



The Daylight Observation

Contents

Fall Meet	1
Superintendents Report	2
Directors' Comment	3
Upcoming Events	3
Mariposa Meet Pictures	4-5
Contests Report	5
Tutwiler Prints Raffle	6
Members Aid	6
Achievement Report	7
Member Recognition	8

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Fall Daylight Meeting

MEET ME IN SANTA BARBARA

by Bruce Morden

The next Daylight Division meet is scheduled to return to Santa Barbara on Saturday, November 17. We will be meeting at Gary Siegel's home.

We have one fun clinic on "The Evolution of Model Railroading and Model Railroaders". Revisit the past and ponder how you reached the point you are now.

Of course the meet will be surrounded by Gary's two wonderful layouts – the indoor HO L&N Eastern Kentucky Division and the outdoor Gauge #1 (1:32) Southern Pacific Santa Cruz Division. Since the last meet more work has been done on both railroads. Come and see.



Meeting Schedule:

9:30am: Check-in, Registration and Contest/Show items set-out. We will also have a large scale switching layout up and running so you can test your railroading skills without straining your eyes.

10:00am: Clinic One. and **11:00am:** Clinic Two.

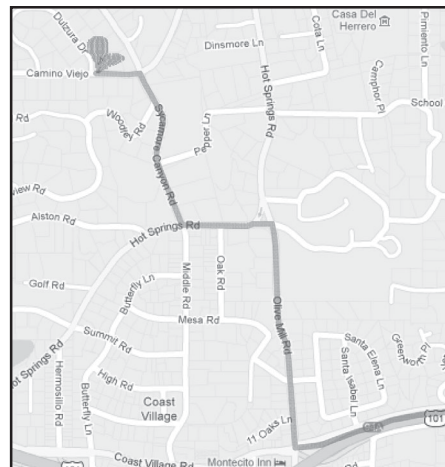
Noon: Lunch will be served while you enjoy Gary's back yard among the trains operated by those of us who would rather run a train than eat.

1:00pm: Daylight Division business meeting. This will include the usual business as well as door prizes, and white elephant auction.

We are planning additional layouts for visits after the meet. Directions will be distributed after the meeting

Directions to the Santa Barbara Meet:

The address is 1143 Camino Viejo, Santa Barbara. Use your GPS. Alternatively, from the north exit Hwy 101 at Coast Village Drive, navigate the traffic circle taking the second exit onto Hot Springs, turn left at the first stop sign onto Sycamore then turn left at the next stop sign onto Camino Viejo. From the South exit Hwy 101 at Olive Mill Drive. Turn right proceeding up Olive Mill. Turn left at the first stop sign onto Hot Springs then right at the next stop sign onto Sycamore then turn left at the next stop sign onto Camino Viejo.



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Refer to the Daylight Web Site at
www.pcrnmra.org/daylight

OBSERVATION ON-LINE

It is posted to the Division web site prior to mailing. Email the Editor to be notified when it is posted.

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



The Daylight Division held its Summer Meet on September 22, 2012, at Kelcy's Restaurant in Tehachapi. There were about 35 people in attendance for the meet, including first-timers and guests. Before the meet started in earnest, a hearty breakfast was enjoyed by the early arrivals.

The single extended-length clinic was presented by Mike Bruno, owner of Green Steam Products in California City, on prototype signaling and its application on both DC and DCC model layouts. His PowerPoint presentation was supplemented by various electronic displays to demonstrate signaling operations to control train movements.

Following Mike's clinic, we moved right into the quarterly Daylight business meeting. Nominations for Superintendent and Chief Clerk/Paymaster will be accepted through the November 2012 meet. Current nominees are Dave Grenier (incumbent) and Don Smith for Superintendent and Suzie Paff (incumbent) for Chief Clerk/Paymaster. Ballots will be mailed out separately to members and must be returned to be counted at the February 2013 meet.

After the raffle and white elephant auction, we adjourned for lunch, hobby shop visit (next door!), SP Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum (across the street!) and to tour the layouts of Guy Kravanek and Bob Sager. Guy has 7 different layouts in his personally-owned and operated railroad museum, a 2600 square foot building. The layouts were HO and O scale, including a traction layout and a Z scale layout built into a coffee table. Bob's 900 square foot N scale layout depicts the SP in 1954, running through Santa Paula from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Thanks to the layout owners for opening their layouts to us. Thanks especially to Doug Wagner for setting up the meet and its activities.

We were unable to gain access to The Loop Ranch for watching trains from inside the Tehachapi Loop, but we were able to watch from several vantage points along the loop without trespassing on railroad property.

The next Daylight Division meet will be November 17, 2012, at Gary Siegel's, 1143 Camino Viejo, in Santa Barbara. Join us for clinics, contests, White Elephant Auction, layout tours, lunch and more. Contest categories: Models – Freight Cars; Photos – Lineside Details. For up-to-date information, be sure to visit the "Next Daylight Meet" page on the Daylight Division website: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/nextmeet.html>

See you in Santa Barbara!

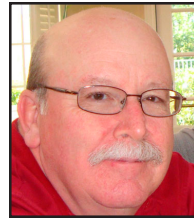
Bakersfield Californian Newspaper clippings from the Tehachapi Train Wreck of June 26, 1958 displayed at the Tehachapi Meeting.



Directors Report

WHY DO YOU STAY IN THE NMRA?

by Paul Deis



What a question to start an article with. What do I mean asking why do you stay in the NMRA? Well I think it is pretty simple. We often ask each other how do we attract more new members into this great organization we belong to. I think the way we attract new members and retain existing members is to share why we stay. So think about it for a few minutes. What list can you come up with?

I have been putting some thought into why I renew my membership and why I volunteer.

Friendship - Most of my closest friends I originally met thru model railroading and the NMRA.

Learning new modeling skills and techniques – I will borrow your good ideas and let you make the mistakes.

Sharing my skills – I enjoy teaching; so presenting clinics at meets and conventions is a fun way for me to share the hobby.

Layout tours – I really enjoy seeing the wonderful layouts on tour across the country. Not just the fully complete giant railroads with beautiful scenery that are in the magazines. I like to also visit the layout under construction, I can learn ideas that I can use to improve my layouts. Every time I come home from a layout tour I am reinvigorated to work on a project.

Operations – Before joining the NMRA, I didn't know about the concept of operating a model railroad to simulate the movement of freight and passengers on the prototype.

If I put some more thought into it I am sure the list will grow. Now what do I do with the information. I reach out to other model railroaders I meet and encourage them to join the NMRA. I can now give examples of the benefits of belonging. Send me your reasons and if I get some good reply's I will compile a list and share it with you so we can all help to grow the NMRA.

Until next time Keep-em on the rails, Paul Deis

Upcoming Events

November 17, 2012 - Santa Barbara - Gary Siegel's

December 8 - 9am-6pm Daylight 5th Annual Open House Layout Tours - Fresno & Clovis Area.

February 2013 - Fresno/Kings/Tulare Counties

April 3-7 - Iron Horse Express PCR Convention, Dublin CA
go to www.pcrnmra.org

May 2013 - Merced/Mariposa/Madera Counties

August 2013 - Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo Counties

November 2013 - Kern County

Annual Activity Dates:

National Railroad Day - May

National Model Railroad Month - November

NMRA National Convention - July

PCR Convention - April/May

Go to the Division web site Master Calendar for more events and info.

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For more stories, reports and information be sure to go to the PCR Branch Line online at www.pcrnmra.org

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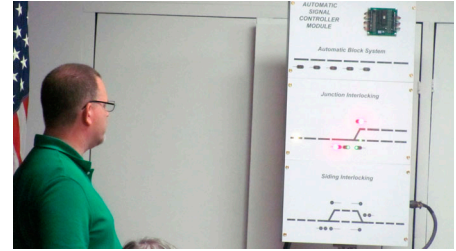
Fall Division Meet

DAYLIGHT MEET IN TEHACHAPI

By John Houlihan

Photographs by Mike OBrien

Three of us arrived at Kelseys around 8:15 to partake of the fine breakfast offered by the establishment. Some of us entered pictures and models at the contest table. There were a decent number of entrees this meet. The clinic on signaling took about two hours and covered a lot of territory. At the conclusion of the presentation I went up to examine the devices used to show signal movement. It was all done by turning toggle switches off and on. No computer help with the sequences presented. Of course the usual business meeting was held as a prelude to the white elephant auction. Some good items were offered, sight unseen. I gave my HO bridge to a new member. A big mistake as he gave me a large scale locomotive in return. Fortunately, a table mate liked it and offered to pay me the cost of it. I told him to pay to new member from Visalia.



Layout visits were very interesting. We got to see Guy Kravanic's collection of O Scale trolley layouts. They included sections of Bill Clousers layout showing intricate city street trackage at a small station, parts of the Crooked Mountain Railroad and traction sections from the LA County Fair Grounds, one standard O gauge and the other 42 inch narrow gauge. Guy hopes to have these layouts operating in the near future.

The second layout we visited was an N Scale layout in a large room. This is no N Scale version of tight curves of Lionel O 27 gauge. For N Scale the curves looked to be almost prototype radius. The track plan is a four track mainline with some three track areas spaced inbetween to keep the dispatcher on his toes. The dispatcher can be the computer that can send out trains automatically so the operators can watch trains, not run them.

Going home, we took the obligatory detour to the loop, went down to Calienti, but a road closure kept us from going to Sand Cut. Forced back to the freeway, we headed to Bakersfield for dinner and the home.

John Houlihan, Former Daylight Division Director



CONTEST REPORT

By Steve Biggs, Contest Chairman

We had a good turnout at our meet in Tehachapi, which resulted in the displaying of some nice models and photographs. The favorite Steam Locomotive, a Southern Pacific 4-10-2, was brought by Ron Cox, The Favorite Model of the others shown was Neil Ferbaugh's Cove Creek Brewery Diorama. The Favorite Freight Car Photograph was Doug Wagner's Santa Fe Wood Box Car. The only photos submitted were of freight cars, so no award was given for the Open Favorite Photo. Remember, Though specific categories are mentioned for each meet we still also have an award for the favorite of those models and photographs which are not in the category. That's two model awards and two photograph awards.



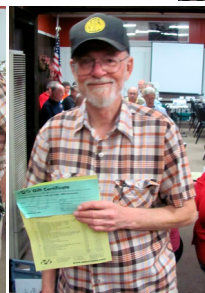
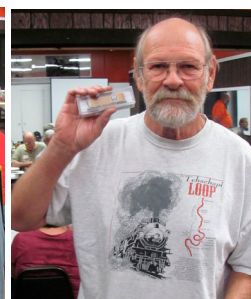
Doug Wagner Wins another award. Good going Doug.

A word on the presentation of photographs. There are no set rules for displaying photographs at the division meets, but remember that if you intend to enter a contest at a PCR Region convention there are some requirements to consider. Photographs must be no smaller than 5x7 nor larger than 8x12. And, for ease of display, they must also be on a rigid mounting board of at least 11x14 and not over 12x16. This also makes a pleasing presentation of your work. Other requirements and guidelines can be found on the PCR website under contest information.

The categories for our next meet, which will be in **November**, are **models of Freight Cars and photographs of Line Side subjects**, for example: switch stand, power poles, signals etc. (NOT BUILDINGS) use your imagination. Again if you have a model or photo, other than the specific category subject to share bring it. See you in Santa Barbara.



The Tutwiler prints in our raffle.

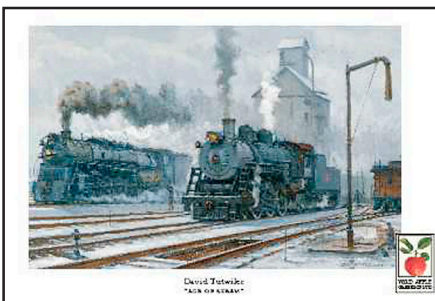


DAVID TUTWILER PRINTS DONATED FOR A DAYLIGHT RAFFLE

Two David Tutwiler prints have been donated by Suzanne Paff our Chief Clerk and Paymaster. The prints are framed and each measures 24" by 36". They are titled "Age of Steam" and "Steam in the Rockies".

The prints are being offered in a raffle. Ticket sales started in June and will run for one year to give everyone in the Division an opportunity to see the prints and buy and sell tickets. Tickets will be \$2.00 each or 6 tickets for \$10.00. Ticket holders need not be present to win and winners will be notified.

Here is a great excuse to come to a meeting to see the prints.



Title: Age of Steam; Artist: David Tutwiler.



Title: Steam in the Rockies; Artist: David Tutwiler.

The Answers Are Out There: GABLED DORMER WINDOWS FOR YOUR STRUCTURES

by Bob Pethoud, Members Aid

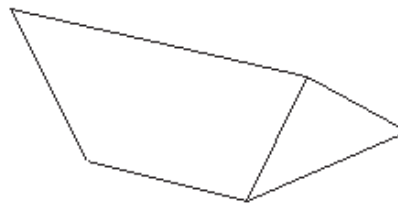


My latest project is another low-relief industry to rest against the backdrop of my Fall Creek Branch portable switching layout. The structure represents a sash and door mill served by a long switchback spur. The mill features a steep corrugated metal roof which extends over the track for much of the length of the building. A recent trip to Jamestown and the old Sierra Railroad engine service buildings revealed a trim little blacksmith shop with a louvered clerestory (See a previous column for an easy way to model one of these) and two gabled dormer windows. Just what I needed to break up that large expanse of roof! But how can one construct such complex shapes easily and quickly?

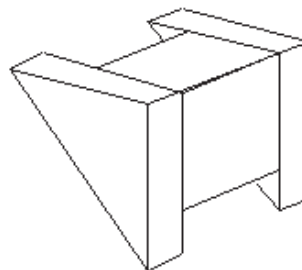


The basis of my model is a length of balsa wood with a cross section in the shape of a right isosceles triangle (half of a square, with the cut along the square's diagonal). My piece of wood was 3 feet long and cost less than \$4 at my local hobby shop. The legs of the triangle measure $\frac{3}{4}$ ", which makes the hypotenuse just over 1" ($\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\sqrt{2}$) in

length. In addition to the balsa, I purchased a 2 foot length of basswood with a $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 1" rectangular cross section. The illustration below shows how I used two pieces of balsa and two pieces of basswood for each of my three dormers:



Balsa wood



Balsa wood sandwiched between two pieces of basswood

I must admit that everything was made easier by the fact that I had chosen to have the roof slope at 45° to the horizontal (roof pitch 12:12), which matched the shape of the balsa strip, but the method will also work for roofs with slopes near this value.

Continued on Page 7

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM REPORT

By Dave Grenier

One Daylight member earned an AP Certificate of Achievement since my last report:

Andrew Merriam Model Railroad Author



Most of Andrew's credits were for an article he wrote, "Pacific Coast Railway bridge No. 5: Insights into making a unique model", that was published in the September 2012 issue of *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazine. He also shot the cover photo of the bridge. Kudos to Andrew!

During July, Bob Pethoud joined me in for some in-home AP judging at **Chuck Harmon**'s home in Fresno. Chuck completed the requirements for two AP certificates, Model Railroad Engineer - Civil and Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical, and submitted the Statement of Qualification forms for both certificates.

Chuck also earned Merit Awards during the in-home Merit Judging session for the following handlaid trackwork:

Turnout	Model RR Engineer – Civil
3-way Turnout	Model RR Engineer – Civil
Crossing	Model RR Engineer – Civil

Congratulations to both Andrew and Chuck for their accomplishments. Both are rapidly approaching their seventh certificate and the Master Model Railroader Award.

What this shows is you do not have to wait for a PCR convention contest to have models judged for Merit Awards. All it takes is a phone call or e-mail to me to arrange an in-home visit or time at a Division meet. Teams of judges are already in place in Fresno, Kern, and San Luis Obispo Counties. Each Merit Award brings you one step closer to MMR!

5th Annual Layout Open House Tour “ ‘TIS THE SEASON TO VISIT ’ ”

Free and Open to the Public • Families Welcome

Saturday, December 8, 2012

View Selected Model Railroad Layouts in the Fresno and Clovis Area from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. For more Information see the Daylight Web Site at: www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/pdf/dec2012-tour.pdf or pick up a flyer with instructions at one of these local hobby shops:

Roy's Trains and Things, Clovis	Hobbytown USA, Fresno
Tom's Trains and Miniatures, Fresno	Bulldog Hobbies, Fresno

This program is presented by the Daylight Division of the Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association in conjunction with National Model Railroad Month.

Members Aid

This balsa and basswood core was then sheathed with Northeastern board and batten siding for the front and sides, and Evergreen styrene corrugated siding for the roof. The only remaining challenge in the construction was finding the acute angle needed on each trapezoidal roof section (the angle at the top left in the illustration). For a 45° slope, that angle measures 54.74° or about 55°; if your slope angle is different, call it p° , then you can calculate the acute angle, a° , from the following formula:

$$m / a =$$

$$\tan^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\cos} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\cos p} \right) \right)$$

never need the geometry I tried to teach them!

Before attaching the siding to the core I stained the wood with India ink (1 tsp in a pint of 91% isopropyl alcohol) and, when that was dry, I brush painted it with a wash of brick red acrylic craft paint (Craft Smart from Michaels). Again, the paint was thinned with alcohol to do the wash. Grandt Line window castings were sprayed with Rust-Oleum Specialty Plastic shell white from a can purchased at OSH. The Evergreen corrugated roof also got a spray of Rust-Oleum from a can, only this time the color was satin granite. When that had dried thoroughly, I brushed on dark gray acrylic craft paint and then used a stiff brush to apply various colors of weathering chalks from Bragdon Enterprises.

Now that I know a (relatively) easy way to construct these dormer windows, I plan to add them to structures—either scratchbuilt or kits—yet to be built. Try it for yourself. Until next time, you may reach me at pethoud@comcast.net



Label

MEMBER RECOGNITION



BOB PETHOUD Model Builder

We are privileged to have in our Daylight group an extraordinary model builder who is our Members Aid Chairman. You have seen his work in the Observation and in the PCR Branch Line newsletters.

Here we recognize his efforts and say thank you for your fabulous contributions to our Division.

