



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



The 2019 PCR Convention, in concert with the Feather Rive Rail Society, is but a month away! Indeed, the convention officially begins on Thursday morning, May 2, at the McClellan Convention Center in Sacramento. We will have a registration table set up at the hotel Wednesday afternoon and evening, May 1 for early arrivals.

The Diamond Rail Forever committee has compiled a variety of clinics, model railroad tours, operating sessions, and visits to prototype facilities. They have even thrown in a few non-railroad related tours that promise to be of interest to everyone.

The Feather River Rail Society, with their primary focus on the history of the Western Pacific Railroad, also has a slate of clinics and other activities that coordinate well with the NMRA. We urge everyone to take part in all that is being offered during this joint convention.

Following is a summary schedule of events, a list of special tours, links to various pages on the convention website, and information about the contests and clinics. Please continue reading on page 4.

We look forward to seeing you in Sacramento!

Continued on page 4



USPS 870-060
ISSN 07449774
Volume 76 Number 2
Apr-Jun 2019

PCR Call Board

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The Branch Line
The Official Publication of the
Pacific Coast Region/ National
Model Railroad Association

Vol. 76, No. 2 2nd Qtr, 2019

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 website, www.pcnmra.org.

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STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Branch Line (USPS 870060, ISSN 07449771), is issued four times a year in the months of January, April, July and October. Deadline for all materials is the first of the month preceding publication. No material will be returned unless requested and sufficient postage is provided. Membership in the PCR is included in NMRA dues. A subscription to the BRANCH LINE is \$8.00.

The BRANCH LINE is published by the Pacific Coast Region, 530 Fig Tree Lane, Martinez, CA 94553.

Periodical Postage paid at Martinez, CA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to - BRANCH LINE, 1915 William Drive, Penngrove, CA 94951.

All comments about materials contained in the BRANCH LINE should be mailed directly to the PCR Publications Manager, 1915 William Drive, Penngrove, CA 94951.

Inquiries regarding membership application, renewal, or change of address should be directed to the NMRA, P.O. Box 1328 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328.

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PCR Membership Tracker

<u>Division</u>	<u># Members</u>
Coast	411
Sierra	270
Redwood Empire	139
Daylight	<u>111</u>
Total PCR Members	931

continued from Page 1

“QwikLook” Master Schedule

NOTE: Traditional lunch and dinner breaks not shown.

All times are estimates only. Check back often for more accurate times.

WEDNESDAY, May 1

12:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Registration Desk open (Ballroom Foyer at Lion’s Gate Hotel)

THURSDAY, May 2

8:30 AM – 6:00 PM – Registration Desk open

8:30 AM – 8:00 PM – Contest Room open

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM – Non-Rail Hospitality Room open

8:30 AM – 10:00 PM – Clinics

8:30 AM – 9:00 PM – Vendor Room open

6:30 PM – 10:00 PM – Operating Sessions (Rocklin & Morada)

FRIDAY, May 3

8:30 AM – 6:00 PM – Registration Desk open

8:30 AM – 8:00 PM – Contest Room open

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM – Non-Rail Hospitality Room open

8:30 AM – 10:00 PM – Clinics

8:30 AM – 9:00 PM – Vendor Room open

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM – Non-Rail Lunch

1:00 PM – 10:00 PM – Operating Sessions (Auburn, Morada, & Sac.)

SATURDAY, May 4

6:30 AM – 8:30 AM – Hobo Breakfast

8:30 AM – Competition – Contest Room closed for Judging

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM – Registration Desk open

8:30 AM – 4:00 PM – Vendor Room open

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM – Clinics

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Non-Rail Hospitality Room open

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Operating Sessions (Colusa & Sacramento)

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM – Pickup Contest Entries, AFTER judging is completed;
also after Banquet

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM – Social Hour

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Banquet & Awards Presentation - Speaker, Charlie Getz

9:00 PM – 10:00 PM – Pickup ALL Contest Entries by 10:30 PM

SUNDAY, May 5

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM – PCR Breakfast

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – PCR Membership Meeting



Continued on page 5

SPECIAL TOURS

Below is a list of the tours with basic info. More detailed information is available at the website (<http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/prototype-tours>) Tickets will go on sale Monday Night, March 25, starting at 6:30pm at the Company Store (<http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/company-store>). At this late date, they will not be added to the registration forms.

Thursday

- California Aerospace Museum; 10-20 seats; \$8; no bus, self-drive; tour starts at 10:30am at the museum – 2 hour tour.
- Capital Public Radio; 12 seats; \$25; tour starts at 9:30am – 1 hour tour
- Siemens Factory; 24 seats; \$35; tour starts at 10:00am – 2 hour tour. Single bus will leave with both CPR and Siemens tours, drop off CPR then go to Siemens. Siemens tour **requires** steel-toed shoes and these are not supplied by Siemens.

Friday

- California Archives; 20 seats; \$25; tour starts at 1:00pm – 1.5 hour tour.
- HackerLab Rocklin; 16 seats; \$25; tour starts at 12 noon – 1.5 hour tour.
- Dinner/Mystery Train; 4 seats purchased currently though more can sign up; \$100; no bus, self-drive; starts at 6:30pm, 2.5 hour trip. Choice of Beef, Chicken, or Vegetable for the meal.

Saturday

- River Train (afternoon); 15 seats purchased currently (to obtain discount) though more can sign up; \$80; train leaves at 11:30am, 2.5 hour trip. Choice of Ham, Turkey, or Vegetable sandwiches for the meal.
- CSRM Museum Tour with docent; 12 seats; \$37 includes bus; tour starts at 12 noon, 2 hour tour.

Sunday

- El Dorado Western Museum offers speeder rides for \$8 at noon, 1pm, and 2pm. We are recommending these but not selling tickets. There will be a special convention attendees only speeder ride available for 3pm which we are selling tickets for at the same \$8 price.

LINKS TO CONVENTION WEBSITE

HOME PAGE <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/>

CLINICS <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/clinics>

LAYOUT TOURS <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/layout-tours-op-sessions>

OP SESSIONS <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/operating-sessions>

OP SESSION PREFERENCES <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/op-sessions-preferences>

PROTOTYPE AND SPECIAL TOURS <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/prototype-tours>

CONTESTS <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/contests>

NON RAIL <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/non-rails>

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CONTESTS

Contest Room Schedule:

Thursday Contest Drop Off /Open 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM

Friday Open 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM

Saturday Judging 8:30 AM until close

Entry Pickup Saturday 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

(if judging is complete)

Deadline to pickup entries on Sat 9:00 PM to 10:30 PM

Judges Wanted. Judging takes place on Saturday with lunch provided for the judges.

We need you!

Contact Contest Chair, Chip Meriam

chipmeriam@comcast.net

Contest Entry Pickup:

Contest entries may be picked up from the Contest Room after judging is completed Saturday or 3:00–4:30 PM and after the Awards Banquet, but no later than 10:30 PM. Abandoned entries may be given away as door prizes during Sunday's Business Meeting.

Contest Forms:

Every entry requires at least one form to be entered in all Contests. Models and modules to be judged also need the appropriate judge's score sheet.

All of the required contest forms may be downloaded from the PCR website.

Contests:

Model Contest- The model contest has five classes (Open, Kit, Novice, Teen, Youth) in the following categories: Steam Locomotive, Diesel and Other Locomotive, Passenger Car, Freight Car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way, Structures, Displays, and Traction & Self-Propelled Cars.

Module Contest- Modules may be entered in one of two categories, Individual Module and Group Module

Photo Contest- Photos may be entered in the following categories: Model Black & White, Trains in Action, Track and Structures, Working on the Railroad, General Rail Subjects, Display, Special Event.

Arts & Crafts Contest- The contest categories will be: General, Kit Built, Original, Railroadiana, Kit Built (Railroad Motif), Pattern, Original (Railroad Motif)

Popular Vote Contest- All registered convention attendees will receive a ballot form in their registration pack-et and will be eligible to participate in the Popular Vote Contest. All contest models, photographs, trains, craft items and Showcase display-only items are eligible for the popular vote and will be identified with a numbered tag for this purpose.

Switching Contest- All registered convention attendees will be eligible to compete in the Switching Contest. This will require the entrant to reposition cars on a typical "Timesaver" switching layout. Two aspects of this contest will be completing the switching problem with 1) the fewest number of moves and 2) in the least time.

Ingenuity and Levity Contest- All registered convention attendees will be eligible to participate in this contest. The Contest Chairman will make one award each for ingenuity and levity incorporated in any entry in any of the above contest categories. These awards will be made at the discretion of the Chairman.

Showcase Display Only- This is a non-competitive event for models, modules, photos, and arts & crafts. Entries may be complete or in process. Entries may be submitted in the following categories: Models, Photos, Train, Arts & Crafts.

See the convention website for additional information, rules, and restrictions.

If you haven't already done so, complete your registration by going to the Registration page on the convention website or use the mail in form on page 11.

SPECIAL NOTE

LION'S GATE HOTEL ROOMS ARE SOLD OUT

Nearby hotels include:

Crown Plaza Hotel; 2.2 miles from Conference Center; [Reservations](#)

Holiday Inn Express; 4 miles from Conference Center; [Reservations](#)

Hampton Inn and Suites; 10 miles from Conference Center; [Reservations](#)

The Lion's Gate offers a free breakfast for all convention attendees including those staying at a different hotel. Just show your convention badge to receive the free breakfast.

Continued on page 7

Convention Cars

Kadee has produced two beautiful Tidewater Southern cars with the famous Cornucopia logo as a limited run of which we have ordered 150 of #519 and 75 of #501. Kadee produced this car previously as #516 but it is out of stock with them and most distributors.

If you check Kadee's future cars page, you see that #501 will be available in limited quantities in April. However, #519 is listed nowhere so this is exclusive to us! Due to the quantities ordered, they are available as a single car (#519) or the set (501 and 519). A single car costs only \$35 and the set is only \$68. Since Kadee's recommended retail price is \$40.95, this provides excellent savings as well.

Don't miss out on your chance to own two exceptional cars, one of which it appears will only be available from this convention. Order your cars today when you register at <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/registration>. If you have already registered, the cars can also be ordered separately through the Company Store <http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/company-store>



PCR is Celebrating 75 Years

The Pacific Coast Region was formed in 1944, as the first region in the NMRA. This year we are 75 years old, the first Region in the NMRA to reach this milestone. If you have any ideas on how we should celebrate this milestone please share them with the PCR Historian, Dave Connery at dconnery@sbcglobal.net. We will only be 75 once!

From the President

By Ed Merrin, President, PCR/NMRA

Farewell But Not Goodbye

Well, this is it. The grand finale, the final chapter, the season ending episode. For the very last time, after eight years and 32 issues of the Branch Line, I will be writing my featured column as an elected official of the Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association. Sixteen as Vice President and now sixteen as President. It has been quite a ride.

As you are reading this you may already be aware that the results of our recent election have been tabulated, and at the Annual Business Meeting on May 5th at the Diamond Rails Forever Convention in Sacramento a new PCR President and new PCR Vice President will be installed, allowing Carol Alexander and myself to step down from the podium and resume lives as ordinary members of PCR. Congratulations to our new President-elect, Chris Palermo, and Vice President-elect, Frank Markovich. These are two fine people who will be serving PCR in admirable fashion.

I would also like to applaud you all for your excellent participation in our second go at using the ElectionBuddy web-based service to run our election. This time around, for the members who voted on-line rather than by mail, we had a 34% participation rate, slightly less than last years 38% but still considerably higher than we had under the old system. Like last year, the mail-in ballots (there were 99 of them) were returned at a 12% rate, about what we used to get overall. Not bad, considering that we only had one candidate for each office, both of whom were overwhelmingly approved.

I strongly encourage Divisions to adopt this system as well. In fact, I will be meeting with Scott Lockhart, the RED Superintendent, to set this up for RED's May election of officers. The usual practice has been to conduct elections at the Spring meet, but only a fraction of the membership attends. Getting more people involved is important, and who knows, maybe we'll have some contested elections in the near future!

As you may (or may not) recall, way back in 2011 I did an analysis of age in the PCR membership. The purpose then was to see if there was anything to the theory that our aging wasn't a problem because we usually don't join NMRA until we're older anyway. If you want the details you can check my column in the August 2011 Branch Line. The numbers weren't perfect because our membership roster data, supplied to us monthly from National, doesn't have the date of birth for every member. Nonetheless, our average age then was 61.9 years, with a standard deviation of 11.9. I repeated the analysis two years later and the average age had jumped to 66.8 (12.4) and in 2017 to 68.8 (12.4). The median values for these groups were 62, 67, and 70 respectively, so the distributions were fairly normal (e.g., the famous bell-shaped curve).

I have just repeated this again, just to keep us up to date. Using the February membership data, there were 561 members (out of 900+) for whom we have a date of birth recorded. The

age of these 561 members ranges from 13 to 98 (two of us!); the mean is slightly up at 69.8 (12.5) as is the median at 71.

While taking a closer look at this I noted that we have 22 members in their 90s and 72 in their 80s. On the other end we have 17 members under 40. A scan of the names shows that many of our oldest members are or have been some of PCR's most experienced and dedicated leaders. Some of these folks have been guiding PCR for decades while filling one roll or another.

What does this all mean for PCR?

Let me take a stab at this. Over the next few years some newer faces will be stepping up, and they will have some different ideas on what's important and how to do things. This has to happen, obviously, or the alternative would be to dissolve in chaos.

Already there have been major changes taking place over the last few years. Email has taken over as the major way of coordinating activities and communicating. We have a Facebook page, a Twitter account, and on-line discussion group. We use a web-based email service, Constant Contact, to announce events. We are holding more events in collaboration with other groups such as railroad historical societies and other modeling groups. Our Divisions have ceased printing newsletters and instead rely on the internet for their distribution; by next fall the PCR will be doing the same with its Branch Line. We have crossed the line into web-based elections and that may become the new standard. Have I left anything out?

In other words, many of the ways we used to do things are going the way of the land based telephone line. Even though we are not getting younger, we are beginning to act younger. The influence of the younger (which I might loosely define as under 65) members is being felt and the objections to change becoming weaker.

Is this a good thing? I think so, because with it comes the future vitality and survival of our organization and our hobby. It will make us more appealing to new generations of modelers who will also bring ideas and changes to us that we have yet to imagine.

With that I will leave you with that famous magazine slogan:

“Model Railroading is Fun”

Ed Merrin

President PCR/NMRA



Thanks To A Tireless Leader

“Even though we are not getting younger, we are beginning to act younger. The influence of the younger (which I might loosely define as under 65) [PCR] members is being felt and the objections to change becoming weaker.

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“Model Railroading is Fun”

So writes Ed Merrin in his final “From the President” column (see page 8). Well it’s true, Ed, model railroading **IS** fun - and that fun is clearly displayed by folks who dedicate their efforts and a good portion of their lives serving this fascinating hobby.....as have you. So on behalf of the PCR membership and the staff here at the **Branch Line**, thank you Ed Merrin for a job well done. Much appreciated.

I, for one, am relieved and delighted by Ed’s observation that we are actually beginning to attract new, younger members. Indeed, this is the future of any organization that wishes to survive for generations to come. And leading the charge in this regard has been Ed Merrin during his years of service as our President.

When I received Ed’s final column draft I made the usual inquiries you would expect to receive upon “retirement” from a position: How did you get started in the hobby? What other volunteer positions have you held at Divisional, Regional or National? What hobby-related plans do you have from here forward?

Ed’s response to the first question was a familiar one: *“My Dad bought me some Lionel trains when I was about seven and ultimately we had an 8x8 garage layout with all kinds of accessories and lights, multiple loops for trains, and so on. When I was 12 I decided to trade it all in for HO equipment and worked on a layout (again in the garage) until high school pulled me in other directions. I reentered the hobby in the early 90s because my daughter wanted a train, so I bought her HO (sneaky, huh?).”*

Ed’s volunteer resume’ is exhaustive. He was the Chief Clerk for the Redwood Empire Division for four years, PCR Vice President for four years, and PCR President for four years. He was Publicity Chair for the 1996 PCR Convention in San Rafael, and a Contest Judge at the PCR Conventions in Redding (2002) and Santa Rosa (2011). He has presented many clinics on modeling the Northwestern Pacific at PCR Conventions, LDOPSIG meets, and historical society meetings. Ed has offered clinics on Layout Photography and was the Storekeeper for the Northwestern Pacific Historical Society. He still helps out with retail sales for NWPHS. Finally, he has



hosted Operating Sessions for PCR Conventions, BayRails and OpSIG meets.

Looking forward, Ed plans to work on his railroad and perfecting was of photographing it. (*Editor’s Note: Ed will be offering a clinic at the upcoming convention, **Layout Photography: Seeking the Look of the Prototype***)

Good luck with your future plans, Ed. We’ll see you around the PCR from time to time.

Notes on This Issue

Chris Palermo, who is the incoming PCR President, is well known to us as the author of “Innovations In Model Railroad-ing”. We’re giving Chris this issue off as he has been busy with future PCR planning, planning for the 2020 PCR Convention, and helping publicize the 2019 PCR Convention. Chris will be back with another segment of the “Innovators” for the July 2019 issue.

Recently I spent part of a weekend with Gary Ray of the Sierra Division. Gary is busy creating the Gerber Sub, a Standard Gauge HO Railroad depicting the Southern Pacific from Gerber to Dunsmuir and beyond, circa 1926. Our weekend travels took us to the High Sierra Model Railroad Club layout in Chico. Gary was quite interested in how High Sierra had modeled 3 dimensional roads blending into the 2 dimensional backdrop. Since Gary has several scenes on the Gerber Sub that would require such treatment, he made notes and proceeded to create his own such scenes. I’m happy to report that Gary agreed to share his method and the results of his work in a short article for the Branch Line. See Gary’s article on page 20.

Happy Reading!



Contest Report

By Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, Manager, PCR Contest
Department
Diamond Rails Forever

Rejoice The Contest

We have all seen it before. The slow eroding of our institutions and inability of the time honored traditions to sustain themselves as prominently as in the recent past.

Yes, we all change. Just look in the mirror. We are told to believe, to get with the program, to not be left behind, to breathe the new clean air.



With the recent announcement of the upcoming passing of Northwest Short Lines, slated for August 30th of this year, one more blow is inflicted on the do-it-yourselfer. The modeler who wants to actually build his/her own models, or change existing ones in an effort to achieve better performance, or looks for the one-of-a kind item not available on the shelf. The time honored tradition of “I can build it if I want to” regardless of availability on the out of the box market, is about to suffer yet another blow. This has relevance in the context of our contest tradition where modelers bring their love of modeling for everyone to enjoy.

A model, photograph or craft is the culmination of someone’s idea, wish and know how, an innate perseverance to achieving and to bringing to life what at one time did not exist. It is sharing with fellow modelers creations that are unique to the individual and hopefully bring joy and satisfaction to our audience. This is not unlike enjoying a movie in which we appreciate the good story line, the acting, the cinematography and uniqueness. Similarly, we do not seem to enjoy the “canned variations” with no creative genius behind them. We classify them with a “B” rating. Nothing spectacular, just a run-of-the-mill movie. The comparison I am making here is not very subtle. I’m comparing the models we buy out of the box, “B” rating, as they are all the same with a few road numbers available but are ubiquitous throughout the country – found on every layout. BORING !!! This versus contest models which inspire modelers to be different and to elevate their love of the hobby to an honorable and gratifying tradition - the art of crafting a unique centerpiece.

We have seen a resurgence of the contest models in recent years. There has been an increased number of participants, concomitant with an increasing level of craftsmanship. Photographs and crafts have also received uplift. Yet we cannot bask in our laurels. In this vein I to invite all of you to become participants in our contest. One model per person is all I ask! It does not have to be a phantasmagorical, out of this world entry. NO. It just has to be an item you enjoy sharing with others - something you created yourself.

As the world of after-market companies shrinks around us, let that not also become our fate. Let’s participate in this uniquely rewarding and fun experience.

You will find a succinct explanation of the contest and basic rules on page 6 this newsletter. Please become familiar with its content.

An entry per person is all I ask. Remember that!!!

See you at “Diamond Rails Forever”.

Giuseppe



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



**PCR/FRRS
Diamond Rails Forever 2019
PCR/FRRS Convention
McClellan Conference Center
5411 Luce Ave
McClellan Park, CA
May 2 - 5, 2019**

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Diamond Rails Forever 2019
c/o Gus Campagna
1915 William Drive
Penngrove, CA 94951-9524

E-mail: drf2019registrar@pcrnmra.org
Website: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2019

Please Print

Registration Form

Visit the website to pay with PayPal or credit card

Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Address			City	State	Zip Code + 4	
Home Phone	E-mail Address			NMRA or FRRS #		
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Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times: _____						
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Primary Scales and Interests <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> WP <input type="checkbox"/> 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) <input type="checkbox"/> PCR <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Rail <input type="checkbox"/> FRRS		E-Mail (if Different)		NMRA or FRRS #		
Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times: _____						
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Primary Scales and Interests <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> WP <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____						
FARES: <i>Please fill in Qty and Form will compute the total</i>						
				Qty	Unit Cost	Total
NMRA/FRRS Registration Pkg. (reg, banquet, & brkfast) (Early Bird has ended)					155.00	
NMRA & FRRS Registration ONLY					80.00	
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PCR Breakfast only					25.00	
Youth Registration (12-18 years or student)					70.00	
Day Fare (No Banquet) <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat					40.00	
Convention Polo Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="checkbox"/> 4XL <small>(Shirts for p/u at convention closed, shirts will be shipped to registration address.)</small>					39.00	
Convention Car (ea) [Tidewater Southern, HO-scale, 50' PS1 car by Kadee]					37.89	
Convention Car (Set of 2)					73.61	
Join FRRS (reduced rates for convention)		Active membership			25.00	
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Join the NMRA (must be member of NMRA or FRRS to attend)		9 month Rail Pass (allowed one time only)			19.95	
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Payment by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (Use website for credit card or PayPal) Make checks payable to: Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association No Refunds After April 10, 2019				TOTAL		

Achievement Program -

By Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department



Dispatcher

Interest in realistic operations on model railroad layouts has been growing exponentially in recent years, especially operations under timetable/train order or TT/TO. The Chief Dispatcher certificate recognizes the work involved in realistic layout operations. To meet the requirements, you must participate in the operation of a model railroad (either home or club) for not less than 50 hours. A minimum of ten hours each must have been served in three of the five categories listed below, one of which **must** be as a Dispatcher.

1. Engineer (mainline freight, passenger, or wayfreight)
2. Yardmaster (or station master)
3. Hostler (or power desk)
4. Towerman (or traffic manager, or road master)
5. Dispatcher

There are definitions for the above positions and their duties online. For example, a Towerman can operate one or more towers/control panels, determine which cars come and go from each industry, or be the operating trouble-shooter and repair person.

The layouts used to meet these requirements must have at least two mainline trains plus yard switching in simultaneous operation. Some system of freight and passenger car movements, including road switching, must be used for controlling train activity. That generally means TT/TO, Track Warrants, a CTC system, etc. Like the other certificates, the full requirements for this category are available online at the NMRA site.

In addition, the modeler must: 1) prepare a schematic drawing of the layout being used to qualify for this category and 2) develop an eight-hour timetable for the layout and 3) develop an operating chart (graph) for this timetable; and 4) develop or adapt a system of operation for the layout including the necessary forms. If members of the same operating group are applying for Chief Dispatcher, they can use copies of the same paperwork with their application but must develop and submit their own timetable and train chart, even if they are for the same operating scheme.

A note on the required hours of operation...as noted, a minimum of 10 hours must be served in three of the five categories (with 10 hours as a Dispatcher) which totals 30 of the 50 required hours. The other 20 hours can be in any of the above categories. It is also possible that credit can be earned by serving in other prototype positions. For example, being a station agent/operator may qualify if the position involves the duties of a prototype agent such as transcribing train orders from a dispatcher, providing crews with those orders and Clearance Cards, operating the train order board, etc.

Before you begin working toward this AP category, download the Record and Validation form from the NMRA website to easily record your progress toward meeting the operational requirements.

Once you complete these requirements, submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which includes the required drawings and forms and describes the jobs held and approximate number of hours in each category. Witnesses must sign the *Certificate of Operation* verifying that the applicant has operated the model railroad in a prototype manner. Send the completed SOQ to your Divisional AP representative, **along with a photocopy of your NMRA membership card** and you are on your way toward another certificate!

I am happy to announce the following Certificates of Achievement:

Veronica LaTorres - Association Volunteer
Chip Meriam - Association Volunteer

Congratulations Veronica and Chip!

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.

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Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann



Pacific Coast Region SIG Report for First Quarter 2019

Our big event this winter was the annual PCR/LDSIG meet January 25-27, at the Sheraton Sonoma County/Petaluma. By the way OPSIG does not want its name used on meets due to liability concerns, so please refer to this event as the “SIG Meet” in the future. PCR and LDSIG remain publicly committed and continue to actively support the meet.

We had about 15 people participate in an end-to-end SMART tour starting at Hamilton where we rode south to San Rafael and back to Sonoma Airport and back. It was a very pleasant and very scenic trip. The NWP society was also open and had visitors

We held a No-host dinner at a restaurant in town on Friday night which was excellent and attended by about 40.

Saturday was clinics and panels

Paul Weiss' excellent presentation on his Central Vermont in Northern California (CVinNC)

Car Forwarding on the CVinNC using JMRIOps byt Jon Shemidt
Alternate Designs for the State Belt – Bill Kaufman

Evolution of the NOW by Ed Merrin

Bruce Morden organized a design challenge focusing on Klamath Falls with 6 challengers

Panel discussion

Layout tours with 9 layouts available from San Rafael up to Windsor.
Operating Sessions Sunday.

About 100 people attended altogether, I believe Bruce Morden has posted a report elsewhere.

We're looking forward to an ops program at the Diamond Rails PCR Convention in Sacramento May 2-5. Check the website, listed elsewhere in this edition

There will be full range of SIG activities available at the NMRA in Salt Lake City July 7-13. OPSIG has Op Sessions every night, a meet and greet on Sunday evening, the LDSIG Tour will be all day Wednesday, we'll have a SIG track of clinics all week and a SIG dinner on Friday night. I hope to see you there!

Seth Neumann

sneumann@pacbell.net



Distribution Changes Coming To The *Branch Line*

This is the first of three issues remaining to be printed and mailed. We will print and mail the current issue (April 2019), the July 2019 issue and the October 2019 issue.

Thereafter, the **Branch Line** will only be available electronically. As always, you can find the Branch Line at the PCR website, <http://www.pcrnmra.org/> And also as usual, you will be notified by email that the Branch Line has been posted there.

Additionally, we will be experimenting with direct emailing - beginning with this issue. We'll see how it goes. The editorial staff believes this will work well, but we'll know more after this first attempt.

No computer? No email? May we suggest you visit the local public library where internet access is available.



Build a Barn from Scratch. Part 2

I like the appearance of board-by-board construction on models of wooden structures, so I decided to use that method on this barn, which will eventually have a prominent place at

one end of a one-turnout portable operating layout.

Because the finished barn will be subjected to much handling by its ham-handed owner, I built it around a robust core of 1/8-inch thick MDF.

I began building the superstructure of the barn, which will sit on top of the stone foundation we discussed last time, by cutting four walls from the MDF. 1/8-inch basswood or hardboard would work as well as the MDF. I also cut four short lengths of 1/2-inch square poplar to brace the corners and fastened them with wood glue to two of the walls.

After the glue dried, I used a rubber band to hold the four walls together while I test fitted them on the foundation. When I was satisfied that they would work, I removed the rubber band and left the four walls separate—they were not glued together until after the board-by-board sheathing was applied.

Scale dimensioned stripwood boards are available from hobby shops and internet retailers such as MicroMark, but the cost mounts with the size of the building being constructed. Remembering that I was trying to spend more time than money on this project, I decided to cut my own boards from a thin sheet. For a few bucks I bought a 4-inch x 24-inch x 1/32-inch-thick sheet of basswood from my local hardware store. I chose a length for my boards and cut pieces this length from the basswood sheet across the grain. Knowing the total wall area of the barn, it was easy to calculate how many such pieces I needed. Then the fun part: I chose a width for boards and cut each of them with the grain using an X-acto knife and a metal straightedge. Each barn door is a single piece of 1/64-inch thick plywood, scribed to represent boards, and the bracing on each door is actual scale dimensioned stripwood, the only use of such material on this project. The door track is folded from a 3" x 5" file card.

I used a three-step process to color and attach the boards to the walls: (1) I stained the boards to give the appearance of weathered wood, (2) I glued the boards to the MDF walls, and (3) I dry-brushed the walls a barn red color. Two stains were used to weather the bare boards, each made from a bottle of

isopropyl rubbing alcohol. Into one I put 1 tsp. (teaspoon) of black India ink; the other received 1 tsp. of brown leather dye, aka shoe dye. I divided the boards into four roughly equal piles and stained them by using tweezers to dunk individual boards into the bottles as follows:

Group 1 was stained brown and when dry was stained black

Group 2 was stained brown and then black, just as group 1, and then was stained black a second time

Group 3 was stained black once

Group 4 was stained black twice

After all the boards were thoroughly dry, the four groups were mixed together randomly before gluing to the walls. To ensure the boards would end up parallel, I used a T square and a Sharpie to draw parallel lines, two board



widths apart, on the MDF wall sections. Fastening the boards in place was then a simple matter of spreading Aleene's Original Tacky Glue onto a wall for two boards at a time and placing the boards individually into position with tweezers.

To complete the effect of a weathered barn with faded and peeling paint, I dry-brushed the boards a barn red color using acrylic craft paints. Apple Barrel, Craft Smart, DecoArt, and Folk Art are some of the brands I've used. I put more paint near the tops of the walls, since that area is somewhat protected from sun, rain, and wind by the eaves.

The last step was to glue the walls together, place the assembly on the foundation, and admire the roofless structure. Next time we'll construct the eaves (and the rest of the roof) which protect the tops of those carefully crafted walls from the elements. Until then, contact me with comments and/or questions at pethoud@comcast.net



Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

Painting a [Really] BIG Picture

By: Jim Providenza



First, let me apologize to our esteemed editor. He was really looking forward to the second half of “Claws, Wedgies and Fat Tires”. (He even said so!) So am I too, for that matter! But something came up that has a time limit on it. I wanted to talk about it a bit, and urge any of you so inclined to go see it. ‘It’ is an exhibit at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park that continues through May 28, 2019.

CW&FT will do just fine waiting its turn in the next issue.

I was minding my own business (more or less) when my son Mike asked me if I wanted to go see the new Monet exhibit at the de Young Museum. Even though he is an adult, invitations to join him in something he wants to do are somewhat rare. But he knows I like Impressionist art...

So last Saturday morning we drove into the City where we signed up for a docent tour of the exhibit, which by the way is titled: Monet The Later Years. This was absolutely the right thing to do, as our docent added immensely to the experience, setting the paintings into historical perspective, discussing fine points of various pictures, and pointing out the differences (and the reasons for the differences) in several series of picture of the same subject.

During the tour I found myself confronting and having to work past several preconceived notions and suppositions. Up front I have always preferred Claude Monet’s earlier works and paid little attention to his later paintings, almost all of which are of the gardens he planted at his country home in Giverny, about 45 miles from Paris. Ah well, ignorance is such a fine thing! And lily pads – what do I care about lily pads as a subject? Well, let me tell you!



The Color of Blue Is?



Layers of Paint

It shouldn’t have been a revelation that lily pads sit in a pond, and the pond contains water reflecting light, and that I really would do well to take a close look at how one of the best painters ever dealt with the subject. Hmmm. Multiples of blues, okay I get that. Other colors? Green, yeah. But yellow? Hmmm, again. Oh, you mean he is painting the reflections of other flowers and trees on the water...

I have always thought of paintings as two dimensional. Do you? I think that I have been brainwashed by my railfan and family photography. And yet I should know better. My mother took up painting in my 20’s and I have some of her works. The paint has texture. I knew that. But it took being able to get within a foot of the works of a master to drive the point home – painting is a three-dimensional art! The artistry of the brushwork, the layers of paint, sometimes several, one upon the others, opened my eyes to things I could be doing on the SCN.

Continued on page 17

Part of the context our docent presented for us, and lead us through, was the effect of Monet's declining health on his art. Or rather, his refusal to let aging define him as an artist. He suffered from cataracts to the point that about 4 or 5 years before his death he was considered legally blind in one eye and had limited vision in the other. He underwent cataract surgery (in 1923!) and then continued painting his masterpieces until his death. This is a lesson and an inspiration for us all.

Toward the end of the exhibit there is one series of 5 photographs whose main subject is a deciduous tree. It was well worth taking time to study the variations of color, the lighting, the moods Monet invoked. You can learn a lot from a tree, it seems.



Texture and Color

But what really caught me and made me consider our hobby in relation to other activities was some of Monet's really, really big paintings. The one in the photograph with the couple studying it is 6 feet high and 10 feet wide. Some of his oil on canvass works are so large they are referred to as murals! Each of his paintings at the de Young exhibit had a notation next to it that included the year(s) it was painted... Monet spent time over 10 years painting this one.

And so, I thought to myself, "Hey, that's what we do!" A revelation, of sorts. Yes, we *are* artists (as well as carpenters, electricians, mechanics, data programmers, role players, etc.) when we work on our creations. And we usually think of spending multiples of years bringing taking our work from concept to fruition.

Do any / some / most of our creations approach 'fine art' then? Not for me to hazard more than a guess. Some, maybe? Truthfully, I don't think it matters. What matters is that each of our railroads is imbued with our own creativity. Unique, complex, and yes, very, very special.

So, go. See the lilies, and the water. And the trees. You won't be disappointed.



The Really Big Pictory

Looking Back

by Dave Connery, MMR, PCR Historian

Voices – An Interview with Chuck Harmon, MMR



Chuck was born and spent his earliest years in Sacramento. He could not help but become interested in railroading. His paternal Grandfather had been the Station Agent at Towle, although he passed away in the 1920's, before Chuck was born. His grandparents lived at Gold Run on the Donner Pass Route. Grandmother was the telegrapher at Emigrant Gap so you could say Chuck was born with railroading in his blood. On visits to his grandmother's he remembers going into the snow sheds, where there was a turntable completely inside the covered shed. He recalls his grandmother warning he and his older brother to be extra careful, when the mallets were drifting down grade as they were almost completely silent and could catch a person by surprise if they were not alert.

Chuck's family moved to Fresno when he was nine and he spent the remainder of his youth there, where he still lives. He had a wind-up train starting about 4 years old. His brother already had a train set. One time when Chuck was running the windup train at Christmas and all the family was around his train was about to have a collision and his folks said, "Throw the Switch" so Chuck reached down, disconnected the turnout from the remainder of the track and threw it across the room. Chuck has come a long way in his operating skills since then! After the wind-up train Chuck shared an American Flyer "S" scale train set with his brother. He and his brother built a layout in the garage in Fresno when Chuck was about 10. By the time he was 12 Chuck and his brother had moved into HO scale. Chuck still has a Silver Streak car kit his brother built, back about 1950. When he was about 16, Chuck left the model railroad hobby – being interested more in cars. Over the next 15 years he occasionally dabbled in trains.

It was not until his son was about 7 (in 1980) that Chuck got back interested in model railroading when he built a model railroad in HO for his son. It was at this time Chuck first heard about Daylight Division and attended his first meet at John Houlihan's house. It was here he met Bob and Sylvia Pethoud. They put on a model railroad class at a local hobby shop, which Chuck and his son attended. The original small HO layout has been subsequently incorporated into Chuck's multi-room and multi-level San Joaquin Central layout; his son would not let Chuck destroy the original layout.

Starting at that time Chuck got involved in Daylight and

PCR activities. He has served as Chief Clerk, Superintendent and Newsletter Editor for the Daylight Division. When Gus Pasternik was PCR Director from Daylight and often was unable to make the meetings, Chuck served as his proxy. Then Chuck was elected twice for a total four-year period as Daylight Director in his own name. He also served for two years as PCR Vice-president under Jack Wall. He recently completed a 7-year stint as the PCR Branch Line Editor. Chuck served as Co-Chair of the 1985 PCR Convention, Chairman of the 1989 PCR Convention and has served on the committee for several other PCR Conventions held in Daylight. Chuck has received numerous recognitions for his exceptional service to our hobby having been twice named Daylight Member of the Year (1989 and 1998). He was selected to receive the PCR Presidents Award in 2014 and received the prestigious John Allen Award in 1989. In 2014 Chuck became NMRA Master Model Railroader # 529, earning certificates in Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Cars, Structures, Volunteer, Author and Official. In addition to his activity in NMRA activities Chuck has also been active in the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society and served as Chairman of their annual convention at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Fresno in 2013.

Chuck entered his first contest in 1980 with a car built from an Ambroid kit. He still enjoys building cars and structures from craftsman kits, especially Campbell structure kits. He has acquired every kit that Ambroid produced – and he still has many of them unbuilt on his kit shelf. He also enjoys hand-laying track. Most of the cars on the layout during operating sessions are for "playing with" and take a beating while the craftsman tend to be kept out of harm's way on a display shelf. Chuck has four grandsons and when they visit they enjoy running trains and all are very careful and operate the trains at prototypical speeds. The oldest boy now oversees that the younger grandsons learn how to value the models.

As noted previously, Chuck has an extensive and very well done layout that fills what was once a bedroom and then was extended throughout a two-car garage. He has a group of about 6 friends that meet at his home and work on the layout every Tuesday evening. On one Saturday each month they have an operating session.

Continued on page 19

Chuck has his layout open for visitors at least once every year and feels this is an excellent way to introduce others to scale model railroading. His favorite part of the hobby is the fellowship and sharing time with the numerous friends he has met through the hobby. Chuck attended Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and worked most of his career in the electronics field, often applying his writing skills to document products. He finally retired in 2009. One part of life he values even more than model railroading is the ministry he performs at several Central Valley prisons.

Chuck has always enjoyed building models and he is sad to see so few “modelers” in the hobby these days. At one time there were several good hobby shops in Fresno but now the single hobby shop has a very weak selection of model railroad items, forcing either on-line or mail order shopping, so when he travels to areas with a good selection, such as Anita’s nice Central Coast Trains shop in Atascadero, he stocks up on what he thinks he will need. Despite these discouraging aspects Chuck still feels it is a good hobby and values the friends he has in the hobby.



**Chuck Harmon (former *BL* Editor)
With His San Joaquin Central**

In Memoriam		
Member	City, State	Date Joined
	Daylight	
Daniel Seames	Bakersfield	2/17/1997
	Sierra	
Dan Mahoney	Sacramento, CA	5/26/2000
	Redwood Empire	
James Jones (Life Member)	Petaluma, CA	1/1/1976

ROADS COME TO BELLA VISTA

by Gary Ray

I was facing the problem of adding some roads going directly into the background where the foreground was only 9" wide and wanted an almost level landscape. To solve this I found as many examples as I could on the internet and from layout photos I had taken when visiting other layouts.

The first thing I did was cove the horizontal to the vertical surface by shaping **Sculptamold®** with a length of 1" PVC pipe. I used plastic wrap to keep it from sticking to the pipe. (fig. 1)

The next day I returned and wrapped 150 grit sandpaper around the pipe and sanded it. It was not as smooth as I wished and was somewhat difficult to sand. I used a putty knife to add a thin coat of **DAP Fast'N Final Lightweight Spackling®** and then resanded the curved portion. A foam sanding pad was used to smooth the joints. (fig.2)

Next came the time-consuming part, deciding what to paint. Luckily I had several head-on pictures of other peoples' layouts and scaled them on the computer to the size I needed. I also discovered that by using **Google Earth Street View®** that I could move up and down a street and get the right perspective. If you preferred photo images, this would work. Since I model 1926 and all of my background is painted, I chose to paint this also. As an aside, by placing a tablet in the scene, you can try changing the size of the image just by swiping your fingers. Really useful in getting a size that looked appropriate. (fig. 3)

I printed out some sample scenes and tried them behind the buildings to help determine how high the horizon line should be. Then I determined the vanishing point. I tried tracing outline with carbon paper and that gave me a rough idea of the scene. Since I use real dirt on the layout, I masked off areas outside of where I wanted dirt, brushed on 50% white glue/water mix and blew the dirt on from a piece of paper (remember ZIP texturing?).

Continued on page 21



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

On two of three roads, I wanted intersections so put dirt to the left and right. If using asphalt one could just continue painting the same color up onto the backdrop. (fig. 4)

Painting could be an entire course. Basically, I traced over the basic outline in pictures for each area by using carbon paper underneath. I determined the vanishing point and then used a 3x5" card to make sure I had the perspective right for each building. The layout photos show a scene still a work in progress with

more work to be done on the scenery, but gives an idea of how effective a scene becomes with coving the transition between vertical and horizontal surfaces. The scene with the barn (fig. 5) was basically from a layout that was posted on the internet.

The scene with the hotel was from a **Google Street View®** of Cottonwood, CA and I just used a portion of the photo (black rectangle, fig. 6).

One you step away from the painted backdrop, not a lot of detail is needed to make an effective scene. (fig. 7) You don't have to be a great artist, I'm not. On my third road, I was unhappy with one of the buildings and will repaint it.

Hopefully you will be able to use the idea of coving the backdrop to the foreground.



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7





Daylight Division Report

By Doug Wagner

A big thank you to the Fresno guys who hosted the February 16th Daylight Division meet.

The meet was held at the downtown Fresno Library, which was only a few blocks from the Amtrak Station. And even though I had a pocket-full of quarters to pay for parking, what a pleasant surprise it was when we found out parking is FREE on weekends!!!!

We had two great presentations. The first one was John Houlihan's slide presentation of railroading in the Fresno and Tehachapi Loop areas in the 1970's and 1980's. John even had some photos of the George McGovern campaign train during the 1972 California Democratic Party Presidential Primary. How many of you remember that?

The second presentation was given by Brewster Bird, who demonstrated how to use a Smart Phone as a throttle on a DCC layout. Brewster will be presenting more of this type of clinic as he progresses on the development of his layout's DCC system.

After the meet, Chuck Harmon was gracious enough to open up his layout for an operating session. Well, I couldn't miss out on this, as I am right in the middle of setting up my layout for operations on my N scale home layout. We had a blast for the next 2-1/2 hours kicking cars around, with my tutor, Robert Sexton.



Brewster Bird's Cell Phone Throttle



Stephen Lowe's Kern Junction

Next up, we were able to visit, for the first time, Stephen Lowe's N scale layout. Stephen is modeling the Tehachapi Loop and it is still a work in progress, but Stephen has made some great progress by putting in some great looking scenery in a lot of the areas on his layout. Can't wait to see more of it as Stephen progresses on the scenery--especially the Tehachapi Loop.

After departing Stephen's layout, it was time to stop by and see if we could spend some money at Hobby Town.

The next Daylight Division event will be Saturday, April 13, in Tehachapi, in conjunction with the Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club's Model Train Show. The meet will be held at the Steampunk Café and Grill located at 20324 West Valley Blvd, in Tehachapi. The meet begins at 9:00 AM with breakfast and concludes at 1:00 PM, so you folks can enjoy the model train show and the Tehachapi Depot Museum.

May all your signals be green!



Coast Division Report

By Doug Smith

Coast Gathering – March at the Elks

Our most recent meet was at the Elk's in Alameda on March 3rd. It was a busy day. Election of officers, a square foot modeling challenge, our regularly scheduled contests, updates on not one but two PCR Conventions, and the Coast Division Auction.

Where to start ...

Elections: Dave Connery led our bi-annual Division elections. There was one candidate for each of the three Division positions. Elected by motion for two year terms were Bob Ferguson as treasurer, Brian Booth as Chief Clerk, and myself as Superintendent. I would like to thank Dan Rom, our outgoing Chief Clerk, for his service to the Division in that capacity. Frank Markovich has one year remaining on his term as Director. He is running for the Region position as Vice President. Should he be elected, a replacement will be needed for the Director position. Lisa Gorrell was elected to fill the remainder of Frank's term should his election as vice president be successful. Thanks to everyone who has agreed to serve in Division leadership positions.

Clinics: Before the business meeting two excellent clinics were presented by some of our more acclaimed modelers, Earl Girbovan and Jack Burgess. Earl presented a follow-on to his earlier fence clinic, this time discussing metal fences – chain link and other varieties. Very informative and well received as you might imagine. Jack gave an overview of his fantastic Yosemite Valley Railroad. Hav-

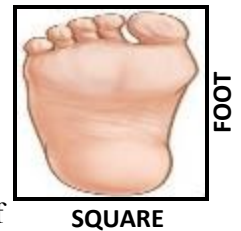
ing been fortunate to see the railroad in person a few times, I still learned new things from his presentation. Thanks to both for sharing their skills and insights.

Convention Updates: A quick update for Diamond Rails Forever was presented by Tom Crawford, PCR Convention Manager. All is on track for that convention in Sacramento this May. If you have yet to register please visit their web site linked on the PCR site, calendar, and references many places in this Branch Line issue. An impressive slate of clinics both from PCR and the Feather River Rail Society.

Earl Girbovan presented an update on the 2020 convention which will be hosted by Coast Division. The host site will be the Crowne Plaza Concord. The committee membership is being filled with energetic and professional Coast Division members. It should be a good one. Dates are April 30 through May 3, 2020. The web site will be up and running at the 2019 convention. Not before, as we don't want to possibly detract from the 2019 team's efforts. But 2020 is coming together. Stand by for more, at and after Sacramento.

Contests: Our regular contests for March were joined by a Square Foot Challenge. Suggested and executed by Jesse Walden the contest was a great success. Briefly, the rules were that the diorama had to have a base dimension of 12" by 12". Height, scale and era were open. The only other requirement was that there had to be some track involved.

Modelers were not identified with their entry. Voting was strictly by popular vote.



Coast Division Preps 2020 PCR Convention in Concord

The comfortable Crowne Plaza Hotel Concord, California will be the site for PCR's 2020 annual convention, *Clear to the Coast*. Your Coast Division has formed a host committee and preparations are well underway. The Western Railway Museum will co-sponsor the convention and a special tour of WRM will be offered with exclusive use of the site for registrants. New this year, 2020 will feature quick Mini-Clinics offered multiple times to small groups—you'll rotate around a room and learn 5 or 6 different modeling techniques or topics all within the space of a couple of hours. Great layouts of the Bay Area and operating sessions galore will fill out a rich convention. Mark your calendar for April 30 to May 3, 2020 and join us!

Continued on page 24



Some great modeling skill and creativity were on display. HO, N and On30 scales were represented. First place went to Don Burch. Pictures and descriptions of all contest entries are displayed below courtesy of Jim Eckman. Take a look and enjoy. The regular contest was graced with two scratch-built brass locomotives. So there was great eye candy on every table. Thanks to all who participated in the events.

And the Auction: There were fewer than average items crossing the block, but many treasures to be had. I scored an SPSF box car to add to those of several other fantasy roads on my layout. So you never know what you'll find.

Outside of the March meet there were Coast Division members manning tables at Great Train Show events both in San Jose and Pleasanton. The Timesaver drew many young operators -to-be. Modeling displays drew compliments from show goers and started many discussions usually starting with "How do you do that? It's so cool". We can always make space for more participants, so plan something to show for the November show in Richmond. Related GTS news is that Steve Wesolowski is going to step down as coordinator of our Great Train Show presence. He will continue with other fun things to do as Division publicity chair. So we need someone to step up to coordinate the GTS events. The next local show is not until November, but don't wait that long. The efforts before the show are what makes the difference.

See photos on the following pages.

All for now. Cheers, Doug

**Welcome Aboard !
PCR's Newest Members**

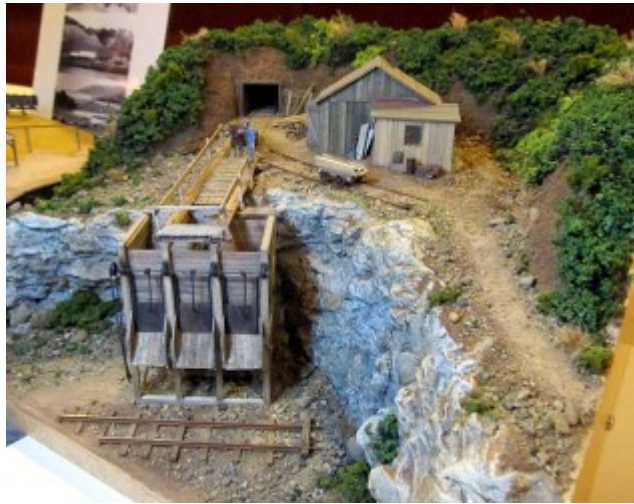
Member	City, Sate Coast	Date Joined
Robson English	Walnut Creek, CA	11/15/2018
Jeff Nielsen	Castro Valley CA	1/11/2019
Bill Holst	San Mateo CA	1/12/2019
Joseph Naras	Millbrae CA	1/24/2019
Isaiah Stewart	Soquel CA	2/6/2019
George Dupont	Pahoa HI	2/8/2019
Bryan Foertsch	Los Gatos CA	2/15/2019
Randall Hawkinson	Salinas CA	3/1/2019
Alexander Leder	Berkeley CA	3/5/2019
Bernhard Beck	San Jose CA	3/12/2019
Sierra		
Betty De Jarnette	Auburn CA	12/12/2018
Sergio Valencia	Lodi CA	12/25/2018
Steven Biczak	Reno NV	1/11/2019
Michael Zenft	Redding CA	1/14/2019
Robert Graul	Gardnerville NV	1/26/2019
Philip Vardara	Penn Valley CA	1/30/2019
Vern Cowan	Riverbank CA	2/6/2019
Ryan Wilkerson	Fair Oaks CA	2/6/2019
Lou Frank	Roseville CA	2/13/2019
Don Pierce	Tracy CA	2/13/2019
Dennis Heikura	Mount Shasta CA	3/4/2019
Carolyn Schedler	Colusa CA	3/5/2019
Daniel Carroll	Sacramento CA	3/13/2019
Gary K	Redding CA	3/28/2019
Redwood Empire		
John Huckaby	Santa Rosa CA	12/5/2018
Daniel Alexander	Fairfax CA	12/7/2018
Family Logan	Santa Rosa CA	12/17/2018
John Logan	Santa Rosa CA	12/17/2018
Donald Sibbett	San Anselmo CA	1/13/2019
James Kelly	Vallejo CA	3/12/2019



Continued on page 25



Don Burch's 12" X 12" Module



Earl Girbovan's Mining Scene



With a Little Peek-A-Boo!



Tom Knapp's Pacific Coast Railway Port Hartford Asphalt



Chris Palermo's 1/48, 1943, Licata, Sicily, tank destroyer crew at ruined village above railway.



Jesse Walden's Route 22 General Store

Continued on page 26



Pat LaTorres' 12"x12" Challenge: Switching Yard



Bill Holst's Untitled



Tom Vanden Bosch's Bridge Street Tower



**1st Place - Steam Bob Wirthlin's SP Mogul #448
Scratch Built in Brass**



**1st Place - Traction Bob Wirthlin's Birney
Scratch Built in Brass**



**1st Place - MOW/Non-Revenue Frank Markovich's
West Side Power House Snowplow
Also Scratch Built**

Continued on page 27



1st Place Tie - Structures Ronnie LaTorres' Section House & Industrial Building



1st Place Photo - Unpowered Rolling Stock Stanley Keiser's Rotary



Show and Tell

Jere Ingram brought in this nifty Freemo signaling module, these modules are inserted in a layout to provide signaling and some are only a few inches wide. There's a standard so everyone can get their signals straight.





Redwood Empire Division Report

By Scott Lockhart

The RED held their 2019 winter meeting on Saturday, February 16, 2019, at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. Twenty-six people attended the meeting including two new members. The meeting started with attendee introductions followed by RED election nominations for Superintendent and Clerk/Paymaster. Scott Lockhart was nominated for Superintendent and Dave Grundman was nominated for Clerk/Paymaster. Both

nominations were seconded by all attendees. Voting will take place online.

Ten attendees brought items to present during the Show and Tell part of the meeting. Model structures, a book review, a holiday layout re-



RED Members and Guests - Monroe Hall

view, a backdrop painting example, and timetables/dispatcher's sheets were among the items presented during Show and Tell. Steve Lewis reviewed his activities with the Boy Scouts Railroading Merit Badge and the need for additional people to help with the excellent program.

As always, a big "Thank you!" to Mary Moore Campagna for providing the excellent lunch of sandwiches, sweet treats, and beverages during the Noon break.

The raffle was held with an assortment of models and books available to lucky ticket holders. Verne Alexander received a \$50 gift card for his participation in the Show and Tell, Dan Obermeyer received the \$75 gift card for having the lucky raffle ticket. Unfortunately, the meeting note taker (me) suffered a brain cramp and failed to record the winner of the \$100 door prize gift card. If the winner would send me his or her name, I will include it in the next meeting bulletin or Callboard.

Kent Hinton presented a great program on his experience with 3D printing. His presentation included a 3D printer producing parts during the meeting. Kent's presentation covered cur-



Model By Skip Rueckert

rent printing processes, printers, materials, creating files for 3D printers and resources for software and 3D printing services. Kent also brought his 3D printed Hon3 Carter Brothers 8 Ton Boxcar model for review. I, for one, will be exploring 3D printing in more detail.

Following the meeting, a few folks traveled to Peter Barnes' Bummelbahn HO layout. His layout is based in Germany and Austria.



Peter Barnes' Bummelbahn

Visitors were given an overview of Peter's layout and ran a few trains. An article with additional pictures of the Bummelbahn may be seen in the Winter 2019 issue of the RED Callboard.



Kent Hinton's 3D Printer in Action



The Sierra Division made their annual trip to the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society on Saturday morning, February 9. Most arrived shortly after 9:00 AM and the welcome and orientation began at 9:30 under the direction and welcome of SMRHS President, Bill Calmes and Train Master for the day, Mike Roque.

The first trains were scheduled out at 10:00 AM. Multiple crews were busy until 12:00 noon and by the session's end there were still trains that needed to be moved.

Sierra Division members were teamed with SMRHS operators so each crew had someone familiar with the line.

Through routes were running from Sacramento's 12th Street Yard through Marysville, Oroville, and the Feather River Canyon to Keddie with some moving on to Quincy. Other routes ran through Davis and Martinez to West Oakland.

Along the line, local crews worked at R Street in Sacramento, Oroville, and West Oakland east to Martinez.

The SMRHS standard gauge layout, The Sierra Central, is fully signaled, controlled with Digitrax DCC, and dispatched from a prototype size Union Switch and Signal CTC machine and JMRI software. The railroad is about 95% "scenicked" with spectacular replications of the Sacramento Shops, Table Mountain, the Feather River Canyon, and the Keddie Wye. Several photos of the Sierra Central have been featured in recent issues of the *Short Line* (all are available on the Sierra Division website, <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sierra/shortline.html>).

Following the OP session the SMRHS fellows put together a cheeseburger and hot dog barbecue that we were able to enjoy for only \$5.

SMRHS will have open hours during the PCR Convention this May.



A Welcome from SMRHS President, Bill Calmes



Dave "Silver Streak" Bayless with The Zephyr Through Oroville



The Keddie Wye



The Zephyr Heads Up The Feather Canyon

Continued on page 26

Following the visit to SMRHS, the meet continued at the First Christian Church on Folsom Blvd. For the first time in four years, Jim Collins did not open the meeting. Chip Meriam has assumed the Division Superintendent job so Jim was able to sit down and relax a bit.

Our clinic for this meeting was “How To Model Traffic On Your Layout”, brought to us by Dr. Tony Thompson of Signature Press. He logically described how rail traffic is created, what sorts of carloads might arrive and depart from various lineside industries, what sorts of cars might be carrying those loads, and a host of prototype references for carloads and car types from various railroads.

Klaus Keil spoke on modeling shipping containers. He will be offering a clinic on shipping containers at the 2019 PCR convention this coming May in Sacramento.

Karle Mahler showed off a beautiful O Scale locomotive made from Legos.



Tony Thompson Talks Train Traffic

The contest categories were modeling, Structures, and photos, Model in Black and White. The lone photo entry was from Walt Schedler. The three top structures were Gary Ray’s General Store, 1st place; Walt Schedler’s MOW Yard and Speeder Shed, 2nd place; and Chip Meriam’s Vecino Theatre, 3rd place.



Karle Mahler’s Lego Loco



First Place Photograph



First Place Model



Second Place Model



Third Place Model



Calendar

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

For a list of monthly activities see page 33

April 13, 2019 - 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, [Daylight Division](#) Spring Meet, Steampunk Café & Grill, 20324 W Valley Blvd, Tehachapi, CA. [MAP](#).

Come join us for a no-host breakfast at [Steampunk Café & Grill](#), the venue for our meet.

After breakfast, Neil Fernbaugh will be presenting his clinic, “Weathering with MAC Makeup”. This is a hands-on quick-and-dirty approach to weathering your rolling stock. We will be handing out rolling stock shells so that you can learn the weathering technique by actually weathering a car, instead of just watching a how-to video. After a very short business meeting, we'll adjourn to several outside activities: Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club's Model Train Show (see [next entry](#)), the Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum, and of course, the World Famous Tehachapi Loop.

April 13 & 14, 2019 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, FREE Model Train Show, [Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club](#), Aspen Builders Inc. Activity Center at the Tehachapi Recreation and Park District, 410 West "D" Street (off Mill Street), Tehachapi, CA. [MAP](#)

April 27 & 28, 2019 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Spring Train Show 2019, [Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club](#), 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. [MAP](#) • [FLYER](#)

Fares:

- Adults: \$3.00
- Seniors (60+): \$2.00
- Children (6-12): \$2.00
- Children under 6: Free

Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com

May 2 – 5, 2019 - [Diamond Rails Forever 2019](#), PCR/FRRS Joint Convention, Lions Gate Hotel, McClellan Convention Center—McClellan Park, 3410 Westover Street, Sacramento, CA. ([MAP](#))

May 18, 2019 - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, [Redwood Empire Division](#) Spring Meet, Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave, Santa Rosa, CA. [Map](#)

June 2, 2019 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, The Quarterly NMRA [Coast Division](#) Meet - a FREE Model Railroading Event,, 1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA. (at SF Bay Area Council Office of Boy Scouts of America) [MAP](#)

See railroad models and photos. Meet their Makers! Bring YOUR models to share! Enjoy workshops and roundtable discussions: Get your questions answered and problems solved. Enjoy John Allen's TimeSaver Switching Puzzle! Win a door prize? Large auction of modeling stuff.

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.

[Click here to download Flyer](#)  with descriptions, schedule and driving directions.

June 8 & 9, 2019 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. ([MAP](#)) Visit the Carquinez Model Railroad Society's HO scale three level 36'x60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California to Sparks, NV through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains, to Sparks, NV. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

June 23, 2019 - The Niles Depot Historical Society and Tri-City Society of Model Engineers RR Club 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Open house. The Niles Depot Museum will be open and two layouts will be in operation. The address is 37592 Niles Blvd., in the Niles Town Plaza, Fremont, CA 94536

July 7 – 14, 2019 - [2019 NMRA National Convention & National Train Show®](#), The Little America Hotel - Salt Lake City, 500 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Attending a National Convention is like drinking water from a fire hose! You will come home exhausted, but exhilarated, ready to hit the train room with tons of new ideas!

August 10, 2019

Sierra Division Meet, 9:30 AM to Noon at the Fair Oaks Public Library and 1:00 until 4:00 at the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers in Hagen Park. Barbecue will be available at Hagen Park. For information: chipmeriam@comcast.net

Continued on page 32

Calendar

August 10, 2019 (Saturday only) - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. [MAP](#) • [FLYER](#) Visit the Carquinez Model Railroad Society's HO scale three level 36'x60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California to Sparks, NV through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains, to Sparks, NV. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

August 17, 2019 - [Redwood Empire Division](#) Summer Picnic, Location: TBD

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

For a list of monthly activities see page 33

September 4 – 7, 2019 - 39th [National Narrow Gauge Convention](#), Sacramento, CA. See the website for organizer email addresses. Save the dates!

Coast Division N-Scale modelers are invited to join the Nor-Cal Nn3 Group which will be used to coordinate preparations for this convention and the layout(s): <https://groups.io/g/Nn3-NorCal>

September 22, 2019 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, [Coast Division](#) Meet, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. [MAP](#)

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.

See railroad models and photos. Meet their Makers! Bring YOUR models to share! Enjoy workshops and roundtable discussions: Get your questions answered and problems solved.

Enjoy John Allen's TimeSaver Switching Puzzle! Win a door prize? Large auction of modeling stuff.

[Click here to download Flyer](#) with descriptions, schedule and driving directions.

October 4 – 6, 2019 - [Central Coast Railroad Festival](#), San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties, CA., Hosted by [San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum](#), 1940 Santa Barbara Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA. [MAP](#)

October 12, 2019 Sierra Division Meet—Chico, CA Time and venue to be announced. chipmeriam@comcast.net

October 12 & 13, 2019 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Rail-

road Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. ([MAP](#)) Visit the Carquinez Model Railroad Society's HO scale three level 36'x60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California to Sparks, NV through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains, to Sparks, NV.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults, under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

November 16, 2019 - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, [Redwood Empire Division](#) Fall Meet, Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave, Santa Rosa, CA. [Map](#)

December 7 & 8, 2019 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, [Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#), 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. ([MAP](#)) Visit the Carquinez Model Railroad Society's HO scale three level 36'x60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California to Sparks, NV through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains, to Sparks, NV. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

December 8, 2019 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, The Quarterly NMRA [Coast Division](#) Meet - a FREE Model Railroading Event,, 1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA. (at SF Bay Area Council Office of Boy Scouts of America) [MAP](#) See railroad models and photos. Meet their Makers! Bring YOUR models to share! Enjoy workshops and roundtable discussions: Get your questions answered and problems solved. Enjoy John Allen's TimeSaver Switching Puzzle! Win a door prize? Large auction of modeling stuff.

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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.

[Click here to download Flyer](#) with descriptions, schedule and driving directions.

Monthly Activities

First and Third Thursday - 7:00 PM / [Siskiyou Model RR Club](#) / Yreka Western Depot, 300 East Miner St., Yreka, CA (Exit 775 from I-5). Info: Tom Brass, (530) 842-4921, Glenn Joesten (530) 340-2537

First Friday 7:30 PM / [San Leandro Historical Railway Society](#) (HO, O, G), Monthly meeting / 1302 Orchard Ave, San Leandro, CA / Club phone 510-569-2490 / Info: info@slhrs.org.

First Friday 7:30 to 10:00 PM / [Golden State Model Railroad Museum](#) / East Bay Model Engineers Society (O, HO, N, Narrow Gauge, Traction) / Point Richmond, CA / Club Phone 510-234-4884 or info@gsmrm.org

Second Tuesday 7:30 PM / [Empire Builders Model Railroad Club](#) (HO) 3318 School St, Oakland, CA / e-mail: president@ebmrc.org

Second Wednesday 8:00 PM / [West Bay Model Railroad Association](#), Monthly Business Meeting, 1090 Merrill Street, Menlo Park, CA / Lauren Mercer 650-322-9335 or Tom Vanden Bosch 650-369-8305

Second Wednesday 7:30 PM / [Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society](#) (HO&N) Bakersfield, CA / Doug Wagner, e-mail: carldw@aol.com or 661-589-0391 / Club phone: 661-325-5820

Second Saturday 10:00 AM / [Tehachapi Loop RR Club](#) / Tehachapi, CA / Tom O'Brien, e-mail: threerail@earthlink.net 661-822-1546

Second Saturday 1:00 PM / [European Train Enthusiasts \(ETE\) Sacramento Chapter](#) (Z, HO, 1) Sacramento, CA / Roland DiFranco 209-948-6776 or Steven Stern, e-mail: sterns@rahul.net

Second Saturday 1:30 PM / [Carquinez Toy Train Operating Museum](#) Business Meeting, 645 Loring Ave (Across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. [MAP](#)

Second Saturday 3:00 - 6:00 PM / [California Central Club](#) (HO & HOn3) / Old Agnew Station, 4185 Bassett St, Santa Clara, CA / Subject to change, contacting us in advance of your visit is highly recommended at: ccmrc1961@gmail.com

Second & Fourth Weekends / [Swanton Pacific Railroad Society](#) (19") Santa Cruz County, CA / Ed Carnegie, e-mail: ecarnegi@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2378

Mid-Month Weekends / [Bitter Creek Western RR](#) (Live Steam) Arroyo Grande, CA / Dan Andrews, e-mail: danandrews@charter.net or 805-481-0419

Third Monday 7:00 PM / [San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association](#) (all) Oceano Depot, CA / Dennis Pearson, e-mail: info@sломra.org or 805-929-3062

Third Tuesday 7:00 PM / Visalia Electric Model Railroad & Historical Society / Meets at Ryan's Place Restaurant, 3103 South Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA / Cecil Eppler, e-mail: cec-il_eppler@sbcglobal.net

Third Friday 7:00 - 11:00 PM / Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club Operating session (HO) / Antioch, CA / Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com / Club phone 925-779-1964

Third Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Noon / [San Joaquin Central](#) Operating Session (HO) / Fresno, CA / Chuck Harmon, e-mail: harmon-sta@aol.com or 559-299-4385. It's April 1949 on SP's Donner Pass and fictitious SJC. An advance courtesy contact is appreciated. Send e-mail to be added to mailing list.

Third Saturday / [Sacramento Modular Railroaders](#) Operating Session (HO) / Sacramento, CA / Scott McAllister, e-mail: scooter923@att.net

Fourth Wednesday 7:00 PM / Coast Toy Train Club / Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Rd (at Alamar), Santa Barbara, CA / Lots of collecting in S, O, and Standard gauges. / Contact: Ken Kelley, e-mail: kenatttr@thirdrail.com



These activities occur each month on the days indicated. See the Club Info section starting on page 34 for location and contact information

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
Email: glgslewis@comcast.net
Web: www.pleasantonmodelrr.org/index.html

Amador County Model Railroad Museum

The ACMRRM is located at #1 Main Street, Jackson, California adjacent to the historic National Hotel. Our non-profit association is open to the public from 10 AM to 5 PM, Friday through Sunday during Winter months and Wednesday through Sunday during the Summer. Work sessions are held every Tuesday starting at 10 AM. Our scenic DCC HO-scale layout depicts the lumber and gold mining history of Amador County. Operations include the Amador Central short line as well as the railroads of California's Central Valley including terminals at Stockton and Sacramento.
Contact: Robert Piety, 209-296-3587 email rdpiety@sbcglobal.net

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.

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://cvlrr.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.

Continued on page 35

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 BillKeaney (650) 355-7231 or billkeaney@comcast.net.

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you



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.

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

Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad Museum

26 Station Place - Salinas, CA 93901
The Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad Museum is dedicated to creating & maintaining a Railroad Museum in Salinas with an emphasis on the historic, contemporary and future value of the Railroad to the Salinas Valley and Monterey Bay Regions, providing experiential educational opportunities for children of all ages enhancing the core curriculum and inspiring civic involvement in our communities.
Open first weekends of each month 10AM - 4PM
831 789 8097

www.msvrr.org
info@msvrr.org

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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: Napa-John@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 PM. 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: memberhip@sacmodularrailroad.com

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 Joaquin Valley Toy Train Operators

We are an all scale train club. We have members in scales from Z to G. Whether you are someone who likes to run toy trains in circles or model an exact date, railroad or scene or anything in between you are welcome. Everyone who likes trains is welcome. You don't need to own any trains. We have two portable layouts that we set-up at public locations. We have set them up at care facilities, Amtrak stations, train shows and other places. We also have outside club activities. We have gone on the train to Sacramento and the Sacramento Rail Museum. We've ridden the train at Railtown 1897 SHP and had a private tour there. Also we have visited home train layouts and will have many other activities in the future. Our meetings are at the Scouts Hall, 4717 Elm Street, Denair, CA at 1:30 PM (doors open at 12:30) on the first Sunday of each month. Holidays or other events can change that. We always get there by 1:00 PM to visit and see what others have brought to show. For more information please call Ed Cathcart at 209-479-4432

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Continued on page 36

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: Eugene Brichacek, 510-963-2965 email: embrichacek@gmail.com

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA)

The SLOMRA is a multi-scale modular group with active N and HO scale layouts. The goal of our nonprofit association is railroad education and local history through public display of our modules. Our shows usually include G-gauge, tinplate, 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.

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

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.

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. 5:00 to 8:00 PM or Sat. 10:00 AM to 3:00 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 Steve Skold (707) 539-1782 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=163470062239>

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, 209-679-5204 Mail: 829 Mellon Ave. Manteca, CA 95337 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 to last Friday of the month from 8:00 to 10:00PM for operations. Fares are \$2.00 for 6-12 and seniors over 60 and \$3.00 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). 2019 week-end schedule: Jan 19-20, Mar 16-17, May 18-19 and Sept 14-15 (11:00AM-6:00PM). Holiday Open House schedule: Nov 22-24 & Nov 29 - Dec. 1.

West Bay Model Railroad Association

Meets in the former S.P. baggage building at 1090 Merrill St., between the Menlo Park train station and Ravenswood Ave. Construction is nearly complete on a DCC 2-level HO layout designed for operations. Scheduled work sessions are Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, while monthly business meetings occur at 8 pm the third Wednesday and operating sessions the second Saturday of each month. Prospective members and visitors are always welcome! Contact Lou Cartalano at 650-964-5603, leave a voice message at 650-322-0685 or visit wbmrra.ning.com and facebook.com/wbmrra for more info..

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you



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

We not only welcome your input here at the *Branch Line*, we actively encourage it!

In fact, may we say that we go so far as to solicit your input?

If you have a small article you would like to submit for publication, or even just an idea for an article, please let us know. We will be happy to work with you.

Just contact our editor, Chip Meriam, at:

chipmeriam@comcast.net

We're looking forward to hearing from you!





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