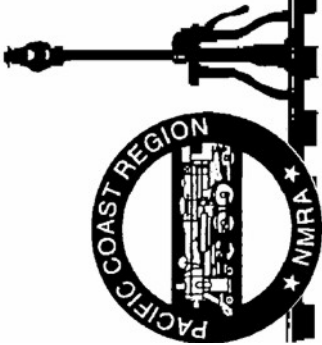


BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



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January - March 2016



Convention Car for Modesto Convention
Modesto Empire Traction 53-foot Evans
Double Door Box Car

PCR Convention "Taking it to the Streets of Modesto 2016" Arrives in Modesto April 20-24, 2016

Convention Committee is ready to Receive Your registration (See Page 28)

FRRS Co-Hosts with PCR in Modesto

PCR Call Board

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Hawaiian Division

All offices are currently vacant

Contents

The Branch Line
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National Model Railroad
Association

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Front Page Photo

MET 53-foot Evans double door box car model, Photo by Jim Collins.

PCR/FRRS 2016 Convention, Taking it To The Streets 2016

by Steve Wesolowski, PCR 2016 Publicity Volunteer

We are partnering our PCR convention as a joint convention with the Feather River Rail Society's annual convention. Because we have different agendas we will hold separate banquets, but will have otherwise shared activities. Our partnership with FRRS will increase the subjects and choices of activities available, in both clinic subjects and outside events. More information will be available on our website as we get closer to the convention.

Because of our joint convention, NMRA membership is not required to register. But only NMRA members may enter models, photos and crafts for NMRA judging and awards. FRRS members may share their models and photos as display only. A 6-month Rail Pass is available to encourage participation and have a 'look-see' without a long-term commitment. Also available are full NMRA memberships with or without the NMRA magazine and student memberships that include NMRA magazine. All levels of NMRA memberships may be requested and paid for on the registration forms.

To join the NMRA, membership information is available at the NMRA website: <http://nmra.org/>

Registration

The Early Bird
Special Registration Package

fare of \$89 includes registration, awards banquet, and PCR breakfast. (The Early Bird Package deal ends Jan 31, 2016. The Registration Package will be \$99 starting Feb 1, 2016.) There is no fare differential between rail and non-rail registrations; however, non-rail includes the non-rail lunch, not the PCR breakfast.

The special "First Timer" fare of \$79.00 is available for PCR members that have not registered for the past 5 conventions. The "First Timer" special also includes the awards banquet and PCR breakfast.

Youth fare of \$50.00 provides full registration with no food events.

Awards banquet only attendance is \$45.00.

The day fare of \$40 is good for one day of convention attendance and includes clinics, layout tours, and contests. The awards banquet is not included, but may be purchased as an extra-fare item.

All fares include convention registration, clinics, contests, and layout tours. There may be additional charges for some outside events or special clinics, if admission tickets, transportation, or materials are required. If you have questions about registration, please contact our Registrars, Jim Dieckman or Richard Klammer.

To register go to
<http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/registration.html>

Conventions Need Volunteers

If you've been a PCR/NMRA member for a while, you've likely read my convention publicity before. Volunteering for 12 plus regional & national conventions & enjoying a couple more, I've learned something besides conventions always need more volunteers. Yeah, more hands & minds helping makes most jobs easier & more fun. Also, I know volunteers benefit most from volunteering. Every convention begins with a few committee volunteers, who give months of their time planning and organizing all the fun conventioners will enjoy. And the sooner you volunteer, the more impact you may have insuring *your* convention includes more activities that *you* enjoy. Besides filling any openings left on our committee, committee members always welcome more help. Use emails at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/committee.html> to volunteer for area(s) you're interested in enjoying even more.

Volunteers are needed for all areas: as Clinicians, Contestants, Layout Owners, Registration, and more. If you Volunteer, you will meet and enjoy more people with similar interests.

Our partnership with FRRS will increase the subjects and choices of activities available, in both clinic subjects and outside events.

It is important our block of rooms is filled to have access to the rooms needed for clinics, contests, banquet, and other activities.

Convention Car

We have a convention car this year, a 53-foot Evans double door box car painted for Modesto and Empire Traction (M&ET). It is available in 4 road numbers: 13336, 13680, 13698, and 13718, either as the complete set of four (\$90) or individually (\$25). Cars must be ordered before the convention & picked up there; no shipping. Note: The Convention Logo is included as a separate decal for those who don't want it on their cars.

Outside Tours

Our Taking It To The Streets 2016 Convention Committee Outside Tour Coordinator, Scott Inman, is working hard to arrange some interesting outside tours and activities during the convention, both around and near Modesto. There will be a shop tour of Modesto's Shortline Railroad, the M&ET. I've heard this is a fun tour I plan to enjoy. Other nearby tours are still being planned. Scott's working on a tour of Sierra's Oakdale facility for Friday, April 22, which may be followed by an excursion if enough participate. Scott is working on a Sierra-themed day with busses to Jamestown later Friday, then on to Oakdale, then ride an excursion. Scott is also working to arrange a tour just a few blocks from our hotel of a local MakerSpace called Downtown Tinkertank, an industrial 3d printing facility with lots of other milling equipment.

Check our website for more outside events our partnership with FRRS should make possible.

Convention Hotel

Our Taking It To The Streets 2016 Convention hotel is the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Modesto, 1150 Ninth Street, Modesto, CA 95354-0823. Convention hotel rates are being negotiated. Rates will be posted on our website and available in January. It is important our block of rooms is filled to have access to the rooms needed for clinics, contests, banquet, and other activities. The convention committee must commit to a block of rooms to get access to all of the space we need. If we don't fill the room block as required, it will cost the convention substantial additional money. We price our convention to keep it a low cost event. Please help us ensure this low cost by staying at the convention hotel.

Clinics & Contests

This should come as no surprise: all the usual/traditional contest categories will be available for entering your models, photos and crafts to be judged for competition. For complete information, including forms, categories, requirements and contest room schedule, visit <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/contests.html>

Volunteers are always needed to judge and to staff the contest room to provide security for the entries.

Model contest judges earn 2 time units towards their AP Association Volunteer Certificate. Contact the Contests Chair, Bob Schott, to assist with these very important functions. I always enjoy helping judge because other's work teaches me how to model better.

I always encourage *everyone* attending conventions to bring at least one and hopefully more contest entries in different categories to share your talented work with everyone. I always hope we all bring enough of our best models, photos and crafts to encourage us all to become more talented, and so we also award all possible prizes in every possible category, to encourage more competitive contests. Your entries help encourage every one of us to become better modelers, photographers and craftspersons.

As I write this in December 2015, everyone has just over four months to start and finish one or more contest entries which will share your unique talents and vision with the rest of us. If you prefer your work not to be judged, please bring it for display only. Either way, we can all still share learn from your unique vision and talented work. By sharing and learning from each other's work, whether judged or not, we all may improve our talents and skills.

Happy trains to you, until we meet again! I hope we all see you and your work in Modesto, April 20-24, 2016! 🚂

President's Report

by Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

Wow!

There are so many train related events going on within our region lately it's quite remarkable. Love to make them all, but time as well as distance throws some limits down. But it's a good sign that model railroading is alive and well.

My upbeat perspective got a boost from the recent quarterly get together of my home Division, the RED. I counted

twenty-seven names on the signup sheet (the usual is around twenty) and we were all treated to a great program, capped by a riveting clinic on 3D printing given by Andy Cohen of E-Stuff Plus. My compliments to the

great work by Program Chair Dave Grundman, Superintendent Peter Barnes, Chief Clerk and Paymaster Ed Zakareckis, and, for the usual spectacular show and tell, Contest Chair Guiseppe Aymar. This leads me into the topic of enthusiasm, participation, and the future of NMRA.

With regards to enthusiasm, I think we're in.

Participation is a mixed bag. Like for many nonprofit hobby organizations, it's always a challenge for us to find members interested in filling essential roles in our organization that are necessary for these activities

we like to attend to take place. As a result, we have "elections" that rarely feature more than one candidate, and maybe 10% of us bother to vote. This may sound like nagging, but it is fact as well.

As a result, the same small core of folks tend to rotate through all the available positions, sometimes coming back for a second run at them. What you lose out on is the injection of fresh perspectives and, to raise a familiar issue again, younger faces to carry the flag into the future. We're talking about long term strategic planning here.

So what's to do about this?

Well, your elected representatives on the PCR Board, the Division Directors, pointed out what they considered an unfortunate situation that may be a small but important part of the picture. Division Superintendents, they all agreed, do a lot more work than Directors but get less credit and recognition. Directors qualify for AP credits as NMRA officials, but Superintendents don't because their positions are considered Division creations and not part of the NMRA proper. They would have to be voting members of the Regional Board to qualify.

Of course, they could qualify for AP credit as volunteers, but come on now. Aren't we all volunteers? Without their efforts, much of what we do together as

NMRA members wouldn't happen.

At the Board's urging, I did some investigation. I sent queries to all the other Regional Presidents to find out how things were set up in their Regions and how they handled this system. I also pulled up all their websites looking for information as well. I received replies from ten Regional Presidents fairly quickly, most of them very eager to be of help. What I found out was surprising and informative.

First of all, I discovered that PCR's governance structure is not the norm. Far more commonly, the District Superintendents are also voting members of the Regional Board. In at least two cases, they essentially served as the Directors as well. Apart from PCR and PSR, the issue was a moot



It's always a challenge for us to find members interested in filling essential roles in our organization that are necessary for these activities we like to attend to take place.

PCR Membership Gauge

As of Nov. 30, 2015
 November 30, 2014—991
 December 31, 2014—969
 January 31, 2015—983
 February 28, 2015—998
 March 31, 2015—996
 April 30, 2015—1,004
 May 31 2015—1,007
 June 30 2015—1,013
 July 31 2015—1,010
 August 31 2015—1,012
 September 30, 2015—1,010
 October 31, 2015—1,009
 Nov. 30, 2015—1,007

NMRA does not go down and stop at the Region but in fact starts at the Division and travels up.

one. Some of these Boards, by the way, must be enormous.

Nonetheless, I for one feel that the message is not the right one, that NMRA does not go down and stop at the Region but in fact starts at the Division and travels up. The Division is the only NMRA most members ever experience and it is the NMRA that attracts and retains new members. It's where the frequently heralded "fellowship" takes place.

Your Board is not alone on this issue. As it turns out there are people at the National level who share our point of view enough to be exploring the possibility of changing the current rules. It may in fact happen, but would take some time. As the "Dude" once said in "The Big Lebowski" - "There's a lot of ifs, ands, or buts here." Meanwhile, we might think about some alternatives that PCR could initiate on its own. For instance, we could change our bylaws so that Superintendents were voting members of the PCR Regional Board.


If we did that the board would be bigger by four members. Is that a problem? Is it redundant having the Superintendent and Director from each Division both on the Board? Do we need both? One advantage to combining the two offices would be reducing the number of willing candidates for office we have to scrounge around for by four.

What do you all think? I'd love to hear about it.

Meanwhile, is there anyone with financial experience interested in being the Chairperson of the Audit Committee?
Signing Off, Ed Merrin 🚂

PCR Membership Tracker

Division	# Members
Coast	460
Sierra	264
Redwood Empire	141
Daylight	130
Hawaiian	12
Total PCR Members	1007




HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. Each is available for NMRA members to borrow for the cost of processing and postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit www.nmra.org and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.



We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org

Then, get that popcorn ready.

Have you changed your address or other membership information?
Notify Headquarters
Email: nmrahq@nmra.org
Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am—4pm ET)

Achievement Program - Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical (Part 1)

by Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department

Continuing our discussion on various AP certificates, this month we will talk about the requirements for Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical. Like the other certificates, the full requirements for this category are available on the Internet at the NMRA website.

The essence of this AP certificate is to demonstrate knowledge of wiring a model railroad. The required work can be done on your own layout, a club layout, or even some on a friend's layout.

I will talk about the first two requirements this month and the rest of the requirements in the next issue of the *Branch Line*.

The first requirement is that you construct and demonstrate the satisfactory operation of an electrical control system on a model railroad capable of simultaneous and independent control of two mainline trains in either direction and containing at least a) five electrical blocks if running DC or, for DCC, sufficient gaps and switches to maintain polarity, phase if needed, and troubleshooting; and b) one mainline passing siding; and c) one reversing

loop, wye, or turntable; and d) one yard with a minimum of three tracks and a switching lead independent of the mainline; and e) facilities for the storing of at least two unused motive power units; and f) one power supply with protective devices. Note that you do not need to build a power supply as long as it includes the required protective device. While this might seem like a long list, note that even a small DCC layout could qualify if there is a way to turn motive power and it includes a small yard, a passing track, and circuit breakers.

The next requirement is that you wire and demonstrate the electrical operation of at least three of the following items: turnout, crossing, crossover, double crossover, slip switch, gauge separation turnout, double gauge separation turnout, three-way turnout, gauntlet turnout, spring switch, or an operating switch in an overhead wire. You do not need to scratchbuild any of these track components, just show that you can make them work electrically. For example, wiring up the simplest powered turnout from the hobby shop will satisfy one of the three required electrical track components. Likewise, most

commercial crossings come pre-wired. All you need to do is set one up so that you can run trains through both tracks. The whole point of these requirements is for you to demonstrate a variety of skills and understand the need for track gaps, etc. The guidelines continually stress to not read more into the requirements than need be or make them harder than they have to be.

I'll talk about the rest of the requirements in the next issue.

Once you complete these requirements, submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which includes the required drawings and forms. Witnesses must sign a *Certificate of Operation* verifying that the required items are operational and meet all applicable NMRA standards. Send the completed SOQ to your Divisional AP representative, **along with a photocopy of your NMRA membership card** and you are on your way toward another certificate!

I am happy to announce five new Achievement Program awards this issue:
 Thomas Blinn - Association Volunteer, Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical, and Model Railroad Engineer – Civil
 Mike Blumensaadt - Master Builder - Prototype Models
 Richard Brennan - Association Volunteer

Thomas Blinn has obviously been busy filling in Statements of Qualifications!

Continued on Page 9



The essence of this AP certificate is to demonstrate knowledge of wiring a model railroad.

Note that the Association Volunteer category requires a minimum of 60 time units (TU's are serving the hobby through work on convention committees, presenting clinics, hosting an open house during a convention, etc.) The SOQ submitted by Thomas listed 96 TU's!

Mike Blumensaadt was awarded an AP Certificate for Master Builder - Prototype Models. You may have seen his N scale Civil War scene at the 2015 PCR

Convention or in the September 2015 issue of **Model Railroader** magazine. Great work Mike!

Richard Brennan recorded 210 Tus for Association Volunteer! His work included over six years as Branch Line editor which alone was worth 184 TUs!

If you are interested in the AP Program or Golden Spike Program, contact me for more details. My phone number, address, and e-mail address are listed in the Call Board on Page 2. 🚂

Web Announcement

By Gus Campagna,
Manager, PCR
Publications Department

New pages added to the Website. We are in the process of adding a page to display Layout Stories. We are seeking submissions from layout owners to tell the story of their layout. Details are on the page about what we are looking for. Check out the Layout-stories page on www.pcrnmra.org 🚂

Adesso Poi

By Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Chairman, PCR Contest Department

The fact that English is my third language affords me the luxury to criticize or play with meanings that a native speaker would not even consider. Take for example "Achievement Program". We typically shorten it to "AP" since it takes too much effort to mouth out both words in full. So, when we discuss model trains and PCR (here we go again) the mention

of AP is immediately understood in that context to be the "Achievement Program" as opposed to Associated Press, Arithmetic Progression or Advance Placement, and so forth. We also understand that the Achievement Program is one that takes time to complete. As much as we would like it will not be accomplished in a

short time period as some categories require investment of time, like Volunteer and Official. Some folks have gone from zero to MMR (Master Model Railroader) in what seems to be a flash since they turn in all their paper work at once, but you must remember that it still took them time to accomplish all the requirements.

Going back to my initial thought, if I were to use the initials AP in the Italian language, I would use the initials to create the well known phrase "Adesso Poi". What the heck is, "Adesso Poi," you ask. Basically, as you can see "Adesso" stands for "A" and "Poi" stands for "P" which translates into English as "Adesso = Now" and "Poi = Later". We can then refer to the AP program as "Now and Later". Now it all makes sense!!!! Do the work **Now**, be rewarded

Later!!!! What an insight. Yet, is it not how we need to approach any situation in life? Delayed gratification seems to have been lost by our new generations; instant accessibility to anything one desires is now at one's fingertips. The AP (we can now refer to it as "NL") grounds us back to reality which reinforces the concept of putting out the effort Now and being rewarded Later. Does any of this make any sense to you?

For those of you who are in the midst of working toward your MMR or toiling on your project to bring to the next PCR Contest, make "Adesso Poi" your battle cry to a successful campaign. Live adesso poi, work it, caress it, be vigilant over it, make it your own. In case you were wondering how I came to be familiar with adesso poi, it was through my mom. She used to refer to me as adesso poi, but in a

Continued on Page 10



We can then refer to the AP program as "Now and Later"

different sense. When she used to give me a chore to be done she used to mumble to me “yea, yea, adesso poi” but meaning “yea I will do it **but** later.” When I finally grew up (some might raise their eyebrows at this revelation) I decided that a change was in order and instead made “Adesso Poi” a positive force in my life rather than a pathetic excuse as in the Spanish “Mañana”.

Ciao, ci vediamo a poi (see you later). 🚗

Opting Out of Branch Line Subscription

by Gus Campagna, PCR Publications Manager

If you subscribe to the PCR Branch Line Magazine, now \$8.00, you can opt-out of receiving the printed version. Just write to me at campgus@earthlink.net and I will add you to my list. When I get notification that the Branch Line is at the printer I send out an e-mail to the members who have opted-out.

If you are a life member, you automatically get the printed version of the Branch Line, but you can also opt-out if you'd like.

Remember the Branch Line is available to everyone on-line. 🚗

Pacific Coast Region SIG Report for Fourth Quarter 2015

by Seth Neumann

This Fall we've had a slow operating quarter in Northern California as a couple of the larger local layouts have been down during home remodeling (got to put all that stuff that used to be in the kitchen



somewhere!), and upgrades – mostly electronic. I myself have had the crew working on a couple of projects that have made a mess out of the yard so I haven't taken the time to clean up. New

Year's resolution: clean up the mess and op some more!

The “Bay Area” PCR/LD/OP SIG meet will be visiting Sacramento this year in our program to rotate the venue to feature visiting different touring and

operating layouts. The meet will be January 29-31 at CSRM. Check our website for the latest at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sigs/>.

The current plan is to have a special CSRM back shop tour on the afternoon of Friday the 29th to get you out ahead of the Friday evening rush (likely to be bad as there **will** be snow in Tahoe this year) weather permitting. If not we'll have something, so check the site and monitor the PCR list. We'll have the Friday night dinner at a suitable venue. The clinic program will be at CSRM in one of the auditoriums. Stay tuned for a program. I've been a little late in confirming the presenters but I expect some good local content and some new presenters. We'll have tours

Saturday evening and Ops Sunday, all centered on Sacramento so these will all be new layouts to the “SIG Meet.”

We are also working on the SIG program for Modesto and I expect a strong clinic program.

I mentioned last quarter that we have a new SIG: the CMRI SIG which supports the CMRI net Layout Control Bus. We've been quietly making progress and I expect we'll have some exciting news about networking in the first quarter.

Next year's National Convention in Indianapolis promises to be very good and LDSIG President Ron Burkhardt is coordinating the LDSIG activities and Chuck Tuttle is working on the Operations SIG program. It looks like there will be extended layout tours with operating opportunities in

Continued on Page 11

Cincinnati, Dayton and Fort Wayne as well as Indianapolis, so Operators should be very busy!

In out of town operating action, the Bay Area was once again well represented at the La Mesa club's Tehachapi Meet, MinnRail in the Twin Cities, and the Great Lake Getaway

in Southeastern Michigan. There are upcoming operating meets in Sedona, La Mesa (San Diego), Louisiana and the Puget Sound Area, so please contact me at sneumann@pacbell.net if you are interested in any of them! 🚂

Branch Line Deadlines for 2016

APR-MAY-JUN 2016 Issue
Articles due by
March 10, 2016

JUL-AUG-SEP 2016 Issue
Articles due by
June 10, 2016

OCT-NOV-DEC 2016
Issue
Articles due by
September 10, 2016

JAN-FEB-MAR 2017
Issue
Articles due by
December 10, 2016

If there are any questions contact the Branch Line Editor, Chuck Harmon at harmonsta@yahoo.com or phone (559) 299-4385.

Welcome Aboard! - PCR's Newest Members

Member	City, State	Date Joined
Daylight		
Robert Woolard	Yosemite CA	9/25/2015
Coast		
William Ingles	Fremont CA	11/30/2015
Sierra		
Mark Chenoweth	Oroville CA	9/2/2015
Glenn Franks	Lodi CA	9/8/2015
David Atwater	Stockton CA	9/15/2015
Joseph Hammer	Pollock Pines CA	9/15/2015
Alberto Chavarria	Stockton CA	9/29/2015
Johnathan Gordon	Modesto CA	11/10/2015
Davis Mahoney	Lodi CA	11/23/2015
Redwood Empire		
Larry Bertino	Lakeport CA	10/14/2015
Michael Martinez	Sebastopol CA	11/9/2015
Joan Fleck	Santa Rosa CA	11/20/2015



In Memoriam

Member	City, State	Date Joined
Coast Division		
Karl Wandry	Antioch CA	1/1/1964 (Lifetime Member)
Clarence Jackson	Oakland CA	1/1/1967 (Lifetime Member)
Lee Johnson	Walnut Creek CA	1/1/1972 (Lifetime Member)
Sierra		
John Christiansen	Oakdale CA	1/1/1974 (Lifetime Member)
Richard Johnson	Sacramento CA	3/5/2003



Coast Division Report

by Frank Markovich, MMR, Coast Division Superintendent

December 6, 2015 was another great event – here are some of the highlights:

Attendance was 95 – a little higher than last year. This despite the poor weather – it was raining. There were 2 new members and a couple of members who reviewed.

Two great clinics: Jim Eckman on Paper Models – the people built a paper model and were able to take it home. This is the first in a series of make and take. No cost to those who attended. Then Mike Blumenstaadt gave a clinic on Civil War RR. While I didn't attend I did video tape it and it was fantastic.

Mike is an expert on the subject and has articles on the Layout in a number of Model RR magazines include Model

Railroader. Each clinic was standing room only.

There were about 400 items in the Auction and there were over 25 items for door prizes.

Seven photos in the contest but only one model. It was excellent. Pat LaTorres won both model and photo contest.

We did not have a roundtable at the event this time but will have one in February.

Our next event is

February 21 at the Elks club in Alameda. Great location.

Announcements are GTE in January at Richmond, Westside Reunion April 16, 2016 in Sonora, Sierra Seminar the following day April 17, 2016. Contact Frank Markovich if interested frank@frankmarkovich.com.

Charlie Getz

announced that we are adding many from other countries. Pat LaTorres announced that we will need a new NMRA PCR VP. Anyone interested please contact me or Pat LaTorres.

Fun day overall and I had lots of fun meeting with many members. Stay tuned for some news on a day of clinics – a Saturday. Richard Brennen and I are working on the details.

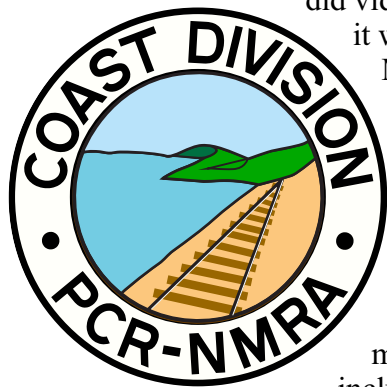


NMRA President Charlie Getz addresses the event attendees



Cutting out Parts in the paper model clinic

Photos by Frank Markovich, MMR



In Jim Eckman's clinic on Paper Models the people built a paper model and were able to take it home.

Coast Division has a Yahoo group now for communication to members. The name the group is Coast-division. The link to the group is: <http://pcrnmra.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=093c6391b860d40db983e80b0&id=a8ceae0196&e=a9391ae048>



Ronnie LaTorres Greeted everyone at the Registration Table



Event attendees gathered for the start of the paper clinic

Photos by Frank Markovich, MMR



Jim Eckman showed everyone how to build paper buildings



Paper model clinic attendees were hard at work following Jim's directions



Eric Moe ran the switching contest

Daylight Division Report

by Chuck Harmon, MMR,
Stand-in Reporter

Daylight Division held its fall event at the home of Gary Siegel in Santa Barbara on November 7, 2015. Many thanks to Gary and his wife for their kind hospitality. Bruce Morden was the event coordinator.

Approximately 16 members attended the event, which was held in Gary's

back yard. Some time was spent enjoying coffee and treats and perusing Gary's

indoor HO scale Louisville & Nashville, Eastern Kentucky Division layout as well as his outdoor 1:32 Southern Pacific Santa Cruz Division.

The first clinic was put on by Joe Heumphreus on laying sectional and flex track. This was followed by a presentation on Time Table and Train Order operations, followed by a hands-on session on the G-Scale layout. Several crews were

formed and a full schedule of trains was operated, including some extras to increase the challenge.

The contests were Models: Display and Photos: Model Color. One entry in display was brought out by Gary Siegal, a G Scale Santa Fe covered hopper on a scenicked length of track. There were no photo entries. (Photo entries are usually brought by the boys from Bakersfield, but their transportation was in the shop, so they did not come.)

After a short business meeting Superintendent Neil Fernbaugh announced that the next event (winter) would be on February 20th at Hobby Town in Fresno. Contest categories will be Model: Caboose; and Photo: Track and Structures. 🚂



Event attendees enjoyed the sunshine on Gary's patio



John Ryan presented a clinic on Time Table and Train Order operations, followed by a hands-on session on the G-Scale layout.



Operating Gary's outdoor Southern Pacific Santa Cruz Division layout required a little bit of vertical movement



Gary Seigal's Santa Fe covered hopper won the model contest



Jeff Parker (Central Valley Model Works) did a little photo research

Redwood Empire Division Report

by Verne Alexander, RED Designated Keyboard Knocker

There is currently a lot of layout activity taking place in the RED. Rather sadly, not too many months after Steve Skold took down his On3 Whiskeytown and Shasta layout, his through-the-back-fence neighbor, Carol Alexander, is taking her under-construction HO Great Western layout down. Steve's decision had to do with how his health was limiting his enjoyment, and Carol and her wife are relocating. However the rest of the news is good.

Perhaps at the top of the list is the re-emergence of Ron Kaiser's HO Western Pacific layout, in a redesigned and expanded form. Ron's prior layout came down two years ago as

he and his wife relocated, but it is now once more up and

running. A trial operating session revealed a few things that needed tweaking, but there are a lot of volunteers

from the Sonoma County Highballers that will have them fixed by the time this article is published.

Equally exciting, although still in the future, is Gus Campagna's completion of a huge garage that will house his forthcoming three deck HO California Western layout. The plans are drawn, the garage interior is nearing completion, and Gus' plan is to begin construction of the

layout itself in January. Again, there is a whole herd of Highballers anxiously awaiting the opportunity to pitch in and help.

Not too long ago an open house at the NWP freight house in Healdsburg revealed that the group up there has made considerable progress on their new HO NWP layout. They have completed an amazing maze of bench work that maximizes use of the available space. Like Ron's and Gus', this will be a very large layout. Mainline track has been laid, and track for towns and other LDE's is being added.

Additionally, although the NWP Albion Branch never achieved a connection to the NWP main line, it will now do so on an HO layout being planned by Marvin Schenk. Marvin has recently retired, and will be putting his time to good use in creating this most interesting and imaginative addition to area history.

Also coming down the line is Dan Obermeyer's HO Northern Pacific layout, a project which is near to my own heart, having come from a family with over 500 years of employment on the NP. (It's a long story.) Dan has chosen to model the two lines between Helena and Garrison, Montana, and is in the bench work stage of construction.

Peter Barnes is in the process of constructing an

HO European layout. He has a lot of benchwork in, and a lot of track laid down. Unlike many European layouts, Peter is designing his for operation.

Jim Providenza's HO proto-freelance Santa Cruz Northern is perhaps the most well-known of our layouts. During the past year or so Jim has effected a huge redesign of the SCN, resulting in numerous changes that include the operating scheme, the physical appearance, NCE DCC and the exchanging of the water heater for an Operator's Lair that has to be seen to be believed. No moss has gathered on this rolling stone!

All of the layouts described above are "permanent" layouts that have a single place to be. There is also activity regarding a new modular, portable layout. The group that is behind this effort calls itself The Sonoma Short Line. The structure of the group is quite loose, and it has no officers. It is comprised of a group of individuals who want to build a modular layout that operates with DCC. For the past couple of years they have been putting on public shows in early December, utilizing modules left over from the defunct Sonoma County Model Railroad Society, which they have converted to DCC operation. They also recently ran this layout over a weekend in the Rohnert Park hobby shop, Fundemoniam.



Layout activity in the RED is seeing some older layouts go, some veterans' layouts expand and some new projects begin.

Continued on Page 19

Candidate for PCR Director, Redwood, Empire Division Steve Skold

I am running for the position of Director for the Redwood Empire Division. I have a number of qualifications which include: Director of RED from 1974 to 1978, Chairman of the 1972 PCR Convention, Chairman of the 2011 PCR mini-convention, Editor of the Callboard, Membership Chairman for RED, Contest Chairman for RED, Storekeeper for PCR. I have a number of other jobs which don't readily come to mind as I will be 75 this month. I have worked on a number of PCR conventions that were held in RED. I feel I am well qualified for the office of Director for RED to the PCR Board and hope I get your vote. 🚂

Candidate for PCR Director, Sierra Division (Write in)

There is no candidate for Sierra Director. Obtain permission before writing in someone's name. 🚂

Candidate for PCR Director, Coast Division Frank Markovich



I am Master Model Railroader (#511) of the National Model Railroad Association. I have an On3 (1/48 Narrow Gauge 36 inch) model railroad fully built and scened. featured in Nov-Dec 2011 Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette. The layout is open for O Scale West every year and for other model railroad events in the San Francisco Bay Area, including the PCR conventions when in the Bay Area. I also show the layout if arranged in advance (email please). I have built 2 other layouts over the years – one in HO and one in HOn3. This does not include the two Build a Memory layouts built with Mike Blumenstaadt for display at train shows (representing the PCR).

I am a member of the Yosemite Short Line On30 modular group.

I have written numerous articles for the Model Railroad press and have been an associate editor of the NMRA Bulletin (has a new name now) and had a regular column in the Bulletin for a few years. I have written numerous articles for the "Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette". This past year I also wrote an article for "N Scale Magazine".

I am also on the NMRA – Recruitment and Retention Committee.

Co-builder of both an N Scale and HO scale Build A Memory Layouts.

I am serving as Superintendent of Coast Division and have for the past three years.

I am now running the "Westside Logging and Mining Reunion" Each spring in Sonora, CA.

If elected I will do my best to increase membership and to improve our PCR events. 🚂

Candidate for PCR Director, Daylight Division Dave Grenier



Hello, my name is Dave Grenier. I'm running for election to a second term as Daylight Division Director because I want to continue serving the Division as your representative to the PCR Board of Directors. Thank you for your past support and I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election! 🚂

National Model Railroad Association

PACIFIC COAST REGION

BALLOT FOR DIVISION DIRECTORS

Instructions for Election:

1. Election starts with receipt of ballot (Branch Line mailed approximately January 10, 2016).
2. All ballots must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2016.
3. Vote only for one candidate in your division. For example, if you are a Coast Division member, cast a vote only for the Coast Director's position.
4. You may write in a candidate of your choice. However, the candidate must be willing to serve if elected.
5. Voting for more than one candidate in an office will void your ballot.
6. Do not make any other marks on the ballot.
7. Fold in thirds so that the return address is showing, and tape the ballot closed.
8. The ballot is considered a first class letter, and requires first-class postage.

PLACE AFTER YOUR CHOICE FOR EACH OFFICE.

<p style="text-align: center;">Redwood Empire Director <i>(Vote for ONLY one candidate)</i></p> <p>Steve Skold</p> <hr/> <p>Write in candidate</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sierra Director <i>(Vote for ONLY one candidate)</i></p> <hr/> <p>Write in candidate</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Coast Director <i>(Vote for ONLY one candidate)</i></p> <p>Frank Markovich</p> <hr/> <p>Write in candidate</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Daylight Director <i>(Vote for ONLY one candidate)</i></p> <p>Dave Grenier</p> <hr/> <p>Write in candidate</p>

(Fold here)

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PCR Ballot Chairman

Jim Providenza

16 Drake's Cove

San Rafael, CA 94903

(Fold here)

They are in the beginning stages of constructing new modules that roughly follow the standards of Freemo. The empty garage that once housed Steve Skold's Whiskeytown and Shasta is now the site of the construction of new modules. The Sonoma Short Line is an all-NMRA organization. A good contact person for further information about the Sonoma Short Line is Steve Lewis.

The last item in this layout lineup is that one of our layouts has been measured and photographed, and will be making an appearance soon in the *LDSIG Layout Design Journal*.

We held our quarterly meeting November 21st, and were pleased to see three new faces among those in attendance. Business transacted included the

announcement of a healthy treasury, the nomination of Steve Skold to be our next Director, Mary Campagna-Moore coming out as the

Modesto PCR clinic chairwoman and offering the opportunity to sign up to conduct a clinic, discussion of the 2018 PCR convention which we will be sponsoring and Dave Grundman volunteering to head a committee for the purpose of picking the convention

chairperson. Dave was also recognized as our Member of the Year.

Thirteen or 14 of us brought items related to our modeling for our popular show and tell session. The various models and projects are displayed, followed by the owner telling the story behind what he has brought to share. Many people have said that they like these stories as much as the models. This time around Contest Chairman Giuseppe Aymar held a special drawing limited to those who brought items to share. David Ulmer, who brought three exquisite structures to share, took home a laser-cut structure kit to fuel his further efforts.

Our main program was fascinating for everyone in attendance. It was about 3D printing, its possibilities for modelers and the hardware involved. Andy Cohen was the presenter. He is the owner of the Sebastopol Radio Shack/E-Stuff Plus. This is not the Radio Shack you have

become accustomed to. He carries Maker supplies, consumer electronics, does 3D printing and is more than happy to talk with anyone about their project or questions. I had no idea we had such a resource in our midst! His clinic paid immediate dividends for James Jones. James is building a large scale San Francisco streetcar. He brought some castings he had made to show and tell, and told us how he was dissatisfied with them. After hearing Andy's presentation, and getting a lot of questions answered, James is now going to 3D print his carbody. This was my first exposure to Andy Cohen. He impressed me as being highly knowledgeable, very candid, completely approachable, genuinely interested in helping makers and modelers achieve their goals—and all of this in a very low-key manner. His phone number is 707 823 8320, and his email is andychn@sonic.net.



Three new faces were among those in attendance at the quarterly meeting November 21st.

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Sierra Division Report

by Chip Meriam, Editor, Sierra Division Short Linet

The fall meeting of the Sierra Division was held October 10 in Paradise, CA. The morning session was held at Mt. Mike's Pizza where a short business meeting took place. The primary topic was the upcoming International Rail Fair to be held in Roseville.

With the business completed, Klaus Keil offered a fascinating presentation on rail car interior lighting circuits. Klaus demonstrated a circuit using track power and a circuit using battery power. The track power circuit featured a capacitor to eliminate "flicker" produced from intermittent rail gaps. The battery circuit featured latching reed switches that were toggled on or off with a magnetic wand. The



Klaus Keil Illuminates "The Group"

schematics for both circuits can be found in the April 2015 edition of **The Short Line**, the Sierra Division Newsletter.

Ben Hughes from Red Bluff swept the contests with his 1st place entries for prototype photo, modelling – rolling stock, and modelling – structures.

Along with the members in attendance we were joined by a very young model railroader, 5 year old John Heike, Jr. John enjoyed his morning with us and the pizza lunch that followed. He certainly got a kick out of the afternoon layout tours and a special surprise that popped up later.

After lunch at Mt. Mike's, we caravanned around the Paradise area to visit four layouts. The first stop was Phill Simpson's Sugar Pine Creek Railroad. Phill is modeling a circa 1939 short line with connections to the A.T. & S.F. One of the ingenious features of Phill's layout is the swing up double-track truss bridge that allows access to the interior aisles.

The next stop was Gary Ray's Gerber Subdivision, which depicts the Southern Pacific in far Northern California in 1926. Gary is busy constructing this



Ben Hughes Offers a History Lesson

expansive HO scale layout in a 24' X 60' outbuilding designed specifically for the railroad. His design is a walk-in "mushroom" style affair that promises to be a real kick to operate. Gary surprised our young visitor with a starter train set. Gary was quick to note that the train set had been given to him by Phill Simpson to be passed on as Gary saw fit. With the addition of some track donated by Gary, John, Jr. and his dad are now starting out on a new layout



Truss Bridge In the Open Position

Continued on Page 21

together. This, ladies and gentlemen, is ambassadorship!



Sierra Division Arrives at Gary Ray's Layout Building

Stop number three was hosted by Norm Morris who models the Southern Pacific without any geographical constraint.

Despite Norm's intentional lack of specific location, the layout looks and feels Espee through and through.

The final tour spot was Klaus Keil's European theme

layout. Klaus describes the purpose of his railroad as "Display, Experimentation and Storage". Indeed, Klaus has a massive collection of European equipment on display – and he is constantly experimenting with DCC, lighting circuits, and catenary.

Early in November the Sierra Division, along with three other groups, sponsored and hosted the International Rail Fair at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville. Unofficially, there were 57 vendors with 165 tables inside three exhibit halls. The Rail Fair was attended by a total of 1,751 adults and 266 children under the age of 12. Our thanks to all



No Mistaking This Prototype



Klaus Keil's Display Layout

of the volunteers who helped pull off this wonderful event.

The next gathering of the Sierra Division will occur Saturday, February 13 at the First Christian Church, 3901 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento. Time to be determined, but likely to be 9:30 or 10:00 AM. 🚂



The Sprouting of a New Young Model Railroader



Saturday Morning at the International Rail Fair

Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern - An Ops Weekend

by Jim Providenza

Back in November I attended a regional ops weekend – one of a growing number around the country. The event, Great Lakes Getaway, is similar to the BayRails ops weekend we put every other year here in the Bay Area. It is invitational and for the most part the attendees are from out of the region. Maybe half the ops weekends today have a similar focus. The other half are ‘open’ and filled on a first come, first served basis and are often local in scope. In general you operate on three layouts over a three day period and have one or several other activities as well.

As is usually the case, there were more layouts I wanted to operate on at GLG than there were days to operate. I consoled myself that I was assigned to my top choices, certain in the knowledge that there were no lemons in the list.

One of the high points of this sort of weekend is the chance to visit friends you don’t get to see often and to meet new, like-minded folk as well. Dinners after sessions, time with various folk driving to and from sessions, bull sessions - each add a special flavor. When

we can, a casual group of Bay Area operators will travel together to / from a weekend – more fellowship. Sometimes we end up at different layouts throughout the weekend. This time we had all asked for and been assigned to pretty much the same layouts. The usual suspects this time included Bill Kaufman, Seth Neumann and Bryn Ekroot.

But what about the layouts you say? Well, we certainly had a wide variety in the railroads we operated on. Colorado narrow gauge, Milwaukee Road in the last days under wire, Pennsy 4 track mainline, and the GN through the Cascades – more electrified track! Each presented me and the other boomer crewmembers with new challenges.

Doug Tagsolds is modeling the Colorado & Southern Narrow Gauge from Golden to Central and Silver Plume in the 1930’s – in 1/72 scale. He is using HO gauge track and Roundhouse 2-8-0 engines, which he has modified to ‘scale up’ in size. MDC 36’ house cars fitted with new details and kitbashed passenger equipment all have the proper narrow gauge look. Doug has only been building the layout for about 1-½ years since he tore down his

Toledo Terminal RR. So while all the track is in and operating on this large basement railroad, only small parts of the layout are scenicked. It didn’t matter. Doug does great work and we all had a great time.

Bruce Carpenter’s Milwaukee Road currently centers around the crew change point Avery, Idaho. This was also one of the ends of the Milwaukee’s electrification. Over the last 4 years Bruce has built his MILW Road West on a third level above his double deck BNSF ‘Chili Sub’. So the layout was at or above eye level, even for my 6’3”.

Bruce is a Chief Dispatcher for CSX in real life. His Chili Sub is a high traffic density, high speed, fast paced experience. Bruce has built his MILW with a totally different crew experience in mind – giving his operators a taste of what real railroading is like. In 1973 the Pacific extension of



MILW Adv 262

Continued on Page 23

Great Lakes Getaway is similar to the BayRails ops weekend we put every other year here in the Bay Area.

Photos by Jim Providenza

Each of the railroads I operated on ran well and gave me new experiences and offered new insights.

the MILW was on its last legs. The juice to the wire was about to be cut off; the railroad itself would die several years later. Trains are few, slow, and late. Crews die on the law and dog-catching them requires a trip of one to 2 (fast) hours in the crew van – or maybe being deadheaded on an opposing train. The dispatcher is responsible for making sure crews get required rest and keeping track of motive power usage. It takes 1 (fast) minute per car to pump up the train line before you can make a brake test and depart your terminal; 20 minutes per locomotive to service and refuel diesel road power in Avery. This was a very different experience to say the least. It was certainly enjoyable, as long as you were willing to ‘play the game’.

On the other hand - Bill Neale models the Pennsylvania Railroad’s 3 and 4 track Panhandle subdivision on 3 and 4 decks (two visible, two for staging) in HO. Traffic control is handled by two tower operators each controlling two towers. We moved



Great Northern Cascade Summit

somewhere between 30 and 40 trains during the operating session – I truthfully lost count. Bill and I swapped off working one of the tower jobs half way through the session. So I spent half my time running a local with an H10 2-8-0 and pulling a steel drag with an I1sa 2-10-0 ‘Hippo’, with another Hippo pushing. And spent the other half of the session lining multiple trains across multiple sets of crossovers at the two towers, passing train movement information back and forth with Seth who was the other tower operator. Bill’s layout was wonderfully detailed. It was again a very different experience for me – the SCN has nothing even faintly resembling the type of traffic control or the sheer number of train movements!

Scott Kramer’s Great Northern is a model of the GN over the Cascades. Scott was a helper on Bill Neale’s layout and we went over to Scott’s after the session at Bill’s. Scott has been building the layout for over a decade, but has only relatively recently become interested in operations. When we descended into the basement Bill said that while the GN was supposed to be run on time table and train orders, and had ABS signaling to protect the trains, he had never actually run the railroad using TT&TO. We grinned.

Seth volunteered to dispatch. I worked part time as his train order operator, copying and delivering orders and clearances as needed. I ran the Empire Builder and

the Western Star passenger trains in between times. Bryn took over the major yard while Bill handled a number of freights. As we went through the session, we kept giving Scott more and more suggestions for things he could consider to improve his operations – and Scott actually wrote them down! It was really enjoyable for all of us to be in a position to help ‘give back’ to someone who had opened their home to us and who so clearly wanting to improve how he was making his railroad come to life.

Looking back on the weekend, I think it was both typical and exceptional. Typical in that it was like most other operating weekends, offering attendees a concentrated dose of operations on a variety of different railroads with different traffic control schemes. It was also typical in that a group of people with similar interests all got together to enjoy a mutual fascination. Great Lakes Getaway was, for me, exceptional as well. Each of the railroads I operated on ran well and gave me new experiences and offered new insights. I had good times with good friends and met several folks who I am sure will become good friends in the future.

So if you have the inclination and get the chance I would encourage you to attend an ops weekend. You won’t regret it! 🚂

Board of Directors October 10, 2015 Board Meeting Highlights

by Tom Swearingen, PCR Secretary

The PCR Board of Directors met on October 10, 2015 at 1:00 PM at the Doubletree by Hilton in Modesto, California.

We are financially healthy, although expenses continue to exceed income.

The Coast Division held two successful meets since May. Attendance is in the range of 80-100 people. The auction continues to provide valuable income to the Division. Steve Wesolowski and Frank Markovich lead a team of volunteers who staff a table at NMRA shows. Frank and Mike Blumensaadt also bring the "Build a Memory" layout to the shows.

The Daylight Division held one meet since May. Thirty-eight members and guests attended the meet, which was co-hosted by the Oceano Depot Association and the San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA). The meet included two clinics, lunch, a business meeting, award presentation, the Daylight White Elephant Auction, and layout tours.

The Redwood Empire Division spring meet was held a week before the PCR convention, lead by a new Superintendent, Peter Barnes. The summer meet was held at

Ron Kaiser's home, and included a picnic and a tour of his newly reconstructed WP HO layout.

The Sierra Division had one meet after the last Board meeting. The meet was preceded by layout tours of five different layouts. After the tours were completed, the meet continued at the Sparks Library, and included a business meeting as well as a clinic.

Total PCR membership as of September 30, 2015 was 1010, compared to 996 as of March 31, 2015.

Honors Committee Chairperson Ray deBlicke presented a comprehensive list of all PCR honor recipients, dating back to 1957.

Vice President Carol Alexander provided graphics of a proposed new PCR logo. Work continues.


The Board voted to assign responsibility for replacing lost or damaged equipment to the "custodian organization" of the equipment at the time of the loss or damage.

The Board voted to change the convention rotation to every four years for each Division.

Vice President Alexander said she will be moving next year, and will not be able to complete her term in office.

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 1 PM at the Doubletree by Hilton in Modesto.

Total PCR membership as of September 30, 2015 was 1010, compared to 996 as of March 31, 2015.



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123456 00

Expiration date
01/08/12

Bob R. Kabuse
Member since: 01/08/11

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NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For November, 2015

by Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA, MSA, PA
 Director – Support Services

2015 NMRA Awards and Honors

Pioneer Award
 Avery “Swede” Norlen
 Eberhard Richter
 Wolfgang Richter
 Bill Wischer
 Honorary Life Member
 Al Boos
 Ken West
 Distinguished Service Award
 Keith Wills
 Fellow of the NMRA
 Gerry Hopkins

2016 NMRA Elections Candidates

Atlantic District Director
 Peter Brown
 Kathy Millatt
 At Large Worldwide Director
 Mike Brestel
 Bob Ferguson
 Western District Director
 Steve Barkley
 Don Fowler
 Stephen Priest 

From John Stevens, NMRA Secretary Congress Passes PTC Bill

By Bill Stephens - October 28, 2015
 WASHINGTON — Congress today passed a three-year extension of the positive train control deadline, preventing an unprecedented shutdown of the nation’s rail network that had railroads, transit agencies, and shippers nervous as the end of the year approaches.

The Senate today approved a stopgap surface transportation bill that funds highway and transit programs through Nov. 20. The bill, approved in the House yesterday, also includes the three-year PTC deadline extension that railroads, transit agencies, and shippers had sought.

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster, R-Pa., inserted the PTC extension onto the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015. The bill ensures that states will be able to continue to fund highway and transit projects while Congress irons out the details of a multi-year surface transportation bill.

Shuster said the bill, “also recognizes that failing to extend the positive train control deadline now will have devastating impacts.” The rail industry has said it would have to curtail certain chemical shipments beginning in November and would have to virtually shut down beginning Jan. 1 in order to comply with the PTC law.


The Association of American

Railroads welcomed the news.

“This provides the certainty American industries and businesses need to serve the millions of Americans who rely on rail every day,” said Edward R. Hamberger, the AAR’s president and CEO.

The deadline extension would give the railroads until Dec. 31, 2018 to have PTC installed on lines where it is required. The transportation secretary would be able to grant railroads who fail to meet the deadline up to two additional years to comply with the law. The bill almost certainly will receive President Obama’s signature when it reaches his desk.

“This news can finally put all of our minds at ease, knowing that Metra’s trains will continue operating in January,” Don Orseno, executive director and CEO of the Chicago-area commuter rail system, wrote in a customer update. “As always, we remain committed to implementing PTC as quickly and safely as we can.”

The American Chemistry Council, which had filed a lawsuit in federal court to stop the railroads’ planned service embargo on certain toxic chemicals, praised Congress. “We commend leadership in the House and Senate along with their staffs for recognizing the urgent need to address the PTC issue and working in a strong bipartisan and bicameral manner that is all too rare these days,” the trade group said in a statement. 

Continued on Page 26

From Trains Magazine

Note: President Obama signed the PTC Extension legislation into law on 10-29-15.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You will find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in the NMRA Magazine.

If the person holding a region or division office changes, or their email address changes, please contact tcdraider@aol.com with the corrected information. 🚂

NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For December, 2015

by Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA, MSA, PA
 Director – Support Services

**** Correction** – In last month’s (November) NMRA InfoNet News there was an error in the candidate names for the position of Atlantic District Director. The candidates are Kathy Millatt and Peter Bowen.

Also, Roger Ferris was awarded a NMRA Fellow Award at the 2015 NMR Convention.

A Word from Our Marketing Director

by Frank Baker, Acting NMRA Marketing Director

I received my first train set at the very early age of two. Along with my early entry into the hobby, came a desire to know more about how this wonderful toy worked. I was hooked. While that train set no longer exists, I grew up surrounded by trains. Up until I was nine, The Erie Railroad was 4 houses up the street. My neighbor was Grif Teller, the famous artist for many PRR calendars. He also had a Buddy “L” set that I would drag out of his garage and set it up in my backyard. At nine, we moved to another town and the DL&W was my new neighbor. Trains were part of my formative years. This is a wonderful hobby and the achievement program has helped me in many ways. Friends and fellow modelers know that I have a passion for scratch building structures.

Before retirement, I was Director of Sales & Marketing for an Arizona based

company, with customers around the world. I retired six years ago and really immersed myself into the hobby, just ask my wife. Since then I have been the editor of our division newsletter and publicity chair for our 2015 regional convention.

Earlier in the year I raised my hand letting Charlie Getz know of my interest in the NMRA marketing position. At our PSR regional convention in September, Charlie announced this to everyone. We all know that the hobby is changing much like everything else in the world. Today’s young are more interested in that little black box called a phone and seem to dwell on its ability to do almost everything. Our population is aging, adults are working more and the hobby is seeing declining in numbers.

Bringing back the heyday of model railroading is probably an impossible task, but developing new and exciting elements of the hobby across a broad spectrum of age related hobbyists or potential model train enthusiasts, might just work. This is going to be a challenge and will require thinking “out of the box” and the help of everyone to refine, create, and implement new solutions to attract a new generation of model railroaders and retain many of the existing members. I look forward to working with everyone in this challenging position and having your help to excite, inform and grow the NMRA. 🚂

Past NMRA National Conventions by City and Year

For those who may be interested in the locations of past NMRA Conventions, Tom Draper included the following table in the December 2015 InfoNet News.

By Year					
No.	Year	City	No.	Year	City
1	1935	Milwaukee	43	1978	Dearborn
2	1936	Chicago	44	1979	Calgary
3	1937	Detroit	45	1980	Orlando
4	1938	Buffalo	46	1981	San Mateo
5	1939	New York	47	1982	Washington DC
6	1940	Milwaukee	48	1983	Winnipeg
7	1941	Peoria	49	1984	Kansas City
8	1942	Rochester	50	1985	Milwaukee
9	1943	Cincinnati	51	1986	Boston
10	1944	Pittsburgh	52	1987	Eugene
	1945	No Convention	53	1988	Birmingham
11	1946	Detroit	54	1989	Houston
12	1947	Oakland	55	1990	Pittsburgh
13	1948	Atlanta	56	1991	Denver
14	1949	Denver	57	1992	Columbus
15	1950	Milwaukee	58	1993	Valley Forge
16	1951	New York	59	1994	Portland
17	1952	Portland	60	1995	Atlanta
18	1953	Toronto	61	1996	Long Beach
19	1954	Chicago	62	1997	Madison
20	1955	Baltimore	63	1998	Kansas City
21	1956	St. Paul	64	1999	St. Paul
22	1957	Houston	65	2000	San Jose
23	1958	Pittsburgh	66	2001	St. Louis
24	1959	San Diego	67	2002	Ft. Lauderdale
25	1960	Chicago	68	2003	Toronto
26	1961	Cleveland	69	2004	Seattle
27	1962	Montreal	70	2005	Cincinnati
28	1963	Indianapolis	71	2006	Philadelphia
29	1964	Philadelphia	72	2007	Detroit
30	1965	Vancouver	73	2008	Anaheim
31	1966	Cincinnati	74	2009	Hartford
32	1967	Miami Beach	75	2010	Milwaukee
33	1968	San Francisco	76	2011	Sacramento
34	1969	Minneapolis	77	2012	Grand Rapids
35	1970	St. Louis	78	2013	Atlanta
36	1971	London	79	2014	Cleveland
37	1972	Seattle	80	2015	Portland
38	1973	Atlanta	81	2016	Indianapolis
39	1974	San Diego	82	2017	Orlando
40	1975	Dayton	83	2018	Kansas City
41	1976	Chicago	84	2019	Salt Lake City
42	1977	Denver	85	2020	St. Louis



PCR/NMRA
Taking It To The Streets
2016 PCR/FRRS Convention
Modesto Doubletree by Hilton
1150 Ninth Street
Modesto, CA

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
 Taking It To The Streets 2016 PCR Convention
 c/o Jim Dieckman
 305 Alta Vista Ave
 Roseville, CA 95678

E-mail: mod2016registrar@pcrnmra.org

Website: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016

Visit the website to pay with PayPal or credit

Please Print

Registration Form

Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge	
Address			City		State Zip Code + 4
Home Phone	E-mail Address			NMRA or FRRS #	
Registration Type (Please check one) Model Railroader Non-Rail FRRS				NMRA Region or Club Affiliation	
Available to Volunteer on Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Times: _____					
I can help more. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me					
Primary Scales and Interests		HO N Z S O G Narrow Gauge WP Other: _____			
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form if more than one)					
Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge	
Registration Type (Please check one) Modeler Non-Rail		E-Mail (if Different)			NMRA or FRRS #
Available to Volunteer on Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Times: _____					
I can help More. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me					
Primary Scales and Interests		HO N Z S O G Narrow Gauge WP Other: _____			

FARES: <i>Please fill in Qty and Total</i>		Qty	Unit Cost	Total
Early NMRA Registration (until Jan 31, 2016) (registration, banquet, & PCR breakfast)			89.00	
Normal NMRA Registration (after Jan 31, 2016)			99.00	
Early FRRS Registration (until Jan 31, 2016) (registration and banquet)			89.00	
Normal FRRS Registration (after Jan 31, 2016)			99.00	
First Timer (PCR Members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions)			79.00	
Non-Rail or Spouse Registration (spouse can be modeler; includes non-rail lunch)			89.00	
Banquet only PCR FRRS			45.00	
PCR Breakfast only			15.00	
Youth Registration (12-18 years or student)			50.00	
Day Fare (No Banquet)		Wed Thurs Fri Sat	40.00	
Convention Car (ea) [M&ET, HO-scale, 53' Evans Double Door Box Car from Atlas]			25.00	
Convention Car (Set of 4)			90.00	
Join FRRS (reduced rates for convention)		Active membership	25.00	
		Family membership	40.00	
Join the NMRA (must be member of NMRA or FRRS to attend)		6 month Rail Pass (allowed one time only)	9.95	
		Full NMRA membership/PCR subscription	72.00	
Payment by Check** Cash (Use website for credit card or PayPal)			TOTAL	
** Make checks payable to: "PCR Modesto 2016" No Refunds After March 31, 2016				



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Email: nmrahq@aol.com

Website: www.nmra.org

RENEWAL NOTICE

Name & ID:					
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NMRA Membership Type Circle the option of your Choice	1 Year	Total
Member with NMRA Magazine Subscription ~ All Rights and Benefits; includes NMRA Magazine	\$ 66.00	
Member without NMRA Magazine Subscription ~ All Rights and Benefits; <u>does not</u> include NMRA Magazine	\$ 44.00	
Family ~ Spouse or minor child of above member in good standing; Does not include NMRA Magazine or voting rights. <u>Provide</u> member's name below. Name: _____ DOB: _____	\$ 9.00	
Student ~ Anyone under 18 years or student between 19-25 years of age All rights and benefits and includes NMRA Magazine.	\$ 32.00	
Sustaining ~ Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Associations, Businesses) All Rights and Benefits and includes NMRA Magazine.	\$110.00	

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21 ~ Northeastern Subscription	\$ 7.00		30 ~ Mid Eastern Subscription	\$ 9.00	
23 ~ North Central Subscription	\$10.00		33 ~ South Eastern Subscription	\$10.00	
24 ~Thousand Lakes Subscription	\$10.00		36 ~ Sunshine Subscription	\$10.00	
25 ~ Pacific Northwest Subscription	\$ 6.00		37 ~ Pacific South West Subscription	\$12.00	
26 ~ Pacific Coast Subscription	\$ 8.00		* ~ Out of regions subscriptions may be charged additional fees by Region		
28 ~ Midwest Subscription	\$ 6.00				

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Expiration Date:	Month	Year	Signature _____									

For more details on these events go to the Calendar at the PCR web site.

2016 Events

January 9 & 10 - 10 am to 4 pm, Great Train Show, Craneway Pavilion, 1414 Harbour Way South, Marina District, Richmond, CA. \$9.00 at door (\$7 in advance) good both days, Under 12 free. e-mail frank@frankmarkovich.com or swezz@comcast.net.

January 16 & 17 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

January 29 - 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.

January 29 to 31 - Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sponsored by Pacific Coast Region-NMRA, Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Groups.

January 29 to 31 - California State Railroad Museum, 125 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA, Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sponsored by Pacific Coast Region-NMRA, Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Groups.

January 30 & 31 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Great Train Show, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, CA.

February 13 - 9:30 am, Sierra Division winter meet, First Christian Church, 3901 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, CA.

February 13 & 14 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Great Train Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA.

February 20 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Daylight Division Winter Meet, HobbyTown USA, 102 E. Barstow Ave, Fresno, CA. We hope you can join us for a fun-filled day of activities, including clinics, model and photo contests, layout tours, and an abbreviated quarterly Daylight Division business meeting, followed by door prize drawings, our "World Famous" Daylight White Elephant Auction, and outside activities. Clinics start at 10:00 AM. Registration fee: NMRA: \$4.00; Non-NMRA: \$5.00. Contest Categories: Model: Caboose; Photo: Track and Structures

February 21 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. Come meet other local model railroaders during our free quarterly meet and enjoy free clinics, model, photo & switching contests/displays, videos, etc! Bring YOUR questions to modeler's roundtable for answers. You may win a door prize! Enjoy our lively auction of model railroading items & more!

February 26, 2016 - 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.

February 27 & 28 - 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. Requested contribution is \$4.00 for adults.

February 27 & 28 - 10 am to 4 pm, Great Train Show, Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, CA. \$9.00 at door (\$7 in advance) good both days, Under 12 free. **Show Highlights:** 2 PACKED BUILDINGS, full of dealers with ALL sizes & Scales!! Hundreds of Tables with Exhibitors from across the country!! Dealers with everything imaginable for trains & Model Railroading! Engines, Rolling Stock, DVD's, Hats, Scenery Material, Track, Trees, Decals, T-Shirts, Books, Magazines, Tools, Lionel, DCC, Thomas, New, Used, Collectible, Everything Trains!! Operating Model Railroads in a variety of Sizes & Scales!! A Riding train for kids!! Door Prizes!! and Much More!!

March 12 - 9:00 am to 10:00 pm, Winterail 2016 Railroaders Show and Sale, Corvallis, Oregon.

March 12 & 13 - Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society, of Bakersfield, will be hosting Central California's largest model train show, at the Horace Massey Building, Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South 'P' Street, Bakersfield, March 12th and 13th, 2016. The train show will be open to the public on Saturday, March 12th, from 10:00 AM—5:00 PM, and on Sunday, March 13th, from 10:00 AM—4:00 PM. Admission is \$7.00 per person, with children ages 12 and below admitted free, when accompanied by a paying adult. The one-time admission charge is good for both days of the show. Over 110 vendor tables and several operating model train layouts on display. There will be hourly door prizes and drawings for model train sets. Train rides, for the kids is \$2.00 extra. For more information about the show please email carldw@aol.com or call (661) 331-6695, or visit the Society's web site at www.gehams.org.

March 19 - Swap Meet: 7:00 am to 10:00 am; Open House: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. Donation \$2.00 for adults, kids are free. All scales are welcome. Railroad related books, magazines, art and memorabilia will also be available for purchase. For vendor table info, contact David Putnam, events@santasusannadepot.org, (661) 753-6006.

March 19 & 20 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

For more details on these events go to the Calendar at the PCR web site.

March 25 - 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.

April 16 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, West Side Reunion presents the 29th Annual Logging & Mining Modeler's Convention at the Sonora Elks Lodge, 100 Elk Drive, Sonora, CA. Join us for the all-day event, including clinics, contests, and dealer sales area. See the website for details on vendor tables. Admission: \$25.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door. Seller's table: \$35.00 (includes one admission) Contact: Frank Markovich, E-mail: , Phone: (408) 505-2727.

April 17 - 9 am, Sierra Seminar, Jamestown Hope Center, 10365 9th Street, Jamestown, CA. \$20 at door (\$15 inb advance). Info: glennsutherland@sti.net. Morning presentations on the history and modeling of the Sierra Railroad Free tables for related displays and for sale items Narrated afternoon hike along part of the railroad ROW Pizza lunch included for \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door

April 20 - 1:00 pm, Annual Board of Directors Meeting, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Modesto, 1150 9th Street, Modesto, CA. Members welcome!

April 20 to 24 - Taking It To The Streets 2016 PCR Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Modesto, 1150 9th Street, Modesto, CA. Come join us for 5 days of clinics, contests, layout tours, operating sessions, prototype tours, and more!

April 24 - 9:00 am, PCR Membership Meeting, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Modesto, 1150 9th Street, Modesto, CA.

April 29 - 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.

April 30 & May 1 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Open House, Carquinez Model Railroad Society, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. Donation: \$4 Adults, Under 16 Free with an adult.

May 14 & 15 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

May 21 - Swap Meet: 7:00 am to 10:00 am; Open House: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. Donation \$2.00 for adults, kids are free. All scales are welcome. Railroad related books, magazines, art and memorabilia will also be available for purchase. For vendor table info, contact David Putnam, events@santasusannadepot.org, (661) 753-6006.

May 27 - 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.

June 5 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, 1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA. (at SF Bay Area Council Office of Boy Scouts of America) Enjoy free clinics, model, photo & switching contests & displays. Free door prizes. Buy raffle tickets for modeling prizes, enjoy silent and live auctions of model railroading stuff.

June 15 - 19 - Selkirk Express 2016, Pacific Northwest Region 2016 Convention, The Prestige Harbour Front Resort & Convention Centre 251 Harbourfront Drive, NE, Salmon Arm, British Columbia, Canada.

June 24 - 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.

June 25 & 26 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Crockett Railroad Days joint show with Carquinez Tot Train Operating Museum, Carquinez Model Railroad Society, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. Lionel Club on 3rd floor. Donation: \$5 Adults.

July 3 - 10 - Highball to Indy, NMRA 2016 National Convention and National Train Show, Indianapolis, IN.

July 4 - 10 - National Garden Railway Convention, proudly hosted by the Bay Area Garden Railway Society (BAGRS), Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA. The convention hotel is the adjacent Hyatt Regency Hotel. There will also be pre-convention self-guided layout tours starting July 2, 2016.

July 29 - 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.

August 26 - 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.

August 27 - Swap Meet: 7:00 am to 10:00 am; Open House: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. Donation \$2.00 for adults, kids are free. All scales are welcome. Railroad related books, magazines, art and memorabilia will also be available for purchase. For vendor table info, contact David Putnam, events@santasusannadepot.org, (661) 753-6006.

September 7 - 10 - 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Augusta, ME. Info: info@nngc2016.org.

September 17 & 18 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

Continued on Page 32

For more details on these events go to the Calendar at the PCR web site.

September 18 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. Come meet other local model railroaders during our free quarterly meet and enjoy free clinics, model, photo & switching contests/displays, videos, etc! Bring YOUR questions to modeler's roundtable for answers. You may win a door prize! Enjoy our lively auction of model railroading items & more!

September 21-24 - PSR Convention, Los Angeles, info: www.psrconvention.org.

September 21-26 - Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society Annual Conference, Palm Springs, CA.

September 30 - 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.

October 1&2 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Open House, Carquinez Model Railroad Society, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. Donation: \$4 Adults, Under 16 Free with an adult.

October 22 - Swap Meet: 7:00 am to 10:00 am; Open House: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. Donation \$2.00 for adults, kids are free. All scales are welcome. Railroad related books, magazines, art and memorabilia will also be available for purchase. For vendor table info, contact David Putnam, events@santasusannadepot.org, (661) 753-6006.

October 28 - 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.

November 5&6 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Open House, Carquinez Model Railroad Society, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. Donation: \$4 Adults, Under 16 Free with an adult.

November 18 - 20 - Friday: 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Holiday Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

November 25 - 27 - Friday: 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Holiday Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

December 3&4 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Open House, Carquinez Model Railroad Society, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. Donation: \$4 Adults, Under 16 Free with an adult.

December 4 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, 1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA. (at SF Bay Area Council Office of Boy Scouts of America) Enjoy free clinics, model, photo & switching contests & displays. Free door prizes. Buy raffle tickets for modeling prizes, enjoy silent and live auctions of model railroading stuff.

2017 Events

January 27 to 29, 2017 - Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sponsored by Pacific Coast Region-NMRA, Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Groups.

July 30 - August 6, 2017 - Orange Blossom Special, NMRA 2017 National Convention and National Train Show, The Rosen Plaza Hotel, International Drive, Orlando, FL.

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you.

Alameda County Central Railroad Society

ACCRS is located at the Alameda Co. Fair Grounds, Pleasanton. A 30 by 100 foot room has O and HO layouts. Open to the public every Friday, 6 to 10 PM, they operate continuously during county fairs and special events. Annual dues: \$24, \$15 initiation fee; Jr membership for ages 12 to 18 (with sponsor), free. Contact: Gary Lewis 925-455-8135 E-mail: glslewis@comcast.net Web: www.pleasantonmodelrr.org/index.html

Antioch Model Railroad Club

The Black Diamond Lines is an HO Club located at 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch. BDL has been in continuous operation since 1981. We meet Tues. & Fri., 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Formal Operating Session on the 3rd Friday of the Month, but visitors can always find trains running every club night. For more information, e-mail info@blackdiamondlines.com or visit us on the web at www.blackdiamondlines.com and we can be found on Facebook and YouTube.

Bay Area Ntrak Model Railroad Club

BANTrak MRC invites N scale modelers to visit us at the Wells Fargo Express Room, Southern Pacific Railroad depot, 902 Loring Ave., Crockett, on Wed. and Sat., 10 AM to 3 PM. Contact: Bob Lewis, 925-283-6838 E-mail: BobLewis1@sbcglobal.net.

Bay Area S Scalers

BASS is a group of modeler railroaders in the San Francisco Bay Area focused on scale modeling in 1:64 scale. BASS is a round robin club, typically meeting in a member's home on the third Saturday of odd numbered months. Meetings may include a mini-clinic, or showing progress on models or a layout. We also have a modular layout that has been displayed at public events. Contact: Michael Eldridge (meldridge2000@gmail.com). Web: www.bayareasscalers.org.

Bay Area Z Module Cooperative

BAZ is a group in the SF Bay Area interested in developing and displaying Z scale modules. Members are building them to the "ZBend Track" Module miniModuleZ specs Anyone in Northern California interested in Z Scale railroading is welcome to join us. We meet Sundays 10 AM to 5 PM at members' houses. Contact: Robert Ray pray59@sbcglobal.net Yahoo group: groups.yahoo.com/group/BAZ_modules.

California Central Model RR Club

The CCMRC is located in the old Agnew depot (Santa Clara) of the Southern Pacific (4185 Bassett St.) directly across from the Lafayette St. gate of Agnew State Hospital. The theme of the 15' x 50' HO club is western railroading running from the Bay Area to Southern Oregon. We meet Fri., 7:30 to 11 PM. Operating sessions the 1st and last Fri. of the month. Contact: 408-988-4449 (operating nights), or Wayne Cohen, 408-779-0707.

Carquinez Model Railroad Society

HO Model Railroading on a Grand Scale! Can you imagine taking one real time hour to run an SP (or your favorite name) DCC train round trip from Oakland, through the Sierras to Sparks and back? Don't imagine, join us! Friday nights 7-10 (by appointment) at 645 Loring Dr, 2nd Floor, Crockett CA Call Weds 7-10 510-787-6703 or e-mail anytime loggingrr@aol.com, bob@bob2sell.com or lambert5522@att.net

Coastal Valley Lines

The CVL is an informal association of novice to advanced model railroaders who live in Sonoma County. We meet at 7:00 PM the 1st Thu. of the month. We operate our HO modular railroad at local public shows. Contact: Blain Hendrix (707) 528-8655 or Steve Lewis (707) 527-0396. Web: <http://cvl.hobby-site.com>.

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

The Eel River Valley is an HO club with a NWP-layout series of modules under construction. We meet Fri., 7:30 PM at the Humboldt County Fair Grounds Commercial Building, NW corner, Ferndale. Contact: Jack Jensen, 707-845-2823, 3313 Union St., Eureka, CA 95503 or Ron Plies, 208-229-7107, 12818 N. 11th Ave., Boise, ID 83714.

Elsie

The Left Coast (Elsie) HOn30 group invites anyone interested to join us. We use existing standards for module construction but are not merely a modular group. Contact: Al Sandrini in Bakersfield, 661-664-8614 or Ken Lunders in Cupertino, 408-777-9572.

Empire Builders Model Railroad Club

Starting over after a warehouse fire destroyed our layout, we are a small friendly group now constructing an HO layout of no specific origin based in the early 50's era. The mountain division is laid and operating, we also have a reasonable size yard operationally working well. Work days are Saturday and during summer on Wednesdays. Our retired members also show up on occasional weekdays. The club site is located at 3318 School St Oakland, Ca Call Charles at 510-917-5790 or Ted at 510-749-7099 for an invite to see/chat/join. Please visit our website <http://www.ebmrc.org>.

European Train Enthusiasts

ETE (www.ete.org) serves modelers, railway fans, related organizations, and the community through public venues, operating layouts, the annual convention EuroWest, the chapter newsletter, and the quarterly national journal, the *ETE Express*. ETE is open to all who have an interest in European railways, whether full size or scale model. The SF Bay Area Chapter meets the second Saturday of the month from 1-5pm in various locations around the bay. Contact Bill Keane (650) 355-7231 or billkeane@comcast.net.

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Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you.

Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society

Bakersfield GEHAMS, founded in 1987 and in their current location since March '94, is dual-scale with a 30' x 100' HO, and a 18' x 80' N based on SP's route from Bakersfield to Mojave with Tehachapi Loop. Though under construction, mainlines are in with monthly operations. Contact: Doug Wagner, 661-589-0391 email: carldw@aol.com GEHAMS web: www.gehams.org

Golden State Model Railroad Museum – East Bay Model Engineers Society

900-A Dornan Drive in Miller-Knox Regional Park at Point Richmond. Weekly public hours are on our website. To meet members, inquire about membership and behind the scenes tours come 1st & 2nd Friday evenings of the month between 7:30 and 10 PM.; behind the scenes tours also available most Wednesdays 11 AM to 3 PM. New members are welcomed in all Scales – O, HO and N, including narrow gauge and traction. For general information check the website or call (510) 234-4884 (recording); for membership inquiries call 1st or 2nd Fridays 8-10p.m. (510) 236-1913. For other information or to schedule special events, Email info@gsmrm.org. Website: www.gsmrm.org

Humboldt Bay & Eureka Model Railroad Club

The HB&EMRC meets at their clubhouse and layout at 10 West 7th St., Suite #C in Eureka, on Sat., 7:00 PM. Visitors are always welcome. Business meetings 1st Sat of month, 7:30 PM. Contact: David Berriman P.O. Box 915, Arcata, CA 95518 707-825-7689.

Lake County Model Railroad Club

HO layout. Meets Wednesday at 7:00PM in the old National Guard Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds on Martin Street, Lakeport. Call Mike Ernst at (707) 263-4949

Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society

Located at The Napa Valley Expo, (fairgrounds), 575 Third St., Napa, our railroad runs from Napa to Ukiah with off line connections to Stockton and Portland, has 700 feet of main line, and large classification yards at each end. The layout is never finished, as we are always rebuilding and improving! Era is 1940 to present. Member-owned rolling stock stresses reliability and realism. We meet Fri. 7:30 PM to 12, with formal runs the 2nd Fri. of the month. Info: John Rodgers 707-226-2985 E-mail: NapaJohn@napanet.net Web: www.nvmrc.org

Nn3 Alliance

Our 700 members in nine countries model narrow gauge in “smaller scales”. Nn3 describes 3', 3'6”, and meter gauges, modeled in N or 2MM Scales. Our local portable exhibition layouts and modules regularly appear at

conventions and shows. The Nn3 Handbook, 140 pages with 400 illustrations, covering all aspects of small scale narrow gauge, is available through the address on the website. Official mailing address: The Nn3 Alliance, PO Box 6652, Chesterfield, MO 63006 Web: www.Nn3.org <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nn3/>

Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society

Established in 1948, the SMRHS is located at 1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento. Modeled as the Sierra Central RR, both HO and HOn3 layouts. HO layout is being rebuilt to depict SP/WP prototype. Open Tues. and Fri. nights, 7:30 P.M. Contact: 916-927-3618 Email: d.megeath@comcast.net Web: www.smrhs.com

Sacramento Modular Railroaders

Most of our events are operating sessions, where we make up trains in our large switch yard, and send road crews out to switch cars into and out of industries at the towns along the main line. The club owns a large main yard, the corner modules, some special modules, and some rolling stock. Members own their own modules and rolling stock. Contact: Dick Witzens, 916-684-1987 Web: <http://saccentral.railfan.net/>

Sacramento Valley Live Steam Railroad Museum (SVLSRM)

The SVLS was founded in 1968 and is located in Hagen Community Park, Rancho Cordova, CA. Our initial 1500 feet of track has expanded to over 6300 feet of mainline and sidings. Approximately 1500 feet is dual gauge 4 3/4" and 7 1/2". We can accommodate equipment ranging in size from 1 inch scale (standard gauge) to 5 inch scale (2 foot narrow gauge), the most common scale being 1 1/2". Public run days are on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month during our operating season

San Joaquin Valley Garden Railway Society

The SJVGRS was founded in July of 1995 to promote the joy of building and operating Garden Railways. We have grown to over 70 families in the Central Valley, meeting monthly at members' homes to spend the afternoon sharing our hobby, weather permitting. Dues: \$25 a year for a family. Contact info: Richard Emerson 559-439-7173 E-mail: emerson.r@worldnet.att.net Web: <http://home.att.net/~sjvgrs/train/>

San Leandro Historical Railway Society

The SLHRS models the SP from Oakland/San Leandro to just east of Norden using the tri-level Donner Pass plan featured in the March '98 Model Railroader. It's housed in the former S.P., San Leandro depot, located at 1302 Orchard Ave., San Leandro (just off Davis St.). Work sessions Sat. 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM and Tues. 7:30 - 9:30 PM, business meetings the 1st Fri. at 7:30 PM. Contact: Pat LaTorres, 510-276-3121 email: duhnerd@pacbell.net

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Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you.

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA)

The SLOMRA is a multi-scale modular group with active N, HO, and On30 layouts. The goal of our non-profit association is railroad education and local history through public display of our modules. Our shows usually include G-gauge, tinsplate, and even LEGO trains. The monthly meetings include model and prototype activities, videos, and discussions. The SLOMRA is open to new members who have a love of trains. The general meeting is the third Monday of every month at 7:00pm at the Oceano Depot. For more information visit www.slomra.org or email info@slomra.org or phone Dennis Pearson at (805) 929-3062.

Silicon Valley Lines

The SVL is located at 148 E. Virginia St., San Jose. We meet Fri. 7:30 to 11:30 PM, with business meetings the 1st Fri. and operating sessions the last Fri. of the month. Our HO layout utilizing DCC for realistic operations, computer-generated train orders and radio-based dispatching. E-mail: svl@siliconvalleylines.com Web: www.siliconvalleylines.com

South Bay Historical Railroad Society

SBHRS invites interested modelers to visit us in the historic Santa Clara CalTrain Depot, 1005 Railroad Ave., Santa Clara, Tues. 7:00 to 10:00 PM or Sat. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Contact: 408-243-3969. Web: www.sbhrrs.org.

Sonoma Short Line (SSL)

A group of model railroaders has formed a DCC, HO 100% NMRA club, Sonoma Short Line (SSL). The club is building a modular layout with a Sonoma County theme inspired by the period 1900-1950s. Private ops sessions and public shows are scheduled. SSL is looking for new members with skills in all aspects of model railroading and a desire to actively participate in the club. Contact Steve Lewis (707) 527-0396 or Peter Barnes (707) 539-6746 for further information.

South Coast Society of Model Engineers

The club consists of enthusiasts of all scales and prototypes living in the Santa Barbara area, and has a collection of railroad books and videos for loan to members. The club has no layout but activities include weekly operations and work sessions at member layouts, as well as occasional club field trips. We meet every 3rd Tues. at 7:30 PM, at Woodglen Hall, 3010 Foothill Road, Santa Barbara. Junior members welcome. Contact: Secretary David Kuehn, email: davidkuehn@cox.net. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=16347006239>

Siskiyou Model Railroad Club

Currently we are meeting at a member's home on the first Thursday evening of the month. Contact Tom Brass at 530-842-4921 or Glenn Joesten at 530-842-2359 for current info. The layout is still in the Yreka Western freight room, but is inoperable due to no power in the building. #19 was still in the engine house last we saw, but in "kit form." No further info. Currently a few members have been getting together on Tuesday mornings for various activities.

Tidewater Southern Railway Historical Society Inc.

Manteca, formerly the Manteca Model RR Club (org '73), TSRHS reorganized and incorporated in 1990. Located at the San Joaquin Fairgrounds, Building 1, (corner of Airport and Charter Ways (Hw 4), Stockton), a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove houses a large HO layout depicting the Tidewater Southern, several Valley towns, and museum display cases. We meet 6 - 8:30 PM Thursdays. Contact: Ben Cantu, 209-825-7215 Mail: PO Box 882, Manteca, CA 95336 E-mail: bcantu@SQ50.com

Tri-city Society of Model Engineers

The TCSME located in the Niles Plaza is currently looking for new members to help build and operate both an N Scale and an HO layout focused on Fremont and surrounding areas. We meet Fridays 7:30-9:30 PM. The depot is located at 37592 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536. Please visit our web site at <http://www.nilesdepot.org/http://www.nilesdepot.org>

Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society

The WCMRS, located at 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, is open the last Fri. of the month from 8 to 10 PM for operations. Fares are \$2 for 6-12 and seniors over 60 and \$3 for adults. Membership is always open to interested HO modelers. Contact: 925-937-1888 (recorder) Web: www.wcmrs.org. "Like Us" on Facebook, www.facebook.com/WCMRS. 2013 week-end schedule: Mar 16-17, May 18-19, Sept 14-15. Holiday Open House schedule: Nov. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, Dec. 1.

West Bay Model Railroad Association

Meets at the former baggage building at 1090 Merrill St., near the Menlo Park train station and Ravenswood Ave. We are currently constructing a new 2-level HO layout designed for operations. Scheduled work sessions are Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Our monthly business meeting is held at 8 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. We are seeking new members with an interest in layout design and construction, model train operations, and/or who just love trains. Contact: Lauren Mercer at 650-322-9335, Tom Vanden Bosch at 650-369-8305 or visit the club website at wbmrra.ning.com.

BRANCH LINE
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