



The Daylight Observation

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Oct-Nov-Dec 2022

Daylight Director's Message: The Future of Daylight Division

By Walter Mizuno, Daylight Division Director

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I'm writing this quarter's report in between activities at the PSR convention here in San Diego. This break in the action has allowed me time to digest new information and reflect on what it means to the future of the Daylight

Division. Many of you are no doubt aware that we now have the smallest number of division members in the PCR. Unfortunately, our numbers continue to decline in spite of efforts by many members of the division. Our superintendent of the division, Mike O'Brien recently passed away due to complications from COVID. Mike supported the hobby and division in many ways. Besides being our superintendent, he was active in the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (GEHAMS) in Bakersfield. His untimely passing added to the number of division members that we have sadly lost in the past few months.

At the regional level, discussions are occurring about consolidation of division and regions due to declining membership. As a volunteer in the Rails



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by the Bay 2022 national convention, I can attest that more volunteers were really needed. The upcoming Rails by the River 2023 PCR convention is in the planning phase and there are still unfilled positions. The reason why I mention this is to make you aware that if we still value attending the regional and national conventions, we need to support the committees that help organize and present these wonderful opportunities to view layouts, share stories, learn new techniques, and make new friends; in short, share our passion for railroads. By the way, the 2024 national convention will be held in Long Beach and is being hosted by the PSR. As a Daylight Division member, attending a national convention may never be this accessible for quite a while. There are a lot of positions that you can volunteer for while attending a convention. All it takes is just a few hours of your time.

Enough of this preaching. Being an NMRA member entitles you to take advantage of the NMRA Partnership Program. NMRA members can save enough money to pay for their membership dues when they buy from companies in the program. Companies offer steep discounts to NMRA members. Also, consider naming the NMRA as your charity when you purchase items in Amazon Smile. It doesn't cost you anything and is a part of Amazon which sends a portion of the purchase price to your named charity. Just select the NMRA and every time you purchase a qualified item, the NMRA receives a contribution. It is as simple as that.

There are enhanced member services now being offered by the NMRA. You no doubt have noticed that the NMRA Magazine has gone digital. The print version is still available for those of us who prefer the traditional format. Something that has been long overdue is the formation of a new SIG – Women in Model Railroading. This group is meant to be

inclusive and supportive of all women in the hobby and railfan world. On the horizon is the NMRA Interchange program on track (pun intended) to launch this fall. This website will create an online virtual townhall to connect our members with one another easily to facilitate the sharing of ideas and foster increased social interaction.

There is a return to face-to-face gatherings as COVID risks are being better managed. The Daylight Division's membership is spread over a large geographic area, making attendance at meetings difficult if they require travel over large distances. There are plans to increase the number of virtual meetings. Watch for notices being distributed by Doug Wagner and Pete Birdsong letting our members know when meetings will be happening. I'd like to personally encourage all of you to attend at least one meeting, just to see what your fellow modelers are doing. You can join the other members by Zoom.

Finally, after 30 years of declining membership in the NMRA, I am happy to report that we have finally reversed the trend, increasing our member numbers to over 16,000. Some local divisions have shown good growth numbers. Our division is still languishing. We need to hear from you about what we can do to better serve you. Please feel free to share your views with me. Good or bad, your comments are welcome. My email address is wkmizuno@gmail.com. That's it for this quarter.



Daylight Division Membership Gauge

August 31, 2012	144
July 31, 2021	100
August 31, 2021	96
September 30, 2021	97
October 31, 2021	97
November 30, 2021	97
December 31, 2021	95
January 31, 2022	93
February 28, 2022	92
March 31, 2022	92
April 30, 2022	93
May 31, 2022	90
June 30, 2022	86
July 31, 2022	85

Daylight Membership by County

<u>County</u>	<u># Members</u>
San Luis Obispo	23
Santa Barbara	16
Kern	16
Fresno	15
Tulare	7
Merced	3
Madera	3
<u>Mariposa</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Members	85

The Golden Spike Award

By Dave Grenier,
Daylight Division AP Manager



What is the Golden Spike Award you ask? This is like a “starter” award for those modelers who are just getting started with NMRA’s Achievement Program. The Golden Spike Award is the easiest of the awards and usually the first modelers earn. It is designed to demonstrate familiarity with the different areas of the hobby rather than expertise or mastery of those areas. Many modelers in the normal course of building a home layout or module may have already met most, if not all, of the requirements for the Golden Spike Award.

To receive the Golden Spike Award, the modeler must complete the requirements in three areas of the hobby, as shown on the [Qualifications Checklist](#): Rolling Stock (Motive Power and Cars); Model Railroad Setting (Structures and Scenery); Engineering (Civil and Electrical).

Let’s look at each area a little closer to see what needs to be done to qualify for the Golden Spike Award. I think you will be surprised and probably say to yourself, “Sheesh, I’ve already done all that!”

- 1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power and Cars):** Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. Note that the keyword is “display”. Nothing says it must earn any minimum number of contest points. Just having the rolling stock on your layout, or even the display table at a meet, counts as “display” and qualifies.

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Some effort does need to be shown here, though. A “shake the box” kit straight out of the box would not be sufficient to qualify. However, by painting and decaling it, adding some details, and maybe some weathering, you will have a qualifying model faster than you can say, “Model railroading is fun!”

2. **Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery):** Construct a minimum of eight square feet of model railroad or module(s) including scenery in any scale. Also, construct five structures either scratch-built, craftsman kits or super-detailed commercial kits. The eight square feet of layout could be as simple as a 2' x 4' module, or a switching layout on a 1' x 8' board! There is no requirement as to how elaborate your layout must be. You just have to “construct” it, but please, no loop of track nailed to a piece of plywood painted green!

The same comments for rolling stock also apply to structures. Just gluing a plastic building together straight out of the box isn't enough to qualify, but add some paint and weathering and you're on your way to a qualifying structure. Remember that more than just buildings are structures. Bridges and trestles are also considered “structures”. Also, not all the structures have to be on the same layout or module. Separate structures may also be displayed.

3. **Engineering (Civil & Electrical):** Display three types of track, properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed, and wired so that two trains can be operated at the same time. An additional electrical feature is also required.

All right now, let's break this down into bite-sized pieces so nobody gets scared off. Commercial track may be used to meet this requirement. You don't have to handlay a turnout, but you could. The “types of track” can be just about anything: turnouts, crossings or a change in track elevation. The three types do not have to be different; even three turnouts would qualify. Installing track on a raised roadbed, such as cork or HomaBed™, and applying ballast meets the “proper roadbed” requirement.

The “wired so that two trains can be operated at the same time” is also easier than it sounds. This can be a double-track main, single-track main with sidings, block or command control, etc.). Note the part about “single-track main with sidings”. This means that as long as you can cut power to the sidings

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individually, you can run one train on the mainline and hold another in a siding, then park the first train on the other siding and bring out and run the second train. This meets the requirement. Needless to say, the advent of DCC has greatly simplified this requirement.

The last part, an “additional electrical feature”, could be something as simple as installing an Atlas turnout with a switch machine. Practically anything that runs off the “Accessories” terminals of your power pack meets the requirement.

Now here’s where some new challenges or opportunities arise. Not all of the requirements have to be met on the same layout or module. They don’t even all have to be in the same scale! Here’s an opportunity to try your hand at a different scale! How about scratch-building a large-scale flat car?

You could even work with a friend by doing twice the required amount of qualifications (12 pieces of rolling stock, 10 structures, etc.) You can both get the award just as long as you can each show that you have each demonstrated the required skills. This is also true for other areas of the AP. Nowhere is it stated that you have to do it all alone. Work with a buddy, teach each other, and both of you can earn a Golden Spike Award.

Once you’ve completed all the requirements on the Golden Spike Award Qualifications Checklist, complete the AP Golden Spike Award Application Form, available on the NMRA website at <https://nmra.org/sites/default/files/2006-golden-spike.pdf>. Have the Divisional AP Chair (me) or another NMRA member designated by the Divisional AP Chair sign as the witness, then submit the form and a copy of your NMRA membership card to the Divisional AP Chair. He will forward your submission to the Regional AP Manager, who will then issue your Golden Spike Award Certificate.

That’s all there is to getting your first AP award! So what’s stopping you from getting your Golden Spike Award? Now that we all know what we need to do, let’s get going and work on getting our Golden Spike Awards.



Mike O'Brien's Final Run

Remembrance by Doug Wagner



Daylight Division Superintendent, Mike O'Brien, of Bakersfield, passed away Saturday, August 20th, from complications of Covid and Pneumonia. Mike had been in the hospital since November 30th, 2021, and never made it home. Mike was 67 years old. Mike was a United States Navy veteran, serving from 1973-1977, with the Construction Battalion, AKA Sea Bees. Mike was not only the current Daylight Division Superintendent, but also served as the Daylight Division's ZOOM czar. Mike was also a member of the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society--the model railroad club in Bakersfield--since 2005. At GEHAMS Mike was currently serving as the N Scale Director and Webmaster.

Since Mike's favorite railroad was the Union Pacific, what I would call apropos, there is one scene in the famous 1939 Cecil B. DeMille's railroad movie, "*Union Pacific*", where Joel McCrea informs Barbara Stanwyck, that her husband, Robert Preston, was dead, by stating, "He'll be waiting for us . . . at the end of track."

Daylight Division In Memoriam		
<u>Member</u>	<u>City, Sate</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
William Davis	Ridgecrest CA	1/1/1967(Lifetime Member)
Jimmie Martin	Bakersfield CA	1/1/1970(Lifetime Member)
Gene Rutledge	Visalia CA	1/1/1985(Lifetime Member)
Mike O'Brien	Bakersfield CA	07/01/2009



Daylight Division Membership Report

By Doug Wagner, Membership



In spite of the low turnout at the August 27th Kingsburg Daylight Division Meet (we shall blame it on the typical Central Valley Summer Heat), we had a GREAT venue and lineup of presentations—besides plenty of prototype action with the Union Pacific Bakersfield-Fresno mainline, just outside the door!

The presentations were outstanding! This is what the in-person and ZOOM'er attendees got to see:

- Ed Merrin's "Smartphone Focus Stacking for Layout Photography"
Ed discussed how to get professional quality photos of your layout, locomotives and rolling stock by just using your Smartphone's camera.
- Giuseppe Aymar, MMR®, "The 1,2,3's.... of Renumbering Locomotives"
Giuseppe showed us how we can renumber your locomotive's road number, illustrating how we can change the loco's number of different manufacturers' locomotive using various techniques.
- Brewster Bird, "Working on the Railroad"
Brewster shared with us his story of his home model railroad layout, which he is currently making progress on.

With all the presentations completed, it was time to draw the name of the winner for the \$50 Central Coast Trains Gift Certificate. Alan Rogers, who was ZOOM'ing the meet, from Bakersfield, was the lucky winner of the \$50 Gift Certificate. Congratulations Alan!

At the conclusion of the meet, we traveled to Reedley, where the gang enjoyed a tour of the shops at Hillcrest & Wahtoke Railroad, where we got to view some double secret probation (Animal House Fans Can Relate) stuff on which they were working for Disneyland.

The next scheduled Daylight event/happening will be in conjunction with the Central Coast Railroad Festival, which is October 7th-9th (<https://ccrrf.com/index.html>). The Daylight Division will be having a luncheon/get-together, Saturday, October 8th, at the A-Town Diner (<https://www.battingfourthinternational.com/>), located at 7305 El Camino Real, in Atascadero, and is conveniently located just a couple blocks away from Central Coast Train Model Railroad Shop. The Daylight Division luncheon is Saturday, October 8th, from 11:00

Membership

The Daylight Division luncheon is Saturday, October 8th, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, with no business being conducted—just a luncheon meet-and-greet. Neil Fernbaugh has graciously volunteered to be the on-site coordinator and will manage the drawing for the \$50.00 Central Coast Trains Gift Certificate. This is just a luncheon and no actual meet, so it will not be ZOOM'ed, but you will get a chance to win the Central Coast Trains Gift Certificate. You must be present and a current NMRA member to have a chance to win the Gift Certificate. For further information on the October 8th Daylight Luncheon and up-to-date information, please visit the Daylight Division's web site at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/nextmeet.html>



Despite the low attendance, we enjoyed the great venue and the three great presentations. And as an extra added bonus, we were right next to the Union Pacific's mainline, which had plenty of action that day!



Hillcrest and Wahtoke's engine servicing facility. We could not photograph the double secret Disneyland locos they were working on due to copy-right infringements.



The NMRA has a new SIG: Women in Model Railroading

By Cydney George-Abatecola, NMRA Member & Women in Model Railroading SIG Admin

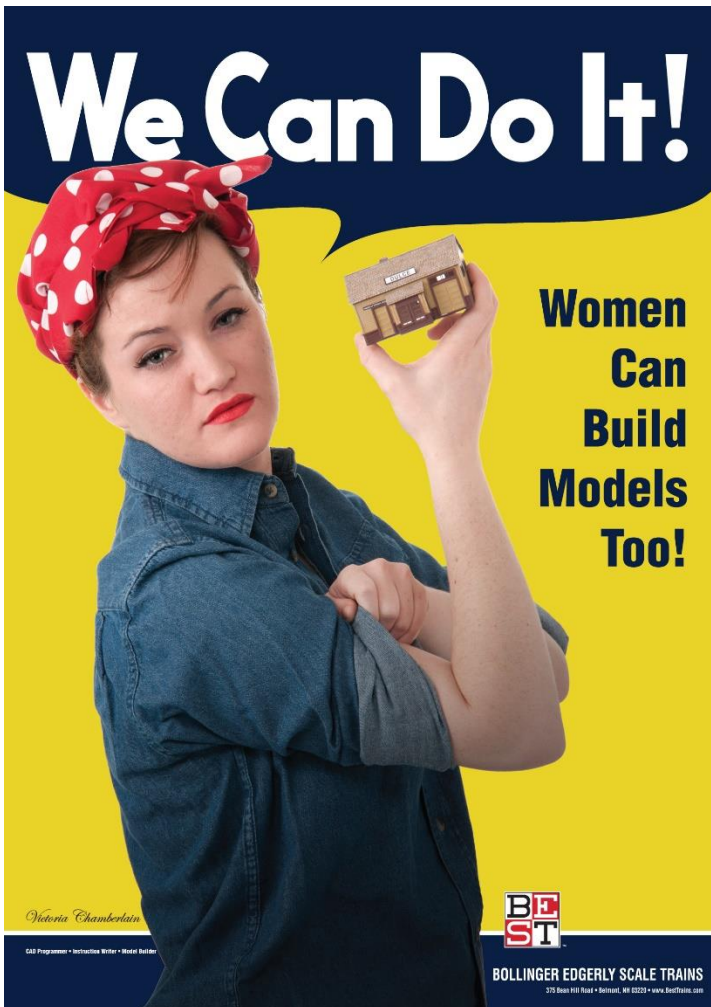


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We are excited to offer the opportunity to women around the world to become members of this new Special Interest Group - [Women in Model Railroading!](#) As a recognized SIG within the NMRA, we expect this group to be vibrant in the world of model railroading. The purpose of the Women in Model Railroading (WIMRR) SIG is to introduce, encourage and connect women in or interested in the hobby of model railroading. The SIG is designed for education, enrichment, social interactions, and all-around fun. This group is meant to be inclusive and supportive of all women in the hobby and railfan world. We plan to host a few social meetings per year including online and at train shows/conventions around the country. The SIG will provide women in their local NMRA regions the support needed to create activities or gatherings, in order to grow the hobby and remove perceived barriers for women modelers.

Join our Facebook Pages:

"[Women in Model Railroading](#)" is for women in the model railroad hobby to share their world.

"[The Steam Sisters Group](#)" is for women railfans to share their photos of steam AND diesel trains.

Visit the SIG page: <https://www.nmra.org/sigs/women-in-model-railroading>

Join: Please use this link to join the SIG: <https://forms.gle/aKPhcXU1sthKW1MQ8>

Contact: wimrr@nmra.org





NMRA 2022 Convention in St. Louis, Missouri: Part 1

By Bruce Morden

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is supposed to advance the global scale model railroading community through education, advocacy, standards and social interaction. While many of us use the other means, it is the social interaction that we enjoy the most. The friends we have made working together on model railroads, operating on model railroads, visiting model railroads or just talking about model railroads. The gettogethers with other model railroaders is very important. As a member of the Daylight Division, I have enjoyed the Division gatherings. I also enjoy attending conventions and that is what this reflection is about.

This year the Pacific Coast Region (PCR) held their convention in Rohnert Park in the Redwood Empire Division. I was privileged to present a clinic and visit several layouts. Last year the Daylight Division hosted the PCR Convention and we did it all virtually because of COVID. We were still able to get together. Next year the PCR Convention will be in Sacramento and will be joint with the Feather River Rail Society. Sometimes we cross regional boundaries and attend convention in the Pacific Southwest Region.

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Beyond the regions, the NMRA holds a national convention. Last year the PCR hosted with a virtual convention attended by close to 700 model railroaders. This year the convention was held in person in St Louis, MO. They were originally scheduled for 2020 but had to cancel because of COVID. I attended this year's gathering. My wife and I drove, visiting both her sister and my sister on the way to St Louis. My wife always wants to know why they plan these conventions in the summer in places that are not only hot but muggy. I really have no idea why.

The national conventions have lots of activities from clinics, layout tours, prototype tours, model contests and banquets to operating sessions, make-and-take workshops, the National Train Show and general tours of points of interest around the convention. I try to do many of the activities but enjoy the layout tours and operations the most.

This year I wanted to join the prototype tour to the National Transportation Museum because they have a Southern Pacific G-6 4-8-4 – one of the last big passenger steam engines built for my favorite railroad. When I went to sign up they were already sold out. Not to fear. Since we drove to the convention, I used our car and drove myself and thoroughly enjoyed my visit.



Southern Pacific 4460, a G-6, at the National Transportation Museum

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UP Big Boy number 4006 at the National Transportation Museum in St. Louis

Bruce's article continues in our next issue

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The Daylight Observation is published quarterly to inform members of division activities and to provide educational articles for the advancement of railroad history and the art and science of model railroading. It is distributed to all members of the Division and to officers and newsletter editors of other divisions in the PCR.

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Observation Schedule

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



Doug's Porterville Orosi District Layout Odyssey

Part 3,623

By Doug Wagner

It has been a while since I last submitted an article for the Observation, but I have been making some progress, even with the lack of updates. I wanted to get my feet wet by adding some scenery in the city of Porterville, as that is the focal point—and the busiest area on the layout—as far as operations goes. And Porterville will be the area that will require the most scenery work. So why start with the hardest first and not first go with an easy area to scenic? Well, I figure if I get the hardest area completed, the rest of the layout will be a piece of cake—right?



After taking some past progress photos, those unsightly slide switches that operated the turnouts were ruining any decent photos that I may have taken. So, I decided to go with Digitrax DS44's to control the turnouts from my throttle. Why the DS44 and not the new DS74? I simply did not need the bells and whistles such as routing and signaling on the Porterville-Orosi Branch, as the real Branch was dark. So, after I installed the first DS44, I was able to begin my journey into the fun world of scenery. Oh, I messed some areas up and you may be able to see some of them in the photos.



The Porterville Livestock Company's loading chute is empty right now as a load of cattle is on its way to market. Just to the right, you can see one of my scenery boo-boos.

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View of the ATSF Porterville Station. Yeah, I know, it does not look like the real Porterville Station. I took some artistic licensing deviations. The view is looking west down East Putnam Avenue. I also took some artistic license deviations by modeling 1953 and having the ATSF M-130 still in operation. That is what I like about model railroading!



But the one wonderful thing about scenery—if you screw it up, you can also scrape it off and start again—and again—and again, etc., etc., so-forth and so forth, yadda, yadda, yadda. I also am experimenting with some background photos. I still need to practice more on Photo Elements to create the background I need for the park scene, just behind the Porterville Station. Another reason for starting my great scenery adventure is that once completed with Porterville, I can submit my application for the Golden Spike Award! Besides, I am having fun with scenery! I hope this article will motivate some of you arm-chair modelers to finally get out of the chair and get started on something of your own!

Until next time, may all your signals be green! Time to Highball to the PSR Convention, in San Diego, now!



Looking south down North Main Street. You can see the park on the right side and my attempt at adding background. Heh, I'm just experimenting right now!



October 1, 2022 - [West Side Reunion](#) presents the 33rd Annual Logging & Mining Modeler's Convention at the Sonora Senior Center, 540 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA. ([MAP](#)) Join us for the all-day event, including clinics, contests, and dealer sales area. See the website for details on vendor tables. Admission is \$25.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door (this year your spouse is included). Dealer tables are available for \$35.00 for the first table, which includes one pass. Each additional 8' table is \$10.00. Each additional person at your table(s) is \$25.00 for their pass. Please reserve your tables early. Contact: Frank Markovich, Email: frank@frankmarkovich.com, Phone: (408) 505-2727.

October 2, 2022 - 8:30 am, Sierra Seminar, Sonora Senior Center, 540 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA. ([MAP](#))

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

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

October 8, 2022 - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, [Daylight Division](#) Fall Meet at the A-Town Diner, 7305 El Camino Real, in Atascadero, CA [MAP](#) See the [Daylight Division website](#) for the full agenda.

October 7 – 9, 2022 - [Central Coast Railroad Festival](#), San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties, CA. Hosted by [San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum](#), 1940 Santa Barbara Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA. [MAP](#)

October 9, 2022 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Fall Model Train Swap Meet & Open House, [Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club](#), 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. [MAP](#)

October 15–16, 2022 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. • [MAP](#)

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

Info: davetateosian@sbcglobal.net **August 20, 2022**, [Redwood Empire Division](#) Picnic.

Location to be determined.

October 22 & 23, 2022 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, [International Railfair](#) Model Railroad Show, Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All American City Blvd, Roseville, CA. [MAP](#)

The International Railfair show is run by members of the [Sacramento Modular Railroaders](#), the [Sacramento chapter of the European Train Enthusiasts](#), [Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Association](#), and the [Sierra Division](#) of the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA.

We've been putting on model railroad shows for over forty years!

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October 25, 2022 • 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, [Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society](#), in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. • [MAP](#)
The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. This model railroad features standard gauge, narrow gauge, and interurban (overhead electric) freight and trolley lines.

Fares:

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

For information call: (925) 937-1888

Visit our website: wcmrs.org

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

November 12, 2022 • **NEW DATE!** - [Sierra Division](#) – In-person Meet. To be determined.

November 18 – 20, 2022 - Friday: 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Holiday Show, [Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society](#), in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. • [MAP](#)

November 19, 2022 - 11:00 am, [Redwood Empire Division](#) Fall Meet, held online via Zoom.

November 25 – 27, 2022 - Friday: **2:00 pm** to 10:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Holiday Show, [Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society](#), in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. • [MAP](#)

December 10–11, 2022 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. • [MAP](#)
Admission: \$5.00; children under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

Info: davetateosian@sbcglobal.net

December 30, 2022 • 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, [Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society](#), in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. • [MAP](#)

January 28 – 29, 2023 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, [Great Train Show](#), Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA. • [MAP](#)

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