



## Coast Dispatcher #209

**September, 2020**

Coast Division Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast>

Pacific Coast Region Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org>

Click [HERE](#) for Officers, Directors and Chairpersons of the Coast Division



### NO SEPTEMBER MEETING

Update on Coast Division Physical Events this fall – at the July Board meeting the Coast Division Board unanimously agreed that hosting an in-person event in September would be very difficult and attendance would be limited. The Coast Division Board plans to meet in September to consider future options for in-person events based on conditions. In the interim, the Coast Division Saturday Morning Virtual Events will meet every other Saturday at 9 AM.

### PHOTOS

Since we had no contest last time, we'll include some members' shots on pages 2 and 3 and starting on page 11.



### Editor's Notes

I had to do quite a chop job on the newsletter since we have been without a physical meeting for a while, so therefore no clinics, contests, auction or other information for our officers and chairpersons to report. So we're doing the best we can with what we have. Several of the board members chipped in with photos of their modeling so we'd have some pictures for this issue. Phil did a great job of recapping what's been going on and what's planned.

This would be a great time for you to contribute your model photos (please include a caption) or articles. Tell us what you've been doing to adjust to the confinement, what you're working on, etc.

Also, while the newsletter is in transformation, this would be a great time to send me your ideas to improve it. Now that it's all digital, there are very few limitations, so let your imaginations run free, and tell me what they come up with.

Thanks.  
Pete Birdsong

#### In This Issue:

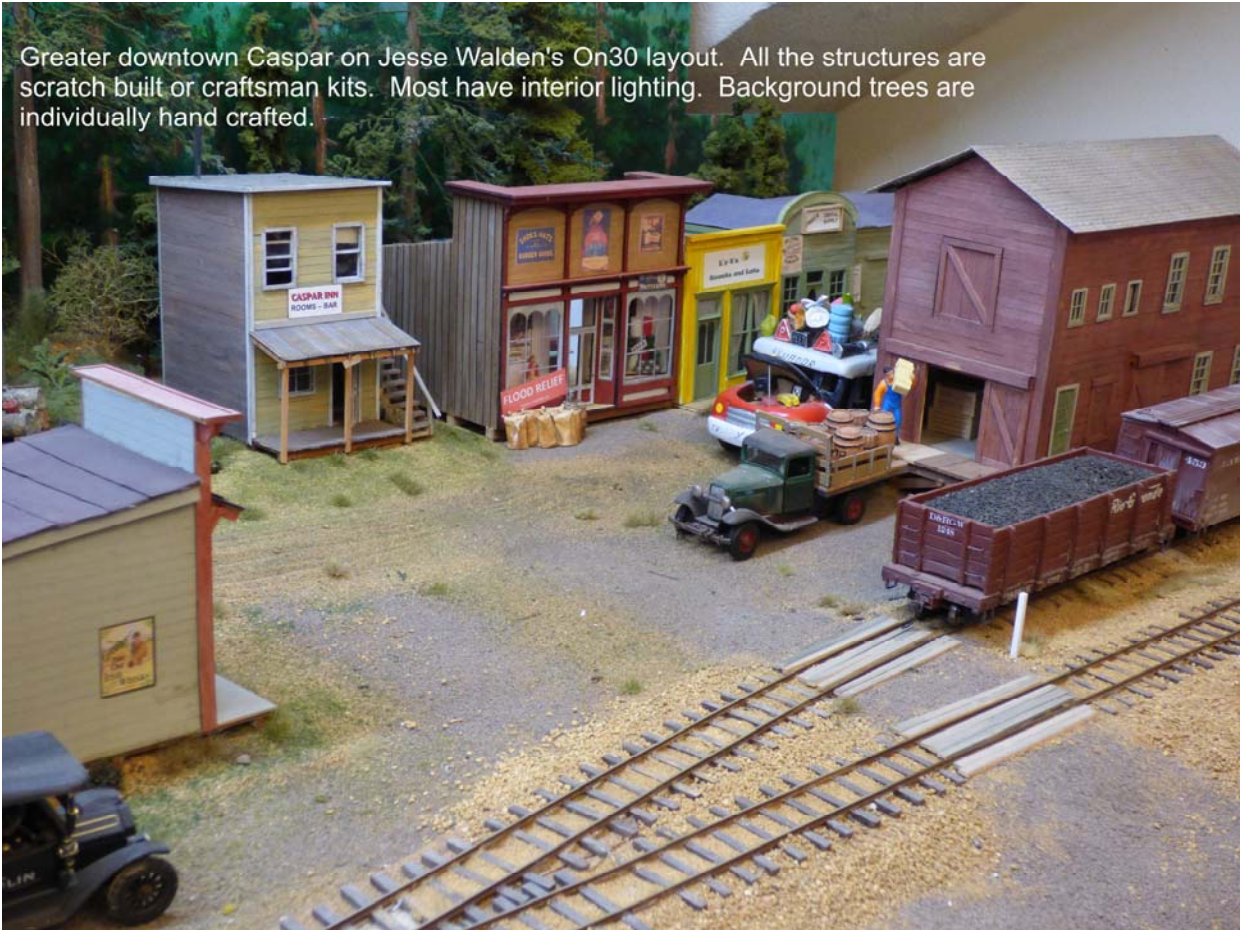
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|--|--|
| 1. Cover, Editor's Notes                     | 8. Registrar, Welcome New Members, Publicity |
| 2-3 Photos                                   | 9. 50 Years Ago, Auction Report, Contest     |
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In lieu of contest pictures, we're including shots of models of members in this and future issues until we're back in the contest business again. So send me an email with your photo and a brief caption to show in future issues. In the meantime, enjoy this one and the ones on the next page and at the end of the newsletter.

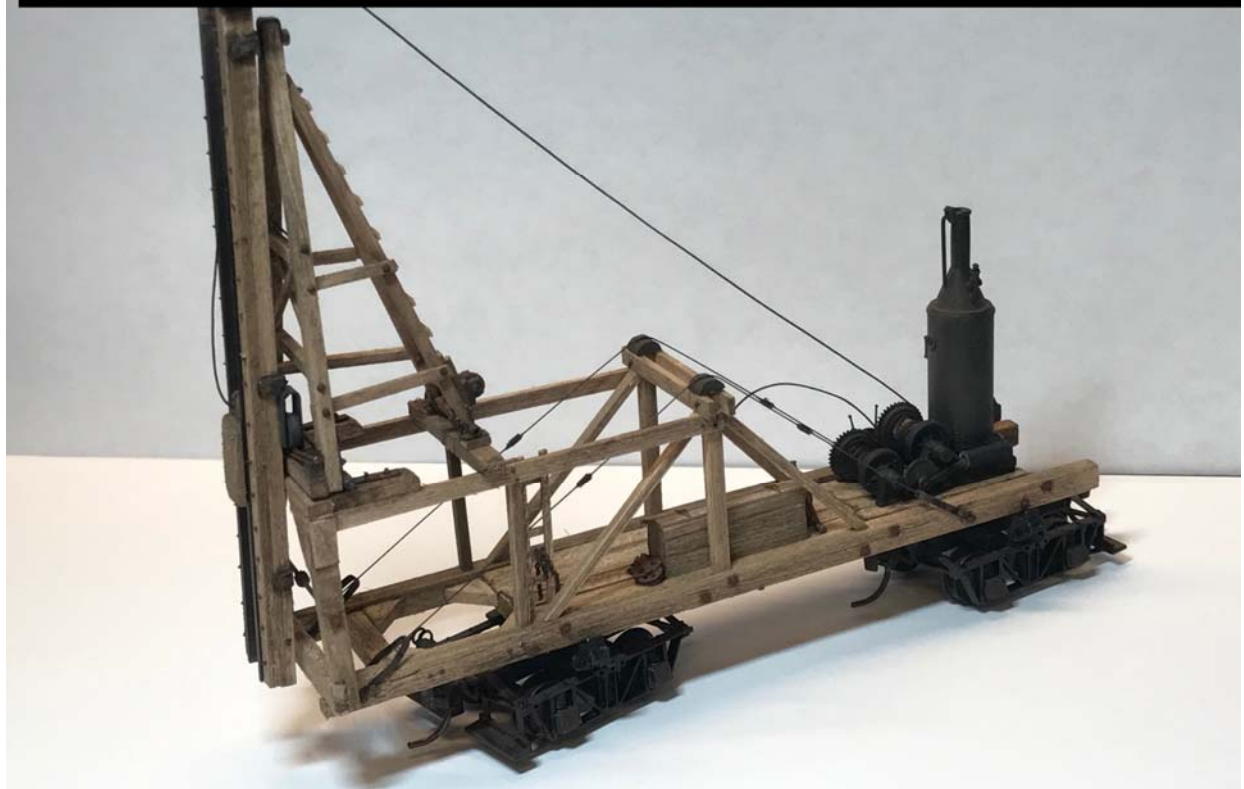
Frank Markovitch's West Side Powder House snowplow from Russ Simpson plans, scratch built. Very difficult as so many unusual angles.



Greater downtown Caspar on Jesse Walden's On30 layout. All the structures are scratch built or craftsman kits. Most have interior lighting. Background trees are individually hand crafted.



Earl Girbovan's Scratchbuilt HO Pile Drive from plans in NG&SLG





**Vice President Frank Markovich**  
**Report to the Coast Division – September 2020**

Well I think we are all getting used to being isolated from each other. It is now going on 5 months. I was hoping to do lots of modeling but have been doing lots of day care of grandchildren instead. I am not complaining because I have built a number of models with some of them. Not trains, but planes and cars. Quite a bit of fun and that is how I started.

Chris and I have worked to roll out a Member Buddy Program. If you are interested in being a buddy to a new member or are a new member looking for someone to help, contact me. We can't do much at this time but the virus will hopefully have a vaccine or at least a good treatment will be developed.

Phil has done a great job in hosting weekly Zoom meetings. I did one clinic on a Saturday a few weeks ago and have attended quite a few.

Some future events for you to look forward to: For West Side Reunion and the Sierra Seminar the plans will be on April 17 th for West Side and April 18 th for the Sierra Seminar, both will be held at the Sonora Senior Center. The PCR next year will be in Fresno and should be a great convention. I expect lots of models at the convention. The NMRA National will be in Santa Clara next year.

We are now doing online judging for achievement awards. Contact Earl or myself. We have issued two Golden Spike awards so far and have a couple of others in process.

If you have comments or ideas contact me at [frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com)

Frank



**Director's Report**  
**By Lisa Gorrell, MMR**  
**September, 2020**

The Annual Meeting was held May 29 and the yearly awards were announced during the meeting. For **Coast Division Member of the Year**, I presented the award to **Ronnie LaTorres**. Ronnie LaTorres has been volunteering as the Coast Division Registrar at every Coast Division Meet since March 2014. She has never missed a meeting and is always there early to help set up. Besides setting up and getting everyone registered, she collects orders for name badges. She is responsible for gathering door prizes and distributing them at break during the auction. Often, she has baked goods to share with members she greets. She has also volunteered many times at the GTE shows working at the NMRA booth for recruitment. Thank you, Ronnie. Congratulations on being 2020 Coast Division Member of the Year. Hopefully we'll be able to present the award to her in person soon.



## Superintendents Report

### By Phil Edholm September, 2020

Unfortunately, this letter is not exactly what I had hoped to write when I put together the June letter. The Coast Division Board had hoped to announce a September event; potentially outdoors, however, the current arc of the virus clearly precludes that. The Coast Division Board met virtually on July 20<sup>th</sup> and unanimously agreed that, based on state guidelines and official outlooks for the virus, planning any events for September is out of the question at this point. Even if we could find a venue, probably outdoors, the board consensus view was there

would be very limited attendance and it could be cancelled at any time. For that reason, the board agreed to get back together in mid-late September to consider in-person options when there is more clarity on future restrictions/openings. Pete Birdsong has begun the process of investigating potential locations if the current ones (Boy Scouts and Elks) are not available or if we must meet outdoors. **This work will be turned over to the venue search committee at a later date.** As before, any member wishing to come to the board meeting, please contact me for Virtual Event info.

The good news for model railroaders is that we have a wide range of virtual events to attend and our local hobby shops are open to enable our modeling pursuits. We have had five Coast Division Saturday Virtual Events. In order to make planning to attend easier, we are moving to every other Saturday with a defined schedule going forward. But there is a lot more than just our weekly video meeting going on. There is some amazing modeling going on as well; just check out Earl's HO piledriver in the photos section.

#### NMRA GatewayX Virtual Convention

Since the St. Louis convention was cancelled, the NMRA hosted the NMRA GatewayX Virtual Convention on the [NMRA Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.org/) at <https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.org/>. This was a week of clinics, layout tours, discussions, and vendor clinics, over a hundred in all. All were recorded and are available on the [NMRA YouTube channel](https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.org/videos) at <https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.org/videos>. There are some amazing videos and clinics. The only challenge is finding content, the recordings generally have 2 or 3 clinics per recording, so you have to find the day and time to pick out the right recording. The Facebook video cover image for each shows the clinic list for the day; there are generally three recordings for each day, so you must get the right one with your clinic.

One recording you have to watch is the last one, recorded at the very end of the NMRA GatewayX Virtual Convention, The wrap up speaker is our own Chris Palermo, acting in his alternative role as the Publicist for the 2021 Rails By The Bay National NMRA Convention (not virtual!!!!). For those that have been truly sheltering the last while, the NMRA convention will be in Santa Clara next year, July 4-11 2021, and in the video, Chris goes through all the details and sells visiting the Bay Area. Click on this [video](https://www.facebook.com/126057957415405/videos/215221523034835) <https://www.facebook.com/126057957415405/videos/215221523034835> and go to 4:12:07 (4 hours:12 minutes...).

The upcoming national convention is an exciting opportunity for the Coast Division to demonstrate our best modeling and layouts, but also to volunteer. Putting on a convention with over a hundred sessions, numerous layout tours and events is a huge undertaking. While the PCR is the host region, we are the "home" division, hopefully we can all step up and really help. Another volunteer option is to staff the NMRA table at the National Train Show on Friday or Saturday of the convention week. Volunteering is incredibly important to the convention team; they are relying on us to make it work. But volunteering can also be personally rewarding beyond the joy of giving back. A national convention is a great way to rapidly bolster your volunteer hours and move towards the MMR Volunteer AP Certificate. That gets you 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the way to your MMR!!! On-line registration opens September 1<sup>st</sup>. Stay tuned for more info and volunteering contacts.

The video, starting at 3:12:20 just before Chris, Mike Mackay, MMR, introduces the 2023 National Convention to be held in Dallas, TX, August 22-25, 2023. Due to a conflict after Birmingham won the Commonwealth Games, the 2022 convention in the UK has been cancelled.

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### Saturday Morning Coast Division Virtual Events



#### NMRA/PCR Coast Division

Next Saturday Morning  
Virtual Event  
9 AM - August 8, 2020

Join the NMRA/PCR Coast Division for our next Virtual Event.  
Zoom video Conference: <https://tinyurl.com/CoastDivEvent>

#### "Working" Layout

Steve Van Meter will tour his South West Pacific RR layout and discuss how prototype and operations have impacted his layout.



#### Show Your Workbench! Show what you have been modeling!

#### Details in Minutes!!!!

Phil Edholm will do a CeD clinic on using PowerPoint (or other drawing programs) to design and print interior walls for your structures.



Future Events  
Mark Your Calendar

- August 22<sup>nd</sup>
- September 5<sup>th</sup>
- September 19<sup>th</sup>

As indicated, we are planning to go to a regular bi-weekly series of on-line virtual events Saturday mornings. In the future, we will not reschedule for other events; it turns out most other events are recorded anyway, which is great. All Coast Division Virtual Events are on Saturday mornings at 9 AM PDT and are hosted on Zoom. In fact, you can find recordings of those virtual events on the [Coast Division YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpKgBn_Dcaf1gOA8nGvWDGQ) at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpKgBn\\_Dcaf1gOA8nGvWDGQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpKgBn_Dcaf1gOA8nGvWDGQ).

At this point we are planning the following Saturday dates:

- August – 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>
- September – 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>
- October – hopefully not, but always prepared – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>

The Saturday virtual events generally have had a layout tour, a virtual clinic, or other content. This generally lasts about an hour, after which we move to "What is on your Workbench" the section where we share our new modeling, where we have seen some amazing models. We also have lots of time for socializing. Generally, virtual events last between 1 and 2 hours. We have included a few pictures from some of the sessions for your enjoyment in the photos section.

Virtual Events are also a great way to discuss your layout and your modeling. As always, presenting your layout is a great way to have others see your passion and skills. We have had great success in just having a set of pictures/slide show of a layout and the layout owner/modeler discuss what is in the shot and why. Watch, for example, both Jesse Walden and Earl Girbovan layout tours on the Coast Division YouTube Channel. As always, volunteers are needed for clinics, albeit virtual. A virtual clinic can be the pictures of your modeling activity with explanations. Virtual clinics are great ways to show new modeling skills. Especially if those are computerized. For example, if you have the knowledge, doing a clinic showing a drawing package for a tool like 3D printing or a Cricut. Anything you do on your computer can easily be shared on-line. I did a clinic in another virtual event on using PowerPoint as a drawing tool to generate detailed printed interiors for your buildings. In fact, for demonstrating a computer/tool skill, screen sharing may be better than in person in a large room, with a fuzzy screen, that only shows 80%.... If nothing else, Covid-19 has introduced us all to the world of video meetings, which may prove to be better for some things.

To join the Virtual Meeting, use this information:

Topic: Coast Division/PCR Saturday Morning Virtual Event

Time: This is a recurring meeting Saturday, 9 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93850662773?pwd=M3c5b1o5dk1lZzBmNzBLZXhYK1ZtUT09>

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Dial in: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 938 5066 2773

Passcode: 4014

### **Modeling in Solitude, Finding Motivation**

In February, I was focused on a deadline, completing a large 12"x2-4" fairly complicated module based on Moss Landing . The hard deadline was using that module, not sceniced, but completely operational, at the Concord PCR convention as part of the California Central Coast On30 modular layout set up for on-demand operations. As the module provides 12 switching spots and some good operational challenges, it was an essential element for the operations scenarios and needed to be completed. As we all know, the best laid plans of mice and men and Covid. Without a deadline to motivate me and define the steps to model and ignore, to some extent I drifted through the early shelter months.

But now, the realization that we will be setting up our modules next year for the national convention/show has given me a new deadline and goal. My new goal is to complete the module operationally (lots of causeways/wharfs with rails), but also to get the scenery and structures completed and as much detail as I can by the convention. Part of this is to begin completing the AP certificates that building a layout fulfill. But motivation to complete a model can come from anywhere, perhaps getting something done for our Saturday Virtual Meeting Event can get that project off your bench. For Coast Division members, the upcoming convention is a great motivator to complete that diorama you started, to do something completely new, a car, an engine, a snowplow, a structure, whatever. As someone once said, nothing motivates like a deadline.

### **When is a Model Truly Complete?**

Speaking of completing a model, I thought that Earl made a very interesting comment/suggestion a couple of weeks ago while presenting in the PCR Virtual Clinic about successfully navigating the NMRA Achievement Program. He talked about many modelers submitting the same model for a second (or third or fourth) NMRA contest judging. Each time they improved the model by fixing issues or adding details, resulting in increasing the points awarded. Listening to Earl and his explanation of the points system for evaluating models it makes perfect sense; the more details and improvements you add, especially based on the judge's comments, the better the model will be and the higher it will score. Later I was in a Facebook Channel "New Tracks" Saturday afternoon meeting hosted by Jim Kellow, MMR and he asked the question, "When is a model finished?"

That is a very interesting question, one I am sure would evoke a range of responses. But, as I had heard Earl talk about the process of model improvement in AP judging, I realized that most models you (or your guests) can see are probably never really completed. If you can see a model, at some point something will catch your eye that could be improved, especially the models from many of our cringe worthy early efforts. Or a guest will point out a prototypical inaccuracy and after racking your brain for a reasonable justification explanation you decide it must be corrected, Regardless, whether a model is on a layout, on a module, on your workbench, or a display shelf, a seen model is always available or even begging for improvement. It would seem the only time a model is truly complete is when it is put away, no longer visible, alone and forlorn, and ultimately forgotten. When that model is "found", it inevitably needs "polishing" before it can be visible again. While some modelers may achieve the nirvana of true completion and their masterpieces are set aside for display, visible but not touchable, for us mortal modelers, it seems there is always room for improvement. How often do you find yourself looking at a model you built years ago and thinking you could give it a once over and really shine it up? Add a few details and a sign or two, a few figures and you are on the continual model upgrade path.

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### **It is a Great Time to Volunteer for the Coast Division Board**

We have a significant number of Coast Division Volunteer Leadership positions open. These positions are currently unfilled:

- Clinics – Coordinates Clinics for our Quarterly Events
- Contests – Coordinates the contests and award process at our Quarterly Events
- Quartermaster -
- Layout Tours – Coordinates layout tours to be incorporated into our Quarterly Events
- Roundtable Coordinator – Hosts and Moderates the Roundtable at our Quarterly Events

We really need to beef up the team to be ready for great events after the virus subsides. Volunteering for a position is a great way to meet more members and learn and get those volunteer credits. Call me or drop me an email if you are interested and want to participate. Come to the September virtual board meeting and participate. Help us put together some great events after 6 months at home. Bring your ideas and help with the virtual events now. And then be part of creating a great after-Covid Coast Division..

Stay Safe and Well, Phil



### ***Registrar's Report***

***By Ronnie LaTorres***

***September, 2020***

***There was no June meeting, so nothing to report***

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

**No new members came on board in July. We will report subsequent additions in later issues of the *Dispatcher*.**



## **Publicity Report**

By Steve Wesolowski

September, 2020

Hi Everyone!

With no physical meeting, train show or convention events to publicize right now, and for the near future, I strongly encourage everyone to look into and attend some of the many Virtual On-line Modeling events available which interest you. These virtual meetings, layout tours, clinics and other offerings ARE a great way to stay in touch with, inspire and be inspired by other modelers.

Meanwhile, I wish Happy trains to all, until we meet again!

Steve Wesolowski, your Coast Division Publicity Volunteer



## **The Coast Division 50 Years Ago**

*Excerpted by Pete Birdsong*

*From Issue #8, September, 1970, of the Coast Dispatcher*

- ⇒ **Meeting was held at the Peninsula Model Railroad Club at the San Mateo County Fairgrounds**
- ⇒ **Clinic on hand lettering heralds by Jim Kenny**
- ⇒ **Chief Clerk to be elected to complete Skip Hayden;s term, Skip having moved away**
- ⇒ **Door prizes were: two books, N scale diesel loco, one pound (!!) of HO spikes and an O scale 4-6-0**
- ⇒ **There was a raffle for an HO GE U-50B**
- ⇒ **Contest categories were Steam loco, Freight car, Caboose, Structure and Special event**
- ⇒ **A new hobby shop called TNT Hobbies opened in Soquel (!!)**
- ⇒ **The newsletter was 6 pages long**



## **Auction Report** **By Craig Matoza**

No June 2020 Auction

### CONTESTS

No Model and Photo Contest for June, 2020



# WITLESS vs CLUELESS

*The adventures of Rivets O'Reilly  
and Larry Loungecar*

As originally published in the Mid Central Region Division 10 Newsletter, *The Lantern*.  
Created by Pete Birdsong and sustained by Mike Armstrong



## “The End Game”

**Rivets:** Hey, Larry; how's it goin'? I haven't been over here at your place in a while. The layout's lookin' good!

**Larry:** Gee, thanks, Rivets. But I've got a lot of work to do on it still. How've you been?

**Rivets:** I'm strugglin' with a real issue, Larry. It's killin' me!

**Larry:** What kind of issue, Rivets?

**Rivets:** I can't decide on a time frame for my layout, Larry, so I can't decide between FREDS and Cabeese.

**Larry:** You mean cabooses?

**Rivets:** Whatever...but if I decide on an earlier time frame, it means cabeeses, or whatever, and if I go "modern" it means FREDS. And they both have problems. When you're runnin' a way freight, it takes a lot of extra moves to lay off the caboose, and pick it up again, and the idea of the FRED just bein' on the same few cars ain't right either, and it's a royal pain to move 'em from one car to the other. What do you run, Larry?

**Larry:** Sometimes I hook on a caboose, when I feel like it; and I have a FRED on a few cars when I want to simulate big modern unit trains. Sometimes I just run around "naked."

**Rivets:** Careful where you say that, Larry. Some people might get the wrong idea. And you're not bein' strictly prototypical, are you?

**Larry:** Maybe not, Rivets, but you gotta stretch the prototype image somewhere, unless you're runnin' a real prototype. It's just a matter of where you want to stretch it, and what's the most fun for you. Meanwhile, I've got anxiety problems of my own.

**Rivets:** What's the matter, Larry?

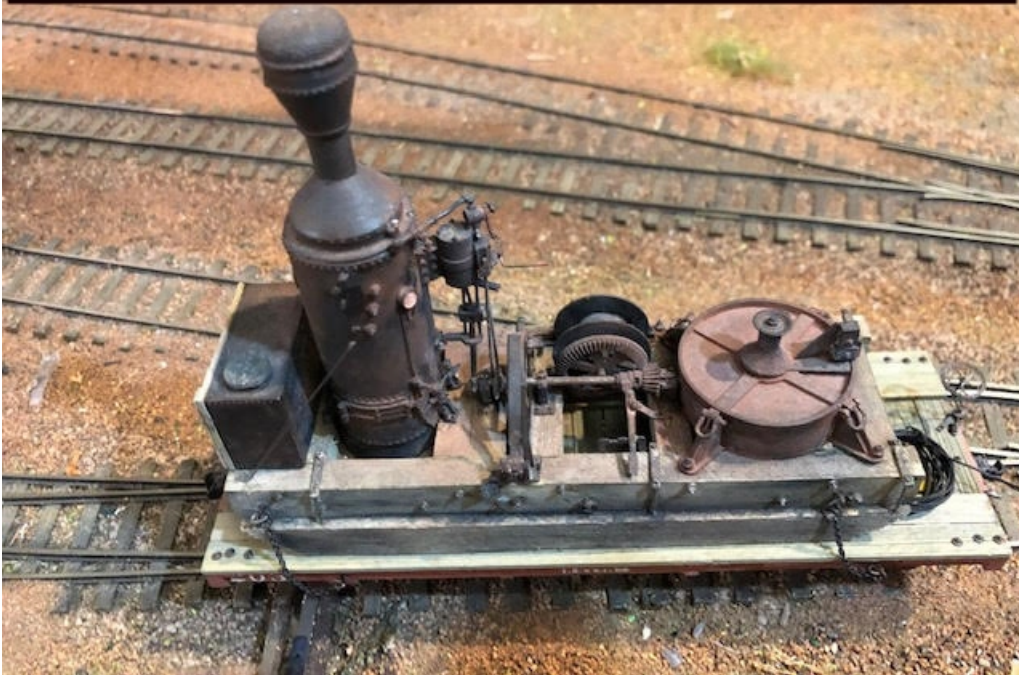
**Larry:** I can't find my Walthers catalog, and it's makin' me feel so insecure!

**Rivets:** I'm gonna kill you one of these days, Larry...

**Rivets:** Right now, ol' buddy. Get 'em out, and get out the glue, and some clamps, paint, etc.

**Larry:** Glue? Paint? Clamps? We're gonna need all that?

Frank Markovich's CHB donkey on a Scratch-Built West Side Heavy Duty flatcar. It won a first at the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Pasadena



Frank Markovich: model of a camp with T Yorke kits and scratch-built models .







Frank Markovich: Another scratch built car. West Side Wooden Water Car, from Russ Simpson plans.

Here are a couple Daylight locomotives. US Hobbies 2 rail O scale with a Westside models HO scale Daylight. Couple out of my collection. - Craig Matoza



Jesse Walden's Caspar; several buildings have detailed interiors, various details by Rusty Rails and background was painted by Jesse





The Barrio Juarez neighborhood bus terminal on Jesse Walden's HO layout.

Crystal Springs Central Station on Jesse Walden's HO layout.

