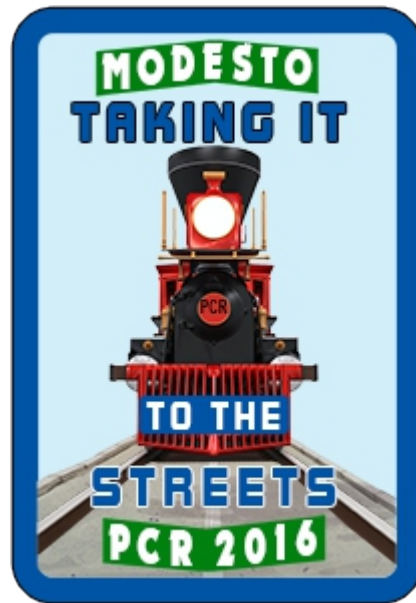
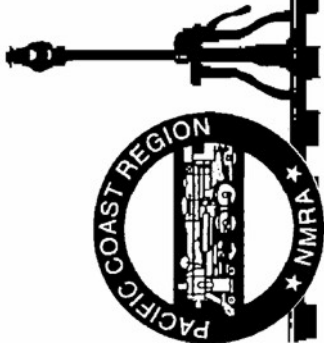


April-May-June 2016

PCR Joins with Feather River Rail Society for 2016 Convention

BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



USPS 870-060
ISSN 07449771
Volume 73 Number 2
April-June 2016



2016 PCR Convention in Modesto,
April 20-24 Page 4

John Marshall Honored Page 15

Gene Mayer Memorial Page 20

PCR Call Board

PCR Officers, BOD	President	Ed Merrin	707-542-3620	edmerrin@comcast.net
	Vice-President	Carol Alexander	707-484-5428	pcrVicePres@pcrnmra.org
	Treasurer	Michael Coen	510-604-3892	michaelseancoen@gmail.com
	Secretary	Tom Swearingen	707-953-3070	tswearingen@gmail.com
	Director, Daylight	Dave Grenier	559-297-1345	grenida@pacbell.net
	Director, Coast	Mark Schutzer	650-369-0481	mark.schutzer@sbcglobal.net
	Director, Sierra	Mel Jones	775-815-0486	papamel@sbcglobal.net
	Director, RED	Dave Croschere	707-829-9220	ddc@sonic.net
Administration	Director, Hawaiian Div.	(Vacant)		
	Manager	Ed Merrin	707-542-3620	edmerrin@comcast.net
	Budget and Finance Committee	[President, Vice-President and Treasurer]		
	By-laws and Manual Committee	(Vacant)		
	Ballot Committee	Jim Provenza	415-472-6715	rrjim@aol.com
	Honors Committee	Ray deBlieck	510-521-9778	RaydBCS@aol.com
	Storekeeper	Ted Moes	510-749-7099	ted@tjmoes.com
	Audit Committee	(Vacant)		
Membership	Historian	Dave Connery, MMR	925-735-0134	dgconnery@sbcglobal.net
	Non-Rail Manager	Mary Moore-Campagna	415-672-4806	marymoore@campagna.com
	Manager	Doug Wagner	661-589-0391	CarlDW@aol.com
	Member Services	Bob Ferguson	925-228-6833	BobPCRC@aol.com
	Promotion	(Vacant)		
	Member Aid	Rod Smith	510-657-3362	Railgeezer@aol.com
	Education	(Vacant)		
	Special Interests	Dave Parks	650-961-7644	bearwestern@comcast.net
Pubs.	Manager	Gus Campagna	707-664-8466	campgus@earthlink.net
	Editor	Chuck Harmon, MMR	559-299-4385	harmonsta@yahoo.com
	Webmaster	Dave Grenier	559-297-1345	grenida@pacbell.net
	Social Media	Chris Palermo	650-208-3150	chris_palermo@yahoo.com
Conv.	Manager	Ray deBlieck	510-521-9778	RaydBCS@aol.com
	2015 Fremont	Dave Parks	650-961-7644	bearwestern@comcast.net
	2016 Modesto	Scott McAlister	916-812-8767	scooter923@att.net
Contest	Manager/RED	Guisepe Aymar, MMR	707-291-0701	Giuseaymar@aol.com
	Daylight Division	Chuck Harmon, MMR	559-299-4385	harmonsta@yahoo.com
	Coast Division	Jim Eckman	650-996-6728	jim_eckman@roninengineer.com
	Sierra Division	Gary Ray	530-873-0626	gerber1926@gmail.com
Achievement	Manager	Jack Burgess, MMR	510-797-9557	jack@yosemitevalleyrr.com
	Daylight Division	Dave Grenier	559-297-1345	grenida@pacbell.net
	Coast Division	Kermit Paul, MMR	925-935-1859	(no e-mail)
	Sierra Division	Dave Bayless	530-887-8880	davebayl@pacbell.com
	RED	Guisepe Aymar, MMR	707-291-0701	Giuseaymar@aol.com
Daylight	Superintendent	Neil Fernbaugh	559-805-4520	marmot47@sbcglobal.net
	Clerk / Paymaster	Bob Sexton	559-325-7528	rdsexton@gmail.com
	Editor	George Pisching	559-275-0199	gmpisching@netzero.com
	Membership	Doug Wagner	661-589-0391	CarlDW@aol.com
	Member Aid	Bob Pethoud	559-438-7705	pethoud@comcast.net
	Webmaster	Dave Grenier	559-297-1345	grenida@pacbell.net
Coast	Superintendent	Frank Markovich, MMR	408-505-2727	frank@frankmarkovich.com
	Clerk	Doug Smith	925-362-8974	funrun27@yahoo.com
	Paymaster	Bob Ferguson	925-228-6833	BobPCRC@aol.com
	Editor	Tom Crawford	510-790-0371	tom@thecrawfordfamily.net
	Membership	Ronnie LaTorres	510-317-7456	veronicashadlow@yahoo.com
	Member Aid	Rod Smith	510-657-3362	Railgeezer@aol.com
Sierra	Webmaster	Pete Birdsong, MMR	859-552-5467	rrpeteb@gmail.com
	Superintendent	Jim Collins	209-566-0935	jimcol@charter.net
	Clerk	Jim Firehock	916-505-9692	amtrakmanjim@hotmail.com
	Paymaster	Al Rowe	916-961-9911	hofunar@aol.com
	Editor	Chip Meriam	530-899-2609	chipmeriam@comcast.net
	Membership	RJ Myers	775-337-9162	ri@a2dreno.com
RED	Webmaster	Gus Campagna	707-664-8466	campgus@earthlink.net
	Superintendent	Peter Barnes	707-539-6746	pwbarnes@comcast.net
	Clerk / Paymaster	Ed Zakareckis	707-330-8948	ezak@castles.com
	Editor	Dick Foster	707-935-6215	gatefive@comcast.net
	Membership	Gus Campagna	707-664-8466	campgus@earthlink.net
Webmaster	Gus Campagna	707-664-8466	campgus@earthlink.net	

Hawaiian Division

All offices are currently vacant

Contents

The Branch Line
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National Model Railroad
Association

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The Branch Line is published quarterly to inform members of Region activities and to provide educational articles for the advancement of railroad history and the art and science of model railroading. It is distributed to members of the Pacific Coast Region. Electronic versions are posted on the PCR website, www.pcrnmra.org.

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Chuck Harmon
1644 E. Goshen Ave.
Fresno, CA 93720
Phone (559) 299-4385
e-mail: harmonsta@yahoo.com

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Reports

President's Message	7
Achievement Report	9
Contest Report	11
SIG Report	12
Coast Report	13
Daylight Report.....	16
RED Report.....	16
Sierra Report.....	17

Features

PCR 2016 Convention	4
John Marshall Honored.....	15
Gene Mayer Memorial	20
Future - Part 2	21
Shelf Layout Industries.....	22

Regular Stuff

Call Board	2
Statement of Publication.....	3
Membership Gauge.....	6
BL Deadlines.....	6
Member Tracker	7
Opting Out of BL Subscription.....	8
Web Announcement	10
In Memoriam.....	11
Welcome New Members.....	15
Contest Room	24
PCR 2016 Registration Form	25
NMRA Renewal form.....	26
Time Table	27
Convention Layout Tours	32
Club Info.....	33

Waiting for Paint to Dry?

YOUR Joint PCR/FRRS 2016 Convention Taking it To The Streets

by Steve Wesolowski, PCR 2016 Publicity Volunteer

I hope you are putting the Finishing touches on your Railroad themed Arts, Crafts, Models and/or Photos you're bringing for Contest judging or to Display/Show & Tell at Your PCR/FRRS 2016 Convention, Taking it To The Streets, April 20-24. (Paint = Finish, Right?)

Many of us eagerly anticipate learning new techniques and new ideas from seeing your and others' creative work, whatever prototype & media you choose to express your energy. Bring it/them on! In addition to bringing Models & Photos for Contest Judging or Display, I hope you bring your railroad themed arts & crafts work. I know most modelers and photographers also enjoy other creative pursuits.

My promise: If I have anything ready, I'll bring my work to share because your constructive criticism improves my work. I know many of us bring our work to improve our skills. Any color ribbon is an unexpected surprise. With the very high quality of most other entries, my odds are slim because I'm still learning.

Discount Hotel Rate "Expires" 30 March

As I write, less than 20 Discounted rooms @ \$109 per night are available, only for bookings through 30 March. Parking is Not free, but reduced from \$11 to \$6/day for hotel residents.

Our 2016 Convention hotel is the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Modesto, 1150 Ninth Street, Modesto, CA 95354-0823.

It's important our block of rooms is booked to get the rooms needed for clinics, contests, banquet and our other activities. We commit to a block of rooms to get the spaces we need. If we don't fill the room block, those areas will cost the convention committee additional money. Please help us by staying at the convention hotel.

Outside Tours

Our Outside Tour Volunteer, Scott Inman, worked hard to arrange some fun tours and activities during our convention, around and near Modesto, listed on the convention web site at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/outside.html>.

Saturday, April 23 - A tour of Modesto's historic sites, then a tour of the Modesto Empire and Traction shops. I've heard this is a fun tour I hope to enjoy. Cost is \$50/person and includes bus transportation, one convention car, and refreshments at Beard Brook Park (location of 4-8-4). Space limited.

Friday, April 22 - A tour of the Sierra Northern's shops in Oakdale followed by a round-trip excursion over the Sierra between Oakdale and Warnerville

(possibly Cooperstown). Start time TBA but it'll be all afternoon. Cost is \$65/person and includes bus transportation. Space limited.

Thursday, April 21, from 1-5 pm - A tour of the Port of Stockton and Central California Traction's operations there. Cost is \$35/person and includes bus transportation. All attendees must provide full name, address, and a valid driver's license number for the Port police. Space limited. If we don't have enough sign ups to cover costs, a tour may be cancelled. Please sign up now/ASAP.

Clinics: Many are New!

As we hoped, our joint convention with Feather River Rail Society means even more clinics, including:

Shorty Steel Coil Gondolas, Prototype History & HO scale modelling of WP's short steel gons, by Bill Gilbert.

Western Pacific Fan Trips, A look at Western Pacific fan excursion trains, by Evan Werkema.

Rocky Mountain Refugees, History of ex-Rio Grande steam on WP family railroads, by Eugene Vicknair.

Death of a Branch: the Terminus Branch, A look at the end of the WP's Terminus Branch, by Wayne Monger.

Western Pacific's First 50 Years, Video from the new DVD by Catenary Video, by Warren Arthur Haack.

Western Pacific in the Rain, a Virgil Staff film.

Continued on Page 5



less than 20 Discounted rooms @ \$109 per night are available, only for bookings through 30 March.

Second Generation Western Pacific Passenger Equipment, A look at some of Western Pacific's heavyweight passenger cars. by Kyle Wyatt.

The San Jose Branch. Mail by Rail - Bob Clark - Mail was sorted in Railway Post Office cars on passenger trains for over 100 years. Railroads also moved mail in a variety of other car types and services. This clinic illustrates and discusses these car types and services, their operation in passenger trains, and the evolution of hardware and sorting procedures.

Milk Cars and Trains - Bob Clark - The transportation of milk by rail will be described. The wide variety of milk car types and lettering schemes is shown for modelers. Suggestions on how to model milk services on your layout.

The California Western, A Layout Design - Gus Campagna - A digital slide show exploring the California Western Railway and Navigation Company and how the presenter went about designing a layout based on what he found.

Exploring Tourist Railroads - Steve Miller - Digital slide show describing various tourist railroad attractions.

The Gemco Yard - Dave Bayless - A description of operations at SP's Southern California Gemco Yard.

Simulating Stucco Siding, circa 1929 - Chip Meriam - Constructing a small municipal water pump

house.

Clifornia Zephyr-Silver Thread to the West - Mark Williams - Traces the History of the Zephyr, " The most talked about Train in the Country." from its birth to its demise.

CB&Q Trains of the Gods and Goddesses - Mark Williams - History and Design of these longest serving trains.

Pioneer Zephyr - The First of The Silver Trains - Mark Williams - The History of the first Zephyr

SketchUp and 3D Printing - Jack Burgess, MMR.

More info on our website as convention nears: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/> .

Registration.

Full Registration for \$99 includes Registration, Awards Banquet, and PCR Breakfast. There is no fare differential between Rail and Non-rail registrations; but Non-Rail includes the Non-Rail Lunch, not the PCR Breakfast. A "First Timer" fare of \$79.00 is available for PCR members that have not registered for the past 5 conventions. Youth fare of \$50.00 includes full registration, without food events. Awards Banquet Only fare is \$45.00. A Day Fare of \$40 is good for 1 day's attendance: the Awards Banquet is not included, but available for an extra-fare. All fares include convention registration, clinics, contests, and layout tours. There are charges for tours/events if tickets, transportation, or

materials are required. Q's re Registration?: ask Registrars, Jim Dieckman or Richard Klammer. Register at: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/registration.html>
NMRA or FRRS Membership

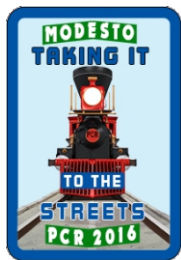
Because of the Joint Convention, NMRA membership is Not required to register/attend, but Only NMRA members may enter models, photos and crafts for NMRA judging and awards. FRRS members may bring & share their models and photos as Display Only. A 6-month Rail Pass is available to have a 'look-see' at NMRA without long-term commitment. Also available are full NMRA memberships with/without the NMRA magazine. All levels of NMRA memberships may be requested and paid for on the registration forms. For More Info on NMRA membership: <http://nmra.org/>

Volunteer to Learn

Conventions always can use more volunteers. More hands makes tasks easier & more fun. Volunteers benefit the most from volunteering. Volunteers are needed for all areas: as Clinicians, Contestants, Layout Owners, Registration, and more. I assume we all attend conventions to learn something 'new'. I enjoy learning; its often easier with someone "more experienced" who enjoys sharing what they've learned. IMO, We can all improve.

Besides learning in

Continued on Page 6



Volunteers are needed for all areas: as Clinicians, Contestants, Layout Owners, Registration, and more.



All usual NMRA contest categories are open for entering your models, photos, arts and crafts.

clinics, layouts, tours and other train fun, volunteers learn more: Every volunteer I've met has taught me everyone completes most tasks differently, especially creative modelers! I learn if another way works better, often I learn new skills. Every one of us brings different skill sets to every task we do. We're all unique, with unique skill sets. Although working a new way is often slower at first, volunteer learning curves don't affect your next performance review or pay grade as a Volunteer! Have Fun: Try Something New! The earlier you volunteer, the more chance you have influencing YOUR conventions to include more activities YOU enjoy. Use the emails at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/committee.html> to Volunteer for area(s) you're interested in enjoying even more in Stockton. We will welcome you & your ideas.

Finally, Volunteers to Judge and to staff the Contest Room are welcome. Contest judges earn 2 time units towards the AP Association Volunteer Certificate.

Convention Car

Our convention car is a 53-foot Evans Double Door Box Car painted for Modesto and Empire Traction (M&ET), Available in 4 road numbers, either as a complete set of 4 for \$90, or individually for \$25. Cars MUST be ordered BEFORE the convention & picked up there; no shipping. Info: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv>

2016/convention-car.html

Our 2016 Convention Logo is included as a separate decal, for those who don't want it on their cars.

Contests and Show and Tell

This should be No Surprise: all usual NMRA contest categories are open for entering your models, photos, arts and crafts. For complete information: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/contests.html> Again, I encourage EVERYONE to bring at least one or more contest entries in different categories to share your talents. If we each bring one or more of our best models, photos, art and crafts, they will teach & encourage us to become better crafters, we encourage more creative making. We also might award all prizes in every category, something I've not seen in many convention I've attended.

Bringing and sharing your work helps encourage every one of us to be better modelers, photographers and craftspersons. I hope YOU will share YOUR unique talents and vision with us.

And, If you prefer any of your work not judged, please bring them for Display: we still learn from your unique vision and talented work. By sharing and learning from your work, whether judged or not, we may improve our talents and skills.

Happy Trains to you, Until we meet in Modesto, April 20th! 🚂

Branch Line Deadlines for 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**

APR-MAY-JUN 2017 Issue
Articles due by **March 10, 2017**

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

PCR Membership Gauge

- February 28, 2015—998
- March 31, 2105—996
- April 30, 2105—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—1,012
- October 31, 2015—1,012
- November 30, 2015—1,012
- December 31, 2015—1,000
- January 31, 2016—1,003
- February 29, 2016—989

President's Report

by Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

For this issue I am returning yet again to the topic of aging model railroaders.

While I was watching the Academy Award show I was surprised that a film I had seen in the theater months ago that wasn't supposed to make it won Best Picture. Titled "Spotlight," it was about a true story of investigative journalism that led to important social changes.



President Getz noted that the average age of NMRA members has greatly increased since the 1970s from 39 to today's 67.

In contrast to the efforts of those dedicated reporters an article recently appeared in the Wall Street Journal, of all places, that dealt with the death spiral of the model railroading hobby.

The essence of it was that the hobby's enthusiastic participants keep getting older and younger people are failing to show any interest in keeping it going. This was a real doom and gloom piece, and because of the prestige of the source I suppose we're supposed to be impressed.

Ha!

The first tip that something wasn't quite right, that the author may not have been up on his topic very well, was the repeated use of the term "train set" in the first stages of the article in reference to one modeler's huge and fully scened scale model basement railroad. We are informed at one point that this man actually added to his

house so that his "train set" could be bigger. There is an embedded video of his railroad in the on-line version as well (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/end-of-the-line-for-model-trains-aging-hobbyists-trundle-on-1455157546>). Unfortunately, the videographer was unaware that he was using close-ups to document things like misaligned windows in structures and cobwebs.

A simple Google lookup of the author, James R. Hagerty, revealed that he has had a long and distinguished journalism career and has written several books. However, his specialty is manufacturing and one of his books is about Fannie Mae. So how did he become versed enough about the status and future of model railroading? One would assume he spent some time doing research on the subject, right?

But as far as I can tell from reading this thing, the only manufacturer he spent any time inquiring about was Lionel. To make matters worse, the phrase "serious hobbyists" was used only in the context of this venerable firm (no offense to hi rail fans intended). One would think, with his knowledge and experience, he could have explored the recent volume of sales of model railroad products and perhaps some demographics on who is buying them, and then made some interpretations or

PCR Membership Tracker

Division	# Members
Coast	452
Sierra	262
Redwood Empire	137
Daylight	127
Hawaiian	11
Total PCR Members	989

predictions based on the information he obtained. But he didn't, not even for Lionel. Instead, he relied on anecdotes and suppositions he obtained from having conversations with people he contacted.

Well, there was one exception. He apparently contacted or read statements by our NMRA President. Apparently President Getz noted that the average age of NMRA members has greatly increased since the 1970s from 39 to today's 67.

By the way, this brings up another issue that I have touched on before. Not all modelers are NMRA members. Those kinds of figures definitely raise the question of whether the NMRA will survive, but says nothing directly about the hobby as a whole.

We would like as many modelers as possible to consider joining the NMRA, but some just aren't interested. This makes it harder to get a handle on how big the pool of younger modelers is. We could suppose that many younger

Continued on Page 8

Be sure to register for "Taking It To The Streets," the 2016 PCR Convention in Modesto, April 20-24.

modelers are turned off by how old most of us are and by their perception that their particular interests are not emphasized and appreciated by the bulk of NMRA members. Some of our institutions may not be to their liking (e.g., some modelers like to bring their models to meetings of organizations such as historical societies, Prototype Modelers, etc., but don't like the formalized contest venues of the NMRA). Or, as we hear over and over, young people just aren't interested in joining things. Of course, all of this is conjecture.

I have a lot of questions for which we don't have good answers. For instance, what happens in future years to all those youngsters who earn Boy Scout merit badges for railroading at our events? When we consider all the narrow gauge, garden railroad, prototype modeling, modular, various clubs, and other groups outside of the NMRA fold, how many people are participating who are not NMRA members? What is the age distribution of these folks?

In the on-line comments to the Journal article, one person blamed the decline in interest in model railroading to the housing problem! Model railroads require space and nowadays less people have it available, he wrote. If that were true, how have the British managed to keep their modeling vibrant and active? By becoming good at

designing interesting layouts for super small spaces, inventing "fiddle yards" in the process. Another commentator suggested that young students give up on their model railroad interest because their peers think it is odd, geeky, and uncool. Okay, folks, dig back into your memory – is that anything new?

So is Mr. Haggerty correct in his assertion that the model railroading is headed for oblivion? Maybe, maybe not. Remember how slot cars were going to replace model trains?

P.S. Be sure to register for "Taking It To The Streets," the 2016 PCR Convention in Modesto, April 20-24. There are some great clinics and tours planned, and the hotel venue is terrific. As an added twist, we are holding it with a new partner, the Feather River Rail Society. Looking forward to seeing you all there. 🚂



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.

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. 🚂

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical (Continued)

by Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department

In the last issue of the *Branch Line*, we began a discussion of the requirements for Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical. Like other certificates, the full requirements for this category are available online at the NMRA website.

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

The required work can be done on your own layout, a club layout, or even on a friend's layout. As indicated in the last issue, the first two requirements for this AP certificate concern 1) constructing and demonstrating the basic wiring of a layout; and 2) wiring and demonstrating the electrical operation of three items such as

turnout controls, slip switches, crossing, etc.

The third requirement may seem more challenging but has a number of options. Basically, you need to wire and demonstrate the electrical operation of at least three items from a list of 23 possible choices, most of which can be satisfied with the installation of commercial units. Keep in mind that many of the first items for related to traditional block control while DCC control items are further along on the list. These items include:

1. Electrical turnout

position indication on a control panel or at trackside for a minimum of four turnouts. (Remember that many commercial switch machines have electrical terminals to allow you to do this easily.)

2. Track occupancy indication on a control panel or at trackside for a minimum of five blocks.

3. Cab control, making provision for the connection of at least two power supplies to a minimum of five blocks as the trains progress. (This means that your layout has at least five blocks, each of which can be controlled by one of two power supplies. The five blocks do not have to be in a row along the same stretch of track.)

4. Engine terminal, including an electrically powered turntable or transfer table, a minimum of three stall tracks, and at least two blocked storage sections for parking locomotives outside the stall area. (This means you need to have a total of five tracks (three inside an engine house or roundhouse, and two outside), that you can cut power independently to store motive power).

5. Two turnout junctions with electrical interlocking and protecting trackside signals. (This is simply a turnout with electrical protection to prevent a train from going through a turnout that is set

against it. Again, the electrical terminals on a switch machine, combined with a couple of insulated rail joiners, make this a fairly easy project.

6. High Frequency Lighting (This is an old term for Constant Lighting.)

7. Electronic throttle with inertia and braking provisions.

8. Grade crossing with electrically actuated warning indication. (You don't have to design or build the circuitry for this yourself. There are a number of commercial components available that you can just wire up to meet this requirement. Or you can use commercial plans that appear in magazines from time to time. Or you can do it from scratch.)

9. Two-way block signaling with automatic train detection for at least five blocks.

10. Operating overhead wire, using either pantographs, trolley poles, or both for current collection.

11. Installation of an advanced electronic and/or computer control for the model railroad.

12. Design, installation, and operation of animated mechanical and/or electrical displays. (This doesn't have to be a huge animated display - think about small eye-catching displays like animated industries or signs.)

13. Design, installation, and operation of mechanical and/or electrical

Continued on Page 10



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

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

layout lighting displays. (This means lights which illuminate the layout, as opposed to lighted things on the layout. For example, lighting which simulates the change from day to dusk to night)

14. Installation of a command control receiver. Modifications or additions to the device's wiring are required. Installing a plug-equipped decoder into a manufactured prewired socket is not sufficient.

15. Installation of a command control throttle buss line around a layout capable of handling at least two throttles at three or more separate locations.

Commercially assembled complete units are not acceptable in the items below:

16. Construction and installation of a sound system. (This does not have to be an on-board sound system, it could be an under-the-layout system.)

17. Construction and installation of a signaling system.

18. Development and installation of a CTC system.

19. Installation and operation of an on-board video system.

20. Computer generated block detection information.

21. Hardwired or stored control program (i.e. computer) for operation of the railroad.

22. Development and demonstration of a computer-to-railroad interface.

23. Other: Examples of 'other' include flashing

warning lights on locomotives, or end-of-train devices on cabooses, etc.

These are just some of the more common electrical projects which are typical on many layouts. It is therefore easy to see that many layouts already satisfy this particular requirement. For example, most of the layouts with DCC would automatically satisfy two of the requirements in this category (Items 14 and 15).

The fourth and fifth requirements basically involve documentation proving that you understand what you have done to satisfy the other requirements. First, you must prepare a schematic drawing of the propulsion circuitry for the layout showing the gaps, blocks, feeders, etc. This drawing does not need to show turnout control wiring, building lights, etc. It is therefore much like the drawings included in *Model Railroader* magazine layout project articles which illustrate for the new modeler where gaps are required, where to connect the track power, etc. Finally, you need to also prepare a schematic drawing identifying the wiring and components used to complete the category on wiring a turnout, crossing, etc. mentioned in the last issue and the three items selected from the above bullets.

Once you have satisfied all of the requirements, submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which includes the required schematic drawings

and describes the features that you used to satisfy the requirements. You are not judged for a Merit Award for this certificate. However, the operation of the various features must be witnessed by the AP Chairman or his/her designee. The witnesses must sign the SOQ. 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!

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 🚂

An Invitation to be Part of Contest

By Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Chairman, PCR Contest Department

Comparatively speaking, model railroading in 2016 is much easier to bring to fruition than, for example, stamp collecting. With a plethora of highly detailed plastic models, it is exceedingly easy to put together a roster of most of the cars, locomotives and structures for our favorite railroad. Stamp collecting on the other hand requires not only the ability to acquire a specific stamp, but also the knowledge to evaluate the many



Contest is part of that program; why not contribute to its success by stepping out of your comfort zone and deciding to bring one item for Model, Photo or Arts & Crafts.

aspects that make a stamp have a determined value and to bring joy to the collector. Since I advocate both hobbies, I find that in my situation the way I look at model railroading is so much like stamp collecting. Yes, you have the cheap stamps you can collect by the hundreds, similar to the ready to run models or ready to assemble kits in model railroading. It is that rare stamp, that one of a kind example that creates an air of

mystery and brings you back in the hunt and restores the passion and fervor. Similarly, it is that one of a kind model that has the attributes of a rare stamp. There is nothing identical in the open market, it is the only example of such a model, no one else can buy it on e-Bay; it is a jewel in its own right. And it might be the only way for you to recreate a piece of railroad history unattainable in any other fashion.

That is the essence of our Model Contest, Photo and Arts & Crafts; the creative effort of individuals bringing to life fine examples of otherwise unattainable items. It is a vehicle that allows us to show our creativity by bringing to life projects that please us and hopefully will please others.

I have seen many such examples from a great number of modelers; a few are deceased by now but their legendary status as innovators and trend setters lives on. I would like to invite many more of you in PCR to take up the torch and

carry it proudly in the years to come. Contest, like the new arenas of Layout Design Sig and Operations Sig, are what the hobby has to offer. All three of these involve active participation, a vision and a plan to carry it out to completion. They definitely are not aimed at the armchair modeler, the wishful thinker, the “I will get to it tomorrow if I can afford to devote my valuable time to it.”

The folks at the Modesto “taking it to the streets” 2016 PCR Convention are working very hard to give you a program you will never forget. Contest is part of that program; why not contribute to its success by stepping out of your comfort zone and deciding to bring one item for Model, Photo or Arts & Crafts. We will all benefit from your participation. When I say “**you**” I don’t mean someone else; I literally mean “**you**” the one reading this very column. And that goes for the folks who don’t participate for they do not see any value in contest. I know many of you personally and I dare you to bring an example of your creativity. Try it once, what the heck. There is no guarantee we will be

Continued on Page 12

In Memoriam

Member	City, Sate Coast	Date Joined
Thomas Trotter	El Cerrito CA	12/1/2014
Johnny Church	La Selva Beach CA	1/1/1970
Sierra		
Dana Ruben	Nevada City CA	2/20/1996
Ronald Roberts	Shingle Springs CA	10/1/2011
Hawaiian		
Roland Rasmussen	Ewa Beach HI	1/1/1982

attending a future convention, so why not “live a little”. PCR members who belong to specific groups, like the John Allen’s G and D Group, why not bring some of the items you have collected, built or renovated in your effort to recreate John Allen’s world. Members who work at Niles Canyon or other small railroads or museums why not be creative and submit entries, they be photos or railroadiana examples. That is what I am talking about. Bringing stuff that only YOU

can bring for others to enjoy. Otherwise it is lost somewhere out there. Similar to the great Picasso’s painting housed in a mansion someplace where only it’s present owner can view it. What good does it do for the rest of us!!! What a waste!!!

Forget the excuse I hear all the time: “all that complicated paper work I have to fill out to enter a contest”. How complicated is entering your name, address, PCR number, name of entry, category you choose to enter

and a simple description of the item. You don’t have to write your whole life story. Have we become so lazy that picking up a pencil and a piece of paper is a chore we abhor? No wonder our Society is on the decline; we find “work” in our simple pleasures. Roll up your sleeves and get busy! Show me you care for PCR and for the Modesto’s PCR Convention. Be a daredevil, bring one item to Contest. No one will shun you because of it. 🚂

Pacific Coast Region SIG Report for First Quarter 2016

by Seth Neumann

The “Bay Area” PCR/LD/OP SIG meet was held January 29-31 in Sacramento at the California State Railroad Museum this year, in our program to rotate the venue to feature visiting different touring and operating layouts.

The meet was quite successful even though moving the venue outside of the Bay Area did impact attendance slightly. As I was out of town due to a family obligation, the local committee of Scott Inman and



Robert Hoffman, as well as the usual stalwarts (David Parks, Bruce Morden, Byron Henderson, David Adams, Hilding Larson, the sound man sound and Paul Deis, registration help.) carried the ball and tell me that we had 71 attendees, 13 consulting clients, 8 layouts open for

tours with 6 of those hosting operating sessions and 60 operators. We ran a small financial surplus and made donations to the sponsoring organizations: Layout Design SIG, Operations SIG and PCR. Thanks also to the California State Railroad Museum for opening their fantastic facility and welcoming us!

I want to thank all of the presenters, hosts, consultants and committee members for doing a great job. A special thanks to Phil Gulley for accommodating two unexpected guests

overnight in his layout room. Of course nothing would happen without the participants, so thanks for making the trip and we’ll be back in the South Bay in 2017.

I am pleased to see the calendar filling up quickly for operations as most Saturdays throughout the spring already boast at least one Op Opportunity and many have Conventions, out of town ops meets or both.

We will have an operating program and a SIG track at the PCR Convention in Modesto April 21-24. Registrants will be contacted about two weeks in advance for ops. I’m working with

Continued on Page 13

Have you changed your address or other membership information?

Notify Headquarters

Email: nmrahq@nmra.org

Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am—4pm ET)

Mary Moore-Compagna to provide a great SIG clinic track Thursday (including the SIG Roundtables in the evening – bring your plans for discussion) and we'll overflow into Friday if more good content is available.


The NMRA National Convention in Indianapolis July 3-9 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 Cincinnati, Dayton and Fort Wayne as well as Indianapolis, so Operators should be very busy!

There continues to be an embarrassment of riches in the out of town ops meet area, so please contact me if you are interested in participating.



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=a8cceae0196&e=a9391ae048> 

Coast Division Report

by Frank Markovich, MMR, Coast Division
Superintendent

We had over 100 in attendance. The sign in sheet had over 100 and there are always a few who do not sign in. There were over 30 door prizes so many went home with a prize.

There were 4 new comers including a lady whose last name was Newcomer. We had people from at least 3 other divisions.

There were two clinics and both were full. One was by Mike O'Dorney. It was on figure painting part II.

Richard Brennan set up a light and a video feed to project exactly what Mike was doing.

Fantastic clinic! Then Mike Blumenstaadt and I did a clinic on Build a Memory – this was a getting started clinic. We went over

working with ridged foam, laying out the track etc. While it sounds like a beginners clinic there were many questions from seasoned modelers. We will do a follow up at the next meet on fastening the track down, doing plaster cloth, painting the ground cover and application of ground cover. It will be a work clinic.

Howard led the Round Table. Not many did it this time but I want to encourage those of you who go to the events that this is a great opportunity to ask questions. Howard is one of the best model and layout builders in the area.

We tried out a new public address system and with one minor issue it

worked well. The stands we had are not correct for the system and are non-standard. The current system is very old and large. We have had numerous issues with it so we decided to upgrade.

The auction had over 350 items in it, ranging from 'N' scale up to 'G' scale and

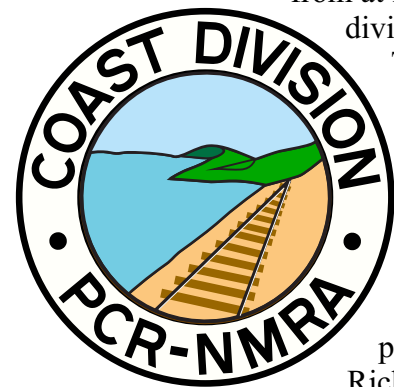


Clinics room packed with Richard introducing the clinic.

everything in between. There was something for almost everyone.

We announced a number of upcoming events:

Continued on Page 14



Photos by
Frank
Markovich,
MMR



Mike and Frank with first steps - This layout in 2 feet by 54 inches with lots packed into it.



Clinic attendees - crowded room.

West Side Reunion – April 16, 2016, Sierra Seminar – April 17, 2016 and the PCR convention in Modesto starting the following Wednesday. (I am going to all three.) Anyone interested in West Side write me (frank@frankmarkovich.com MMR). I can also get you

Photos by Frank Markovich, MMR

information for the other events.



The National Garden Railroad convention is also coming up in early July – the same week as the NNMR national

convention. Some have said they will attend both.

We had a plaque made for John Marshall who has been ill for quite some time. He has been one of the most active volunteers in the organization and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Our next event is June 5, 2016 at the Boy Scout Center in San Leandro. 🚂



Figure Painting clinic with video projection - This wowed the audience!



Mike and Frank go over cutting the foam.

COAST THANKS JOHN MARSHALL FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

By Dave Connery, MMR, PCR Historian

On February 26th Superintendent Frank Markovich presented John Marshall with a special plaque commemorating John's many contributions to Coast Division over the past many years. John has served as Coast Superi



ntendent for two terms and as Clinics Chair, Quartermaster and Auction Chair. He was the Division Member of the Year in 2004. John also served as Clinics Chair on a

number of PCR Convention Committees. John has been fighting some very difficult health issues for several years and in January suffered a stroke, paralyzing the left side of his body. He is now undergoing Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy at a rehabilitation center in Pleasanton, where the presentation took place. 🚗



Welcome Aboard ! - PCR's Newest Members

Member	City, Sate	Date Joined
	Daylight	
Mark Simonian	Clovis CA	2/22/2016
	Coast	
Jack Palmer	South San Francisco CA	12/7/2015
Don Gollwitzer	Provo CA	12/11/2015
John Wiley	San Jose CA	1/6/2016
Sally Griffin	San Jose CA	1/15/2016
Richard Hoffmeister	Redwood City CA	1/15/2016
Bob Fisher	Antioch CA	2/5/2016
Steve Sloan	San Jose CA	2/5/2016
James Whitsett	Pleasant Hill CA	2/16/2016
	Sierra	
Connor Rock	Anderson CA	1/6/2016
Peter Hills	Applegate CA	1/15/2016
Darrell Cramphorn	Manteca CA	2/16/2016
	Redwood Empire	
Bert Campton	Ereuka CA	2/5/2016
Danielle Foster	Santa Rosa CA	2/11/2016
Wayne Monger	Suisun City CA	2/16/2016

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Daylight Meet Set for May 21

by Doug Wagner

The next Daylight Division meet will be Saturday, May 21, at the Beale Branch of the Kern County Library, located in beautiful downtown Bakersfield, right next to the Amtrak Station.

We have one clinic lined up, so far, with Master Model Railroader, Ed Hall, of Henderson, Nevada, presenting a clinic on proper airbrushing techniques for model railroading.

I'm still working on lining up a couple of more clinics, so if you are interested, please shoot me back an email.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM.

And for layout tours, you've read all about it in the Daylight Division's Newsletter, the Observation, Doug Wagner's N scale layout will be open--the first time---for a Daylight

Division meet layout tour. That is incentive enough for me to get my room presentable. Also open for the tour, will be Central California's largest model railroad layout, the Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society's HO & N scale layouts, located at GEHAMS clubhouse, in beautiful downtown Bakersfield.

More info to come as it becomes available, so stay tuned to this station.

[Via e-mail to Daylight Group, 3-15.] 🚂



RED REPORT, 3-16

by Verne Alexander, Designated Keyboard Knocker

The Napa Valley club hosted our February meeting. They offered the RED members the opportunity to run their club equipment, or to bring something of their own that conformed to NMRA standards. The subsequent sights included Steve Lewis' spiffy little steam Newfie Flyer, and my own GN Northern in Glacier

paint pulling the club's rendition of the Wine Train. That was a lot of color, not necessarily compatible, running down the rails, but the hybrid locomotive is equipped with a smoke system synchronized with the exhaust beat and it looked really impressive.

The Show and Tell portion of our formal meeting had but three presenters, but each was most interesting in its own way. Ed Merrin took us through the process of recreating on his HO layout the wharf area of Petaluma in 1958. The Petaluma and Santa Rosa Railroad had trackage along this wharf, trackage which is still there today (and being considered

for restoration as the foundation for a trolley operation between downtown Petaluma and the Outlet Mall northwest of town). Ed's presentation was almost a clinic, taking us through the search for historical photographs, noting the differences in the buildings with the passage of time and explaining the methods used to model the buildings themselves. Dave Turner took us through the process of reworking and repainting an HO model of a Southern Pacific TW-12, a locomotive with which he had a connection in his early years. Then former Director and current Tall Guy Dave Croshere took us through his experiences building models



that led him to construct a modeling stand that would bring his work on his bench up to eye level, and which afforded features (such as a clamping area) that the plain old box that he and so many of us have been using does not. It is a clever design, and looks as good as Dave's prize winning models do.

The main program was presented by club member Steve Passmore. Steve took us through the history of the control systems used by the club. He

recalled the early DC days, in which large, noisy relays and other equipment made surplus by the Telephone Company played a large role. He noted how parts for this equipment were no longer available. He then chronicled the club's decision to add DCC control, while retaining the option of using DC. He noted that the club had chosen Digitrax over NCE, and there was an inference that this may not have been the best choice. The layout could be run on DC, or DCC, but not both at the same time. He then talked about the perceived need to rewire the Nelson yard, and how retaining the DC option would make this process very

difficult. He said that the issue was put to a vote, and that the outcome of the vote was the exclusion of the DC option on a permanent basis. The club is now DCC only. A walk around the layout revealed some impressive new scenery and structures.

The 2018 PCR Convention will be hosted by the RED. Under the guiding hand of Director Dave (Croschere) we have been making plans over the last few months. Most of the lead personnel positions have been filled, by very willing people, and negotiations for a venue are in their final stages. We think we are going to give you a good show! 🚂



Sierra Division Report – February 2016

by Chip Meriam, Editor, Sierra Division Short Line

Approximately 30 members attended the Sierra Division Winter Meet on Saturday, February 13, in Sacramento. The meeting ran from 10:00AM until 3:00 PM with a short break for lunch.

Jim Dieckman was on hand to report on the success of the 2015 International Rail Fair that was held in November in Roseville and Scott

McAlister provided several updates on the upcoming PCR convention, Taking it to The Streets, slated for this

coming April in Modesto. The Sierra Division should be well represented at the convention with several volunteers. Our own Chip Meriam will be presenting a workshop about simulating stucco siding on a 1929 era pumping station.

Tom Van Horn spoke about his



experience in the NMRA and his desire to represent the Sierra Division as

Director. Tom's name did not make it on to the ballot, but he is available as a write-in.

Continued on Page 18



Chip Meriam will present a clinic at the Modesto Convention April-May-June 2016

Sierra Division (Cont.)



Jim Zeek provided an illustrated history of Placerville and the rail lines that served it in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



Klaus Keil gave another superb talk on the United States Army

Transportation Corps activities in the European Theatre during World War II.

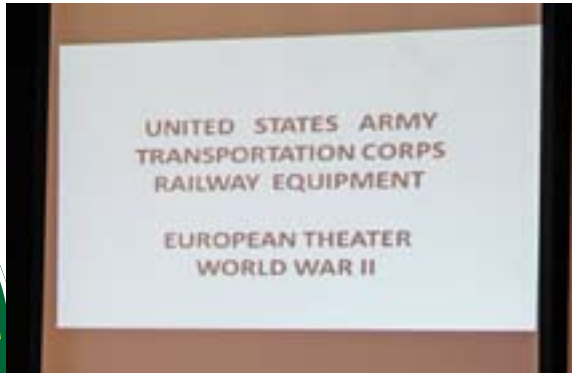
The winter contests were prototype photos – any rail subject, and modeling - freight cars

The photo contest winners were Walt Schedler, 1st place; Gary Ray and Tom Van Horn, 2nd

place; and Ken Martin, Walt Schedler, Jim Collins, 3rd place



1st, Photo - Walt Schedler



Klaus Keil sets up his display of USATC equipment



2nd, Photo - Gary Ray

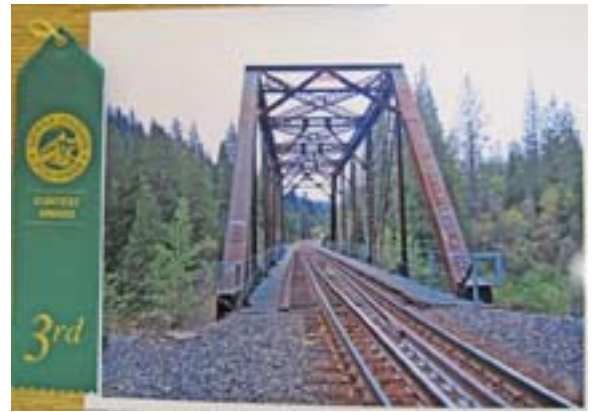


2nd, Photo - Tom Van Horn

Sierra Division (Cont.)



3rd Place Photo, Ken Martin



3rd Place Photo, Walt Schedler (photo 5326)

The modeling contest winners were David Adams, 1st place; Ken Martin and Judson Reeves 2nd place; and Dick Witzens, 3rd place. The next Sierra Division event is scheduled for May 7th. The fun starts at 9:30AM at the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society clubhouse, where we can enjoy a morning operating session. Once again, the Sacramento club will have lunch available for a nominal charge. After lunch, the meeting will move to First Christian Church on Folsom Blvd.



3rd Place Photo, Jim Collins (photo 5324).



Contests for the May event will be modeling – diesels, and photography – layout scene or diorama (modeling and photography must be your own). 🚂



1st Place Model, David Adams



2nd Place Model, Ken Martin



2nd Place Model, Judson Reeves



3rd, Place Model, Dick Witzens

Gene Mayer, Past PCR President Passes

By Dave Connery, MMR, PCR Historian

Model railroading has lost a strong supporter and active participant with the passing of Louis E. "Gene" Mayer on March 6, 2016. Gene died peacefully from complications from his long battle with Diabetes. He was 80. Gene was a lifelong model railroader and a member of the NMRA and PCR for nearly 60 years. During those many years in this organization Gene touched the lives of thousands of others in the hobby while serving in nearly every



leadership capacity in the organization. Gene was a tireless promoter of the Sierra Division, Pacific Coast Region and the NMRA and was a dependable worker in so many ways.

Gene served as PCR President from 2003 until 2007 and as PCR Vice-president for four years before that. He served on the PCR Board of Directors from 1982 through 1986, a time of considerable turmoil in PCR when the region divided and PSR was established as a separate Region. Gene served Sierra Division as Superintendent in the 1990's and as Chief Clerk and Paymaster for over a decade. Gene was Chairman of the 1986 PCR Convention held in Grass Valley and the very successful

1991 PCR Convention held in Sacramento. In addition, he served on at least six other PCR Convention Committees.

Gene was the Branch Line reporter for Sierra Division for ten years and served on a number of Sierra Division and PCR committees. Gene was also a long-time and dedicated supporter of International Railfair and an active member of the Sacramento Modular Railroaders.

He also had an HO home layout, the Freeborn & Western. Gene was often listed among the winners in the Freight Car category at PCR Contests and was known for his freight car loads, especially hopper loads, a topic he gave clinics on at Division, Region and National events.

Gene received the PCR Presidents Award in 1987 and the prodigious John Allen Award in 1991. Gene and his wonderful wife Mary were fixtures at model railroad events, with Mary providing extra help for Gene in recent years when he was confined to a wheel chair for periods.

Gene will be greatly missed by the organization, but most especially by his many friends. Gene was always a voice of reason in times of controversy and his calming influence will be missed by all. 🚗

Gene received the PCR Presidents Award in 1987 and the prodigious John Allen Award in 1991. Gene and his wonderful wife Mary were fixtures at model railroad events, with Mary providing extra help for Gene in recent years when he was confined to a wheel chair for periods.

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 4 2 3 - 8 9 2 - 2 8 4 6

The Answers Are Out There:

What the Future Holds, Part 2

By Robert Pethoud, Chairman, Member Aid, Daylight Division

Model railroading's future "is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you're going to get." Yet, despite our dismal record at prognostication, humans are obsessed with what might happen next year or next decade, and it's only prudent to prepare for the worst while hoping for the best. In my last column I laid out some pretty sobering statistics showing that model railroading's popularity in the U.S. is declining markedly, both as a percent of population and in actual numbers. The average ages of readers of *Model Railroader* and members of NMRA increase each day, while the proportion of teenagers in the hobby (20% in the 1960s, 6% by 1984) approaches zero. It's true that today the quality and variety of products available to the scale model railroader is greater than ever before; but it's also true that if the number of hobbyists shrinks below some threshold level, that will rapidly change, and not for the better.

However, the situation is much more complex than a simple line with a negative slope, pointing toward oblivion. The dreary stats from the United States may not be replicated other places; model railroading appears to be thriving in Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. At the recent NMRA convention in Portland I noticed many modelers from Australia and New Zealand (by one account 32 attendees flew in from those two nations) and our NMRA president, Charlie Getz, who recently returned from a trip to China, reported that some 250,000 Chinese citizens are active model railroaders. I regularly pick up a couple of monthly model railroad publications from the U.K. and I'm always impressed with the high quality of the modeling work and the apparent vibrancy of the hobby in that tiny island nation.

One thing I've noticed about the U.K. hobby magazines is a major emphasis on passenger trains. I can't help speculating that there would be significantly greater enthusiasm about model trains in the United

States if passenger rail travel here more closely resembled what is found in Europe and Asia. As it is, few Americans ever encounter trains, aside from the occasional annoying delay at a grade crossing. Perhaps building up high speed rail service in the U.S. will lead to model railroad dividends in the long term.

Beyond supporting HSR, I recommend promoting our wonderful hobby more directly. No one is more capable and qualified to do that promotion than we model railroaders are. I submit that our first steps are to decide who our target audience will be and then to choose effective ways to reach out to them. Here are some of my thoughts about potential audiences:

Children are the most commonly suggested subjects, perhaps with the idea that after they grow up, good memories will draw them into the hobby. Youngsters certainly gravitate to miniature models and are more willing than their elders to try unfamiliar things. Two problems with this idea are (1) young children can't get involved without parental support and (2) it's not clear that early experience with Thomas the Tank Engine or Brio trains will lead to a mature interest in scale model railroading.

Young married couples can perhaps be persuaded to take up a hobby which they can share with each other and with a growing family. An obstacle we've seen, especially in today's economy, is that many young adults have neither time nor financial resources for such endeavors.

Retirees have not often been suggested as a group to target. After all, bringing in more 70-year-olds will not lower the average age of NMRA members. But think about it: many retirees cast about desperately for something enjoyable to do with themselves after they've stopped working for a living. And who more than retirees have the time and disposable income to devote to a hobby? Moreover, they are likely to share their new-found interest with their children (the young married couples) and grandchildren.

Women have made remarkable strides in our hobby. We have female master model

Model railroading appears to be thriving in Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

Continued on Page 22

April-May-June 2016

railroaders and the current editor of NMRA Magazine is a woman, Cynthia Priest. In the mid-1970s, my wife, Sylvia, was one of the few female members of PCR's Daylight Division. For at least the last decade, however, we have seen a marked increase the number of women who participate in NMRA's divisional and regional activities.

From all of these considerations I conclude that we need to try to appeal to all ages and sexes, but with a special emphasis on retired folks and women. Next, we need to think about how to frame this appeal. I do **not** propose that we take on time-consuming advertising and education chores in addition to whatever hours we spend building and running trains. Instead, I suggest that we make what we already do more visible to a wider audience. Several years ago, Gary Saxton, a Daylight Division member, organized an annual public open house for home layouts in the Fresno area. This has been a popular and successful recurring event. George Pisching put together a one-day model railroad display at a local branch of the Fresno County Library. Several modelers in the area participated and we sparked much interest in trains. We've all

built models of locomotives, rolling stock, and structures: how about displaying them someplace and explaining or demonstrating how you designed, built, finished, and/or weathered them? The basic idea is to get out there and show what you do in the hobby, perhaps alongside some other hobbyists from your club or division. Of course, you need to have a venue in which to display your work. Where might that be? How about train shows, county fairs, libraries, churches, craft fairs, malls, and schools; basically, anywhere people gather. Maybe you could invite some acquaintances who are not in the hobby to observe your next operating session. Perhaps you could create a website, a blog, or a video clip to post on YouTube. Let your imagination guide you into the future.

The bottom line is that I don't know what the future holds: will the model railroad chocolate of 2035 have a strawberry cream or a garlic jalapeno center? Who can say? All I know is that I plan to plant a bunch of strawberries. Who is with me?

Until next time, you can reach me at pethoud@comcast.net 📧

The Answers Are Out There:

Placing Industries on a Shelf Layout by Robert Pethoud, Chairman, Member Aid, Daylight Division

Most industries served by model railroads are more believable when they dwarf the freight cars which are spotted at them for loading and unloading. Face it: a model of a box factory or woolen mill accommodating a single boxcar is just not convincing. On the other hand, we model railroaders almost never have enough space to put in an industry built to scale size. This was the quandary I faced as I designed Fall Creek Branch, intended to be a portable, stand-alone, switching layout. I needed (well, wanted very badly) to fit nine busy and realistic-looking industries, along with all the track serving them, into a space 15 inches wide and 8 feet long. Did I mention it

was to be HO scale?

The solution I came up with was to situate the main line 10 inches back from the front fascia. This allowed me to put complete buildings in front of the main and still have room at the back for minimum-depth structures against the 18-inch tall, painted hardboard backdrop. Two spurs in front of the main track



Continued on Page 23

Most industries served by model railroads are more believable when they dwarf the freight cars which are spotted at them for loading and unloading.

I implore you not to make do with a tiny brewery or minuscule refinery when you can build an enormous one easily, inexpensively, and relatively quickly.

serve five industries which were carefully chosen to be generally low and/or see-through. Only a two-story hardware store blocks the operator's view of the track behind. Moreover, except for the hardware store, these rail customers are basically transfer points where trucks bring merchandise to be shipped or where they haul merchandise away and thus can legitimately be both busy and small in size.

Two more spurs behind the main line serve four industries with much larger footprints: a furniture factory, a grain elevator complex, a cannery, and a sash and door mill. They are modeled by seven mostly tall buildings, each only a few inches deep. Each of these four rail customers takes between three and five car lengths of spur track and, by standing several stories high, appears massive enough to require frequent rail service.

The photo of Fall Creek Co-Op shows this complex of three low-relief structures as seen through and over the Klamath Fruit loading shed. The Co-Op consists of the front halves of Walthers #3036 Farmers Cooperative Grain Elevator (and storage building) and Campbell #449 Grain Storage Bin. Klamath Fruit is a mashup of Northeastern #40020 Transfer Station and BTS #27800 Covered Wood Rick.

The photo of the west end of Fall Creek shows the sash and door mill—the large red building with three gabled dormer windows and adjoining boiler house at the far left, both built from scratch—against the backdrop. In front of these imposing (half-) structures is the busy team track area, featuring an end-loading ramp, transfer platform, and bridge crane (from Walthers



#4048 Piggyback Ramps). None of these latter features hide or restrict access to the tracks and buildings behind.

Not shown in the photos is the east end of Fall Creek, where a spur at the front serves an oil distributor and a cattle pen with loading ramp. Neither of these industries interferes with an operator's view of or access to the three-story tall American Furniture Factory (Blair Line #192 Warehouse Backdrop Building) situated behind them against the backdrop.

Most of us model railroaders need huge industries to ship and receive the loads in those scores of freight cars we pick up and set out every time we run trains. I implore you not to make do with a tiny brewery or minuscule refinery when you can build an enormous one easily, inexpensively, and relatively quickly. Don't settle for a paper mill or automotive assembly plant the size of a large boxcar when you can instead build one the size of a small city. You just have to remember to situate the bulk of it on the far side of your backdrop!

Until next time, contact me with comments and questions at pethoud@comcast.net 🚚

Inside the Iron Horse Contest Room

Call for judges (veterans and newbies alike)

By Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Chairman,
PCR Contest Department

Part of our “**Modesto, Taking it to the Streets**” **Convention Contest** involves actually judging models, whether they’d be rolling stock, structures, dioramas, modules, photos and arts & crafts. To accomplish this we need a certain number of judges so no one is overworked and the process of judging can be accomplished smoothly and timely.

I am extending an invitation to anyone interested in helping with judging. Some of you have judged before and we welcome you back. Some of you have thought about judging but circumstances have not allowed you to, while for some, the anxiety of not meeting believed, yet unrealistic expectations could have aborted your plans. Some of you might not have given it a thought until now, not until you were faced with my plea on this very column.

Look, let me explain judging in simple terms: groups of three people are assigned to judge one category only through the entire contest; each judge follows a very simple script, called a matrix, arrives at a conclusion as to the points to be awarded the model based on that same matrix, compares the number with the other two judges and the three of them arrive at a final score. How scary is that?

To make it fair to the contestants, judges will be given a short introduction to the do’s and don’ts of judging so that everyone judging will have a basic training. I will let judges know well in advance the date/time/place; historically it will be held informally in a meeting room at the Convention the evening before Contest judging.

Now, to the positives about judging:

If you have entered models or intend to enter models, this is a great way to find out how you can become a better modeler by learning what the judges require in order to

score higher on the matrix. It makes sense, no? As a judge you will soon learn that if this detail had been added, if that change had been done on the model or if that explanation was given in the paperwork you would have been able to score the model with higher points. Knowing that, does it not follow that when you work on a model yourself or do the contest write up for your model, you will indeed make sure those areas are covered? Point made!

You will earn volunteer points toward AP (Achievement Program) and eventually MMR (Master Model Railroader) by earning Merit Awards in Contest thanks to the lessons you learned as a judge.

You will be offered a free lunch as a thank you. I am told these lunches are very nice affairs!

You will be given a ribbon to wear on your Convention name badge that will distinguish you as a model contest judge and volunteer.

You will forge new friendships by working closely with other judges and I will guarantee this: you will want to be part of judging again and again.

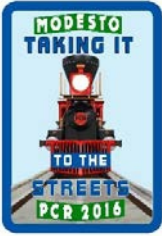
The negatives about judging:

As much as I bash my brain, I cannot come up with any! Geez! Dahh!

I wish I could exhort anyone even thinking on judging to drop me a line stating their intent- it is not carved in stone and no, I will not arrange to have a dead horse’s head on your pillow if you do not follow through with your promise (that is Mafia style, not MY style. But I am reminded: Giuseppe, you are Italian! Hum). Seriously, send an e-mail to me: Giuseaymar@aol.com or call/leave a message at 707-291-0701. Hope to hear from you soon. Thank you in advance to all those who will donate their time and energy to this wonderful endeavor. 🚂



I am extending an invitation to anyone interested in helping with judging.



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

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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	
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Normal FRRS Registration (after Jan 31, 2016)			99.00	
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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	
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Join FRRS (reduced rates for convention)	Active membership		25.00	
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	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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Calendar

2016 Events

April 2 & 3 - Saturday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Spring Train Show and Open House, South Bay Historical Railroad Society, Santa Clara Caltrain Station, Santa Clara, CA. (408) 243-3969. Admission: \$5 all persons 18 and over. Two museum-quality model railroad displays, running multiple trains (HO- and N-scale). Enjoy our museum of real railroad artifacts. The historic Santa Clara tower is a great place to spot a real train whiz by. Come view the 1912 Pullman business car and imagine 1st class travel back in the day! Check out our used items for sale at the Company Store. Live Blue Grass music by Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association on Saturday from 12:00 - 3:00 pm. Come on by and talk railroading with fellow railfans and SBHRS members. Come see one of the best railroad libraries in Northern California. All-Day Lunch Counter.

April 2 & 3 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Spring Train Show, Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. Fares: Adults: \$3.00, Seniors (60+): \$2.00, Children (6-12): \$2.00 Children under 6: Free. Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com

April 9 & 10 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Train Show, Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club, West Park Gymnasium at the Tehachapi Recreation and Park District, 410 West "D" Street (off Mill Street), Tehachapi, CA.

April 9 & 10 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, San Leandro Historical Railway Society, Spring Open House & Train Show, 1302 Orchard Ave (in Thrasher Park), San Leandro, CA. Admission is Free; Donations Appreciated! 4,000+ feet of indoor HO Scale Track modeling the Overland Route from San Leandro, CA to Sparks, NV G&O Garden Railway with interactive Children's Display, Bake Sale & Porch Sale, Photo Souvenirs of the Kids. Info: info@slhrs.org

April 9 & 10 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Spring Train Show, Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. Fares: Adults: \$3.00, Seniors (60+): \$2.00, Children (6-12): \$2.00 Children under 6: Free. Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com

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: frank@frankmarkovich.com, Phone: (408) 505-2727.

April 17 - 9 am, Sierra Seminar, Jamestown Hope Center, 10365 9th Street, Jamestown, CA. \$20 at door (\$15 in 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.

Continued on Page 28

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

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

April 30 & May 1 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Railfest 2016, Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society, at Fillmore & Western Railway, 364 Main Street (2 blks north of Hiway 126), Fillmore, CA. Free admission. Train rides not included, see the [Fillmore & Western Railway website](#) to make reservations.

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 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Daylight Division Spring Meet, Beale Branch, Kern County Library, 701 Truxtun Avenue (Next to the Amtrak Station), Bakersfield, 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 (well, WE know about it!), and outside activities. Please note the later-than-usual start time of **10:00 AM**. Clinics start at **10:30-ish AM**. Registration fee: NMRA: \$4.00; Non-NMRA: \$5.00. **Contest Categories:** Model: Steam Locomotive, Traction and self-propelled cars, Photo: Trains in Action.

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) **Driving:** Exit Davis Street from Highway 880, 0.6 mi east to 1001 Davis on right. **BART:** Exit San Leandro Station, walk 0.3 mi west on Davis St to SW corner of Davis at Orchard Ave, across from Thrasher Park. 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 11 & 12 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Tri-City Society of Model Engineers, 37592 Niles Boulevard in Fremont, CA, at the Niles Town Plaza. The N and HO scale layouts will be open and anyone interested is encouraged to bring DCC equipped trains to run. In addition the Historic Niles Depot museum will also be open.

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 22 - 25 - Daylight Express 2016, Lone Star Region NMRA 2016 Convention, Sheraton Arlington Hotel & Convention Center, 1500 Convention Center Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011. Tour of GE locomotive plant and tour of Grapevine Vintage RR roundhouse, • Charlie Getz, NMRA President, will be the banquet keynote speaker. Evening rail fan mixer featuring Texas BBQ catered by a World Famous BBQ Pitmaster at Saginaw Train Depot. Over 50 clinics including several by Miles Hale, MMR and National Spokesman for Woodland Scenics.

Continued on Page 29

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

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 16 & 17 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, San Leandro Historical Railway Society, Summer Open House & Train Show, 1302 Orchard Ave (in Thrasher Park), San Leandro, CA. Admission is Free; Donations Appreciated! 4,000+ feet of indoor HO Scale Track modeling the Overland Route from San Leandro, CA to Sparks, NV G&O Garden Railway with interactive Children's Display, Bake Sale & Porch Sale, Photo Souvenirs of the Kids. Info: info@slhrs.org.

July 23-24 - California, San Carlos- European Train Enthusiasts (<http://ww.ete.org>) EuroWest XX at Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos Airport. Layouts, clinics, vendors, raffle. Admission (<http://www.hiller.org>) includes Air Museum and free parking. Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4. 601 Skyway Rd. San Carlos 94070. Contact Jens Ullmann: eurowest@ete.org.

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 13 & 14 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Train Show, Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club, West Park Gymnasium at the Tehachapi Recreation and Park District, 410 West "D" Street (off Mill Street), Tehachapi, 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.

September 18 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Coast Division Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. **From the North:** Take Highway 880 south. Take exit #39B/23rd Avenue/Alameda onto Kennedy St. Turn right onto 23rd Avenue, then bear right onto 29th, which becomes Park. Turn right on Santa Clara. **From the South:** Take Highway 880 North. Take Exit 38, High St. Turn left on High St. Bear right on Gibbons. Turn right on Santa Clara. The Elks Lodge is on the right. 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!

Continued on Page 30

April-May-June 2016

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

September 21-24 - LA Junction, Pacific Southwest Region 2016 Convention, DoubleTree Hotel Los Angeles - Westside, 6161 West Centinela Avenue, Culver City, California.

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 7 - 9 - Central Coast Railroad Festival, San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties, CA., Hosted by San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1940 Santa Barbara Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA.

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.

October 29 & 30 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Fall Train Show, Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. Fares: Adults: \$3.00, Seniors (60+): \$2.00, Children (6-12): \$2.00 Children under 6: Free. Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com.

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 5 & 6 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Fall Train Show, Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. Fares: Adults: \$3.00, Seniors (60+): \$2.00, Children (6-12): \$2.00 Children under 6: Free. Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com.

November 5 & 6 - Saturday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Fall Train Show and Open House, South Bay Historical Railroad Society, Santa Clara Caltrain Station, Santa Clara, CA. (408) 243-3969. Admission: \$5 all persons 18 and over. Two museum-quality model railroad displays, running multiple trains (HO- and N-scale). Enjoy our museum of real railroad artifacts. The historic Santa Clara tower is a great place to spot a real train whiz by. Come view the 1912 Pullman business car and imagine 1st class travel back in the day! Check out our used items for sale at the Company Store. Live Blue Grass music by Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association on Saturday from 12:00 - 3:00 pm. Come on by and talk railroading with fellow railfans and SBHRS members. Come see one of the best railroad libraries in Northern California. All-Day Lunch Counter.

November 12 & 13 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, 40th Annual International Railfair Model Railroad Show, Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All American City Blvd, Roseville, CA. Co-sponsored by PCR Sierra Division. Vendor Coordinator, Bob Warner, at bkwarner51@comcast.net.

November 12 & 13 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Train Show, Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club, West Park Gymnasium at the Tehachapi Recreation and Park District, 410 West "D" Street (off Mill Street), Tehachapi, CA.

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

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 19 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Daylight Division Fall Meet, Oceano Depot, 1650 Front St, Oceano, CA. We hope you can join us for a fun-filled day of activities, including clinics, model and photo contests, layout tours, and the obligatory quarterly Daylight Division business meeting, followed by door prize drawings, our "World Famous" Daylight White Elephant Auction (well, WE know about it!), and outside activities. Clinics start at 10:00 AM: Registration fee: NMRA: \$4.00; Non-NMRA guests: \$5.00. Contest Categories: Model: Passenger Car, Photo: Model Color.

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) **Driving:** Exit Davis Street from Highway 880, 0.6 mi east to 1001 Davis on right. **BART:** Exit San Leandro Station, walk 0.3 mi west on Davis St to SW corner of Davis at Orchard Ave, across from Thrasher Park. 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.

December 10 & 11 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, San Leandro Historical Railway Society, Winter Open House & Train Show, 1302 Orchard Ave (in Thrasher Park), San Leandro, CA. Admission is Free; Donations Appreciated! 4,000+ feet of indoor HO Scale Track modeling the Overland Route from San Leandro, CA to Sparks, NV G&O Garden Railway with interactive Children's Display, Bake Sale & Porch Sale, Photo Souvenirs of the Kids. Info: info@slhrs.org.

2017 and Beyond 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.

August 30 - September 2, 2017 - 37th Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention, Denver, Colorado.

July 30 - August 6, 2017 - NMRA Convention Orlando, FL.

August 5 - 12, 2018 - NMRA Convention, Kansas City, MO.

July 7 - 14, 2019 - NMRA Convention, Salt Lake City, UT. 

Convention Layout Tours Adding More Daily

Taken from the Convention Web Site
Scott Inman, Layout Tours Chairman

There are currently 4 layouts open for self-guided tours during three of the days, so far. More information will be available at a later date. Here are the layouts that are currently planned: [as of 1-21-16]

Owner: Steve Cavanaugh
Name of Railroad: Western Pacific Third Subdivision
Scale: HO

Owner: Tom Milam
Name of Railroad: Wolf Creek Railway of California
Scale: HO

Owner: John Zack
Name of Railroad: Sierra RR and Westside Lumber Co
Scale: HO, Hon3

Owner: Dave Stanley
Name of Railroad: Morada Belt
Scale: HO 🚂

For more photos and the latest information on layout tours see the convention Web site.



Cavanaugh - Oroville Yard Office



Cavanaugh - Keddie Wye



Milam - Wolf Creek Railway of California - circa 1927



Milam - Snake Pit Charity Mine

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.

Continued on Page 34

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

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

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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
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553