15-feet by 30-feet, with a 20-foot siding, with 4-foot radius curves. The other loop, is a mining branch, which is 10-foot by 20-foot, running on 2-foot radius curves. The mining branch includes an impressive wooden trestle, and a tunnel.

The only "non-G" layout on the tour is Richard Cantrell's HO and HO narrow gauge, the Denver and Rio Grande Western. Richard's layout contains some impressive scenery, depicting Colorado.

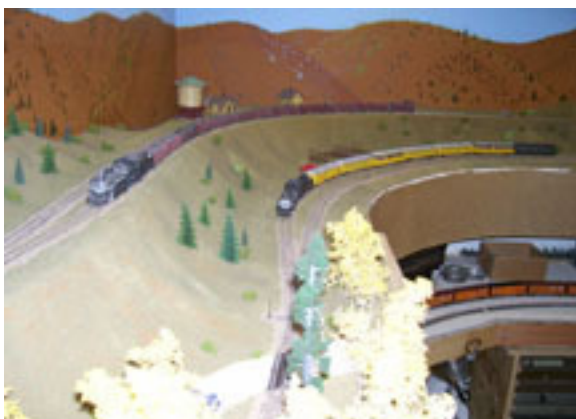
The last stop on our layout tour is John Bell's R&RRR. John states the 4-R's don't stand for anything, he just likes the sound while pronouncing the 4-R's! John's garden layout has 1,050-feet of track in single loop, with an 80-foot siding, 10 bridges and 6 tunnels. Part of the run goes down a mountain river canyon. Part of the layout consists of a loop to drop the elevation of the layout by 5-feet.

At around the 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM time frame, John will be putting on a BBQ – for a reasonable charge of \$10.00 – for anyone wanting to partake of eating while viewing prototype trains from John's viewing angle above the Union Pacific's "Cable" Siding, just north of Tehachapi. The BBQ meal will consist of ribs (chicken, if you'll let me know when RSVPing me), corn-on-the-cob, hot macaroni and cheese, dinner rolls, green salad, with a desert of pie and ice cream. If the weather turns bad, or is too cold for some you to eat outdoors, John also has a building where we can eat. The \$10.00 will be collected at the meal. All we ask is that for those of you that are going to have the meal, please contact Doug Wagner, either by phone at (661) 331-6695 (please leave message if you get my voice mail), or by email at Carldw@aol.com. This way we have an idea of how much food to prepare. We ask that you get your RSVP to Doug Wagner, by Tuesday, November 11, so that we can get an accurate count of those partaking in the BBQ dinner. When you RSVP me your dinner reservation, please tell me if you'd like chicken instead of the ribs. If you RSVP me and don't mention you'd like to have chicken, I will take that as a reservation for ribs.

There are 2 model train stores in Tehachapi — Trains, Etc., and Gold Coast Station. Trains, Etc. is located on West Tehachapi Blvd, and right across the street from Trains, Etc., is Gold Coast Station,



*John Houlihan admires the narrow gauge portion of Richard Cantrell's layout during the Spring 2007 Meet*



*Richard Cantrell's narrow gauge layout sits above the standard gauge.*

## November Meet at Tehachapi (Cont.)



*You can eat on the viewing platform at John Bell's.*



*You can see entire trains from John Bell's platform.*

located in a real Southern Pacific caboose. Gold Coast Station is strictly a large scale shop, and carries no HO or N scale items. Both these stores are open at the time this article was prepared.

For those of you wanting to go to the Tehachapi Loop for some rail fanning, although I haven't been up there in several months, I've been informed that "No Trespassing" signs have been posted in some areas around "The Loop", so the areas you have parked in to view the train action may not be available any longer. You may have to scout out some new location for your rail fanning while at "The Loop".

We hope that you'll make the trip to Tehachapi, to enjoy some contests at the Daylight Meet, some great layouts, some prototype action, and enjoy a great meal while overlooking part of the Tehachapi Loop location. Remember, to please contact Doug Wagner, if you plan on partaking in the BBQ dinner.

## Director's Report

By John Houlihan

The planning committee for "Rails Across the Bay 2009" has some very interesting activities planned for the next PCR convention, including a tour of the Niles Canyon railroad on Friday. This will be an extra fair activity. The cost is expected to be in the \$25 to \$35 range. Breakfast at the hotel will be \$10 for a full buffet style meal. Room costs are only \$89 per night. Get your registration in now so the committee can plan activities commensurate with the number of participants at this meet.



The convention car will be a SP PS-2 hopper, unnumbered with a decal for 5 different numbers. You can register at the [www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009](http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009) to purchase these items.

The future convention schedule will be: Reno – 2010; Santa Rosa – 2011 and a proposed joint convention in Medford Oregon with Pacific Northwest Region in 2012.

Talk of reviving the levity award was discussed. The great number of awards won in the NMRA contest by participants at Sierra Memories' contest was emphasized.

Much discussion was had regarding the NMRA convention to be held in 2011.

PCR will purchase two PC projectors for convention use and as loaner to other member groups.

John Houlihan, Director

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Editor's Note: Director John Houlihan needs a name for his column. Submit your suggestions to the editor. NOTE: Rants and Raves belongs to Doug Wagner and *Dave's Drivels* was rejected by Superintendent Grenier.

## Going to TEHACHAPI?

If you want to have a great BBQ dinner while watching the UP trains at John Bell's place, make your reservations no later than November 11th.

Call Doug Wagner at (661) 331-6695 (please leave message if you get voice mail), or by email at Carldw@aol.com

## DAVE'S DISPATCH

### From the Super's Desk

By Dave Grenier



What a difference three months make here in the Central Valley. When I was preparing the last column, my A/C was broken and it was 105° in my Clovis home. Today I had to turn on the furnace to ward off the chill.

We held our summer meet in Santa Barbara August 23, on the grounds of the South Coast Railroad Museum in the restored Goleta Depot. Thanks again to **Bruce Morden** for setting everything up for us, as well as running things until the Fresno contingent (me and my carload) that was running late arrived. After introductions and a brief welcome, Bruce led us on a walking historical tour of the depot, followed by **John Ryan** and **Bob Lyon** showing us how to install batteries and sound systems in G-scale locos. Following the clinic, we had our business meeting (See Suzie's minutes), concluding with a pizza lunch and the world-renowned White Elephant Auction. Afterwards, we all departed to visit the eight layouts on tour. Thanks to everyone who participated in the meet and contributed to making it a success. If you missed it, you missed another great Daylight Division meet.

As approved at the meet, we are planning weekend layout tours throughout the Division starting in 2009. **Gary Saxton**, of Clovis, accepted an appointment as Daylight Division Layout Tour Coordinator and is already working on setting up layout tours open to the public in the Fresno area during November and December to celebrate National Model Railroad Month. I've also been in contact with **Bob Chaparro** of the Model Railroads of Southern California group to "piggyback" with them on their layout tours planned for Santa Barbara in January and Bakersfield in March.

Also approved was having a train show in the Fresno area. **Bill Scott** and **Chuck Harmon** accepted appointments as co-chairs to look into the possibility of doing so in 2009. A preliminary report is expected at the November 15<sup>th</sup> Tehachapi meet.

**HELP WANTED!** I'm looking for volunteers for two open positions in the Daylight Division. First, we need an Industry Liaison to contact hobby shops, vendors, and manufacturers to donate door prizes for the quarterly Division meets and PCR conventions. The second position, Division Historian, was recently created at the Santa Barbara meet. The responsibilities include assembling the historical records of the Division, including newsletters, officers' dates of service, meet attendance, etc. Contact me if you're interested in volunteering and earning AP activity points.

Our next meet is Saturday, November 15, at the Mountain Crossing Restaurant, 416 West Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi. **Doug Wagner** has been busy

*Continued on Page 5*



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### Daylight Division Layout Tour Slated for Fresno Area Dec. 6 & 7

Several layouts have been lined up for our first public layout tour to be held in the Fresno-Clovis area the weekend of December 6th and 7th. Contact Gary Saxton at 559-325-8140 or e-mail him at gbs46@sbcglobal.net if you wish to open your layout or if you want to help Gary put this event together.

## Southern California Layout Tour to Feature Daylight Layouts

The Yahoo Model Railroads of Southern California group will be hosting a free, self-guided layout tour in the Santa Barbara area in January 2009. For information about this tour, please check the website in November.

Log on to :

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Model\\_Railroads\\_Of\\_Southern\\_California/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Model_Railroads_Of_Southern_California/)

Since 2006 our group has sponsored fourteen free layout tours, featuring hundreds of home and club layouts, from Santa Barbara to San Diego and out through the Inland Empire. In addition to this second Santa Barbara area tour, a first time tour is being planned for the Bakersfield area in March 2009 to coincide with the annual Train Show.

Please contact me for additional information or check the website as noted.

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Editor's Note: Daylight will be cooperating with the Southern California group to begin our own layout tour events in the future. See comments in Dave's Dispatch column.

## Dave's Dispatch (Cont.)

ironing out the details and rounding up several layouts for us to visit, plus a BBQ lunch overlooking "Cable Siding" on the mainline to The Loop. Next year's meets are being planned for Visalia, Fresno, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara. Check the Daylight Division website ([www.pcrmmra.org/daylight](http://www.pcrmmra.org/daylight)) for dates and locations.

I want everyone in the areas served by our division to know that they have an open invitation to attend and are encouraged to participate in our activities and enjoy the fellowship of those who regularly attend. As you prepare for the November 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! I hope to see you all there.

Dave Grenier

## Member Aid - The answers are out there: Anaheim 2008

By Bob Pethoud

It has been several weeks since the NMRA national convention at Anaheim and life has settled back into the usual routine, but inspiration from the event lingers to spur creative efforts. The photo shows one of the modular groups on display at the train show. Notice how the huge trees dominate the scene—that is worth emulating.

I spent most of my time at the convention attending clinics. They ran six at a time and one could happily do nothing but clinics. Below are a just a few of the many ideas and techniques suggested by the clinic presenters.

Leslie Eaton, MMR, touted Sally's Beauty Supply as a source of tools for model railroading. She demonstrated how fingernail files with foamcore bases can be cut for special tasks. You will also find uses for nail art brushes, available in sizes down to 10/0, and for nail striping tape. Ms. Eaton also suggested the iron oxide red primer from Ace Hardware as a good brick color, and Kiwi white shoe polish applied with a cosmetic wedge as believable mortar. She also said to try using syringes, sold by wire gauge, to replace small drill bits: simply press with your palm and twist.

Ken Schlotfeldt, owner of Badger, had several interesting ideas for airbrushing. He said that paint will settle slower if it is stirred rather than shaken



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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.

## Member Aid (Cont.)

and that craft paint should be thinned with water or denatured alcohol rather than isopropyl alcohol. He suggested putting Saran wrap over paint bottles before closing the lid and then storing them upside down. The most interesting technique for me was to clean airbrush parts by dunking them in Efferdent (used for cleaning dentures) for 8 to 10 seconds.

Joe Fugate described a current limiting device for each block of a DCC layout consisting of a GE 1156 auto tail light bulb wired in series with the power feeder.

Robert Reid demonstrated making single-walled background structures by opening out three or all four walls of complete buildings.

Try out some of these ideas and let me know how well they work for you. Between clinics, contests, auction, home layouts, modules, vendors with all the latest and greatest products, and the fellowship of model railroaders, this convention was outstanding. Until next time, you can reach me at [pethoud@comcast.net](mailto:pethoud@comcast.net)

## Daylight Division Minutes of the August Business Meeting

The Daylight Division meet was held at the historic Goleta Depot in Goleta, CA. The weather was great and everyone had a great time. The business meeting was called to order around 11:00 by our new Superintendent, Dave Grenier. A motion was made by Brewster Bird and seconded by Doug Wagner to accept the minutes as published in the Daylight Observation. The motion carried. A motion was made by Doug Wagner and seconded by Brewster Bird to accept the Treasurer's report as published in the Daylight Observation. The motion carried.

The Division had bills for: Art Sylvester-Coffee & Doughnuts \$27.00, Bruce Morden-Copies, beverages & ice \$65.29, Suzie Paff-New cash box \$15.96, Chuck Harmon-Daylight Observation \$205.25. A motion to pay the bills was made by Doug Wagner and seconded by Brewster Bird. The motion carried.

John Houlihan gave a short report saying that the PCR Convention was a success and the division made \$1500.00. Dave reminded us that the PCR BOD meeting is on October 18, 1:00pm at the Fremont Marriott. Also, the 2009 PCR Convention Rails Across the Bay is April 13-19, 2009 in Fremont. Chuck Mitchell is the chairman and the web site address is [www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009](http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2009).

Dave suggested that we have a set fee (donation) for all Division Meets. A motion to set the fee (donation) at \$4.00 for members and \$5.00 for nonmembers was made by Doug Wagner and seconded by Brewster Bird. The motion carried.

Future meeting locations are as follows: Nov 08 is Doug Wagner working on Tehachapi. Feb 09 Brewster Bird is working on Visalia. May 09 Fresno may be at Marlin Costello's. Aug 22, 2009 in San Luis Obispo and Nov 2009 in Santa Barbara.

***Want your ad in the OBS?  
Send a business card along  
with a check for \$40.00 and  
we'll print it for the next 4  
issues. See the OBS editor's  
address on the back page,  
or give it to him at a meet.***

## Minutes (Cont.)

Dave suggested we add Division Historian as an additional appointed officer. He asked that anyone interested in this position contact him.

There was a discussion about Division name tags and Division Shirts. All were in favor of this and we will have more information at the next meet about cost and designs. Dave suggested the division have layout tour events similar to what Coast Division has. Everyone seemed to be in favor of this and Dave will look into it.

Marlin Costello announced that he will be having an operating session for folks from out of town on Oct 4.

Brewster Bird announced there is a Toy Train Show in Hanford at the Fairgrounds on Sept 13 & 14.

The meeting was adjourned for a Pizza Lunch. Raffle and White Elephant Auction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Paff  
Chief Clerk/Paymaster



### Daylight Divison Treasury Report August 23, 2008

DATE	TRANSACTION	DEBT	CREDIT	BALANCE
8/23/2008	REGISTRATION		\$173.00	\$ 173.00
8/23/2008	WHITE ELEPHANT		\$113.00	\$ 286.00
8/23/2008	CONVENTION CARS		\$ 20.00	\$ 306.00
8/23/2008	COFFEE & DONUTS		\$27.00	\$ 279.00
8/23/2008	DRINKS, ICE, COPIES		\$65.29	\$ 213.71
8/23/2008	NEW CASH BOX		\$15.46	\$ 198.25
8/23/2008	OBSERVATION		\$205.05	\$ (6.80)

#### Editor's Note:

**This treasury report does not show the \$1500.00 income (credit) for the convention earnings. We are not broke.**



# ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

## Master Builder – Structures

By Dave Grenier

**We interrupt our regularly scheduled article for an important announcement:** I am pleased to announce that two Daylight Division members have been awarded their first AP certificates. Bill Everett earned the **Golden Spike Award** and Doug Wagner earned the **Association Official Certificate** for his years of service as Division Director. Congratulations Bill and Doug! Both awards are well deserved. I encourage you both to continue your journey to Master Model Railroader.

**THE DROUGHT IS OVER!** These were the first AP awards in the Daylight Division in more than two, long, dry years. If you are not already taking part in the Achievement Program, I encourage you to start on your first certificate. You already have one AP requirement completed – you are a member of the NMRA. Detailed information on the Achievement Program can be found on the NMRA website at <http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement/>.

If you don't have access to the Internet, ask a friend or relative to print out the AP information and forms for you. You can even contact me and I'll send you the forms. As I did at the last meet in Santa Barbara, I will have all the necessary AP forms at the November 15<sup>th</sup> meet in Tehachapi for anyone that needs them. See you there!

We now rejoin our regularly scheduled article already in progress.

In this article, we will review the requirements for the Master Builder – Structures certificate. When you think of “structures”, don't just think of buildings and bridges. The NMRA definition of structures is anything man-made that is not motive power or rail cars. Structures include all kinds of houses, garages, stores, factories, stations, bridges, signals, signal towers, docks, power line towers, cranes, ships, and so forth. How about a “lobsta boat” for all you that model Down East? Just don't ask where to catch lobsters. Ey-yup!

To qualify for this certificate you must build twelve (12) scale structures with at least six (6) different types of structures represented. The modeler must demonstrate the ability to construct a variety of structures reflecting the variety of structures in the prototype environment. A brick depot and a wood depot would qualify as different types of structures, as would a depot and a water tank, even if both were built from wood.

One of the six types must be a bridge or trestle. Don't panic and start thinking of long elaborate curved wooden trestles. Remember there are many different types of bridges out there. Bridges include rail, automobile, and pedestrian bridges. A simple automobile bridge over a creek would be sufficient. The idea is to demonstrate that you know how to build a bridge that looks like it can support the intended load. There is no requirement that the bridge has to be installed on your layout; you can build it as a separate model. Sorry, but a well-detailed 2x12 across a gully won't qualify!

At least six (6) of the structures must be scratchbuilt, which means that at least 90% of the model's pieces were sized and constructed by the modeler. The only commercial parts allowed are light bulbs, electronics, paint, decals, figures, and basic wood, metal, or plastic shapes.

Note that you can use commercial scribed wood or styrene and still meet the scratchbuilt requirement. If you make your own plans, be sure to document



*This kit-built cottage is an example of one type of structure that can be submitted for this certificate.*



*This plastic building that has been "kit-bashed" could qualify as a non-scratchbuilt entry.*



*This Campbell bridge is a craftsman kit that would fulfill the bridge requirement..*



## Achievement (Cont.)



*This trestle would also fulfill the bridge requirement.*



*This scratch-built garage won a National contest for Mike Cunningham, and qualified for a merit award.*



*This craftsman-kit water tank can be considered super-detailed.*

that so you can earn extra points for it.

If the thought of “scratch building” intimidates you, remember there is little difference between scratch building and assembling most craftsman kits that have provided you with the plans and materials. If you take these same plans to the hobby shop, buy the materials yourself and assemble them, that qualifies as scratch building. If you draw your own plans, that’s even better. Be sure to mention that in the model’s description.

The remaining six structures can be scratchbuilt or a kit that is super-detailed with scratchbuilt or commercial parts. To be considered “super detailed”, the model must have considerably more detail of excellent quality than is usually expected. There are all sorts of ways to super detail buildings. Look closely at photos of prototypical buildings and notice the details such as electrical fixtures, gutters, downspouts, signs, ladders, roof details, and so on. For buildings, include an interior with furniture, wall coverings, drapes, etc. Also provide a way to see it with a removable roof and/or interior lighting. A battery and a push-button switch provide a simple way to power it. Document any scratchbuilt parts you made to increase your score.

The models can be any scale. Here’s a perfect opportunity to try a scale different than your usual scale. After all, the AP is about learning more about the hobby. What better way to learn something new than to try a different scale? Who knows? You might just be pleasantly surprised by the experience. Give it a try!

Finally, you must earn 87½ or more Merit Award points on six of the twelve models. Note that the other models don’t even have to be judged! The six 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.

AP Merit Award judging can be done in one of two ways: 1) at an NMRA-sponsored contest at a convention or meet; 2) arrange for judging at another time separate from a convention or meet. You can bring your work to the judges, wherever they are, or they will even come to you! When you’re ready to have your models merit judged, contact the Daylight Division AP Chairman (me!) to setup a time and place. My contact information is listed on the last page of the *Observation* and on the Daylight Division website at: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/callboard.htm>

Once you have completed all of these requirements, prepare a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) form and an attachment giving detailed descriptions of each of the twelve models. The detailed descriptions for all models should identify all scratchbuilt features, all commercial parts used, all materials used in building it, operational features, kit manufacturer (if applicable), and copies of at least six Merit Awards (or the signed Judging Forms). Photos of the models are helpful, but not required. Submit the completed SOQ, attachments, and **a photocopy of your NMRA membership card** to the Daylight Division AP Chairman, Dave Grenier and you are on your way toward another certificate!

If you are interested in 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 *Observation* and on the Daylight Division website at: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/callboard.htm>

Next installment: Master Builder – Scenery

*Map to the Meet*



**Daylight  
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