



# Coast Dispatcher #194 December 2016

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

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

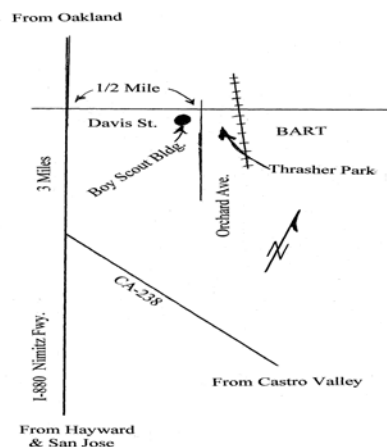
## Next Coast Division Event

December 4, 2016

Boy Scouts of America Headquarters  
1001 Davis St, San Leandro, CA.

- 9:00 AM.....Doors open. Free Door Prizes.  
 9:30 AM.....Get Auction Cards.  
 10:00 AM.....Modular Signal System - MSS, by Jere Ingram  
 11:00 AM.....Logging in N-scale, by Tom Knapp MMR #101  
 11:15 AM Model Railroading Round Table moderated by Howard McKinney. Bring your issues and questions.  
 12 Noon.....Business Meeting  
 ~12:30 PM\* ...Model/Photo Contest Results  
 ~12:45 PM\* ...Auction starts, Roundtable continues  
 3:30 PM.....Timesaver Results,. Afterward Auction continues if required  
 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM:  
 Model Contest– Diesel and others, Caboose, Display, and Freight Cars  
 Special Contest - Models built at the Structure Clinic, special award  
 Photo Contest– Unpowered rolling stock, model or prototype  
 Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)  
 \* Contest results immediately after business meeting. Auction actually starts immediately after contest results.

## Directions to the Boy Scout Headquarters



### From the North:

Take Highway 880 south.  
 Take Exit 34, Davis St.  
 Turn Left on Davis. Go 0.7 miles to the BSA Headquarters, 1001 Davis St.

### From the South:

Take Highway 880 North  
 Take Exit 34, Davis St.  
 Turn Right on Davis St. Go 0.7 miles to the BSA Headquarters, 1001 Davis St.

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## Editor's Notes.

There is no NMRA Infonet this month because there was no September Infonet, and the October Infonet was not available at press time. I contacted Tom Draper, and he did not say when the October infonet would be sent.

I do intend to add more articles about layouts, and I have several in the queue, but it's a little crazy right now with all my work on the Niles Canyon Railway Train of Lights.

My apologies.

Congratulation to

Mike Blumensaadt MMR #579.

## ***Coast Division Superintendent and Director's Report***

***By Frank Markovich***

Our next meet (event) will be back at the Boy Scout Center in San Leandro on December 4, 2016. Address is: 1001 Davis St, San Leandro, CA 94577, starting at 9:30 AM.

Wow, a great meet (event). Had over 100 attend (107 on the sign in sheet). There were over 30 door prizes. I counted over 500 items in the auction. Very large Auction.

There were two clinics:

At 10:00 AM Mike Blumenstadt and I did the final Build a Memory clinic on the 'N' scale logging layout to include more on scenery, doing the electrical and final thoughts. After we decided to do another clinic at a future meet. We would really like to find two to three other individuals to take this over.

At 11:00 AM Jim Eckman did a 2<sup>nd</sup> clinic on Paper models – this is a hands on clinic and will go further than his last clinic. It was great! Those attending will got to build a model and bring it home!!!!

We had a round table with Howard leading it. There were about 10 people at the round table. I wish that I hadn't been busy with issues and could have attended.

Model Contest:

Steam, Maintenance of Way, Structures, Traction and Passenger. Many more models at this meet than in the recent past. We will be giving plaques from now on for first place. Jim Eckman will report on the contest later in this issue.

This upcoming meet will have the following catagories:

Diesel and others, Freight Cars, Display, and Caboose along with a special contest on the models built at the structure clinic (see below).

Here is the schedule for photo contest:

Dec 2016 Diesel Locomotives

March 2017 Tracks and Structures

June 2017 Favorite Photos

Sept 2017 Steam Locomotives

Dec 2017 Trains as Art

March 2018 Trains in Action

June 2018 Black and White

Sept 2018 Working on the Railroad

Plaques were awarded at the meet and photos of the models were shown during the business meeting. Remember you get an extra door prize ticket for bringing a model or a photograph!!

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Earl Girbovan and I did a structure clinic at my house with thirteen attendees. All had a great time. This was a success and we will be doing a follow-up clinic on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – location TBD. Watch for further information.

Mike Blumensaadt is leading up a series of clinics called the John Allen Memorial clinics and the first one will be at the December meet given by Tom Knapp. These will be given by Master Model Railroaders and the plan is 2 to 3 per year. Some will be given at times other than our regular events.

Below are pictures from the event:



Auction



Clinic Model by Earl



Eric Moe and the Switching Contest



Business Meeting



Vicki Newcomer had her layout open in the afternoon. I couldn't make it but wish I could have made it.

## **Auction Report for 9/25/16**

### **John Ameling**

Here is the Auction Committee report for the September 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 Division Train Event and the Board of Operations meeting on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>

Total Items Sold	425
No Bid Items	105
Auction net	\$ 5834.10

For several years, the auction chairman has been making auction item cards available in advance for those persons who request them. This process helps to expedite the seller's placement of items on the auction tables. However, several problems have been created by the increasing number of members who request cards in advance.

First, the cards provided in advance are usually in the lower range of numbers for the next auction. This means that the needed space for the seller's items must be known EARLY in the morning to facilitate having sufficient space for that range of items. Several members with card numbers in the lower sequence have been arriving very late in the morning only to find that there is insufficient space to lay out their items and they subsequently become irate that there wasn't enough space allocated for their items. THE FIX: The Coast BOO discussed this issue and has derived the following requirement of seller's who have received their auction item cards in advance. The seller MUST have all of his items layed out on the tables by 10:00am on the day of the auction. Any seller with advance auction item cards who arrives after 10:00am will have to put his/her items after the last items placed on the table at the time of their arrival. NO SPACE will be allocated in the normal sequence for advance items after 10:00am.

Second, any seller who requests advance auction item cards and subsequently fails to bring auction items with those cards or who fails to return the unused cards shall be denied advance auction item cards for future auctions.

Third, the number of early requests have left only high numbered cards for requests made at the meet. Collections with more than 50 items will be broken into several smaller blocks and distributed throughout the auction. Blocks of lower numbered cards will be set aside for requests made at the meet. This is not a guarantee that low number cards will be available throughout the meet.

These issues may seem petty to the sellers, but the issues are large and real for the auction committee workers who are working diligently to arrange items on the tables to conserve as much space as possible due to a limited number of tables at the meet venues.

Thanks

John Ameling  
Auction Committee Chair

## ***Coast Division Elections in March***

***Dave Connery***

At our March 5, 2017 Meet we will elect Division officers for the ensuing two years. Positions to be filled at that time are Superintendent, Chief Clerk and Paymaster. Candidates for these positions will be announced at the December 4, 2016 Meet and further nominations will be open from the floor. If you are interested in being considered for one of these position or have any questions about the election contact Dave Connery, Division Nominations Chair.

## ***Volunteer: Enjoy Trains & Meet Interesting People***

***Steve Wesolowski***

Fall's arrival this year has brought rain, with much more to come, we hope. Fall's arrival also reminds me of Train Shows & other train events coming to Coast Division and in PCR; most are listed in the PCR Calendar at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/calendar.shtml>

FYI: Our PCR Calendar IS only as useful & complete a list of fun train events in & near PCR as much as We All keep Dave Grenier informed about any/all upcoming train events in PCR. Dave can't list what he doesn't know about. So, If YOU know of ANY coming train events in PCR you DON'T see listed on the PCR Calendar, please email Dave ASAP with the info so he can add them!

Fortunately for all who enjoy trains, and because each one of us have different individual train interests, there are usually more train events during most weekends than any one of us can attend, so we must choose. and also, the rest of our lives conflict with some events we'd enjoy. Besides Coast and other PCR events, there are 3 train events I enjoy volunteering for most years:

The Great Train Show, <http://greattrainshow.com/>, Nov. 26-27, at Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave, in Pleasanton

The Great Train Show, <http://greattrainshow.com/>, Feb. 26-27, at Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, in San Jose

40th International Railfair, <http://www.internationalrailfair.com/>, Nov. 12-13, at Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All American City Blvd, in Roseville

Of course there are many other train events within Coast Division & PCR which could use your help as a volunteer, but I'll focus here on volunteering for these 3 I've enjoyed in past years...

Volunteers enjoy free admission to the show for spending a few hours at our NMRA Info area with other volunteers answering questions about NMRA, PCR and model railroading in general. Volunteers enjoy meeting interesting people of all ages who also like trains. We usually are able to answer most of their questions, to help others enjoy trains more, often by referring them to local clubs and other resources. All volunteers also enjoy the rest of the show during breaks.

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If you have any questions about or think you may be interested in volunteering to help us answer questions about NMRA & PCR membership and share your experiences with and enjoyment of Model Railroading at either or both Great Train Shows, please email Frank Markovich or me: our addresses are in the Dispatcher. Most volunteers plan to attend either one or both days and enjoy volunteering a couple hours, trading off with other volunteers. I often find I learn as much from other volunteers as from the others I meet. Volunteering has benefits besides good karma.

I've enjoyed attending the International Railfairs because the mixture of vendors, layouts and people attending I've met are mostly a different mix from those I usually meet, enjoy and learn more about trains from at Great Train Shows in Coast Division. I also carpooled to Roseville with friends who also Volunteered, so we enjoyed more train & other talking riding there and back.

If you're interested in Volunteering to help with 40th International Railfair next month, email Scott McAllister at [scooter923@att.net](mailto:scooter923@att.net)

I strongly encourage everyone to volunteer to help in some way with most train events in the PCR Calendar: almost all only happen ONLY because of volunteers, mostly train enthusiasts like you and me. So, if you see any event that interests you enough to want to attend, I urge you to consider contacting, usually by email, any one involved with the event identified as a contact, as much beforehand as you can. You will likely enjoy that event even more than whatever time you can contribute.

A final thought: I've been at an event when I happen to notice or overhear someone involved could use a little help--maybe for a quick bathroom break, or to help them move something. If you offer politely to help even for a few minutes: they may say yes. You've likely made a new train friend, who may encourage you sit down for a few minutes rest. You never know where offering to help may lead, unless you ask.

Happy Trains to You, until we meet again.

Steve Wesolowski, Coast Division Publicity Volunteer

### ***Registrar's Report*** ***Ronnie LaTorres***

Here is the Meeting Attendance from the September Division Event

Coast Division	84
Daylight Division	0
Redwood Empire Division	5
Sierra Division	7
Guests	6
Total Attendance	102
First Timers	5

## ***Clinics for December*** ***Richard Brennan***

Here are the clinics for December

10:00 - 11:00 Modular Signal System - MSS, by Jere Ingram The new Modular Signal System (MSS) standard allows animating signals on modules or home layouts in a prototypical manner. Clinic will include: A brief review of the standard; Equipment necessary to implement; Implementation approach on a Free-mo module.

11:00 - 12:00 Logging in N-scale, by Tom Knapp MMR #101 Modeling logging and lumber railroading in N-scale, with an introduction to operations, and logging-related products available to the N scale modeler. Clinic will cover both N-standard and Nn3 logging.

11:00 - 12:00 Modeler's Roundtable - topic tbd

## ***Successful Structure Workshop*** ***Earl Girbovan***

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, a baker's dozen modelers arrived at Frank Markovich's home for the Wooden Structure Workshop. This was the first of what is hoped to be a number of hands-on workshops sponsored by the Coast Division of the PCR. It was put on by Frank Markovich and Earl Girbovan, and was a great success. Twelve modelers worked on HO scale kits and one worked on a TT scale kit.

The workshop began with distressing wood, followed by Frank and Earl covering different methods for peeling paint. After that, the individual modelers began construction by painting in their choice of colors to suit their particular layouts. It was particularly exciting to see 13 unique structures arising from the same kit.

Other workshop topics included signage, details, LED lighting and scenery materials. Many of the completed models will be on display in the December Coast Division meet. Come vote for your favorite!

From the success of this workshop, we are planning another early next year. The workshop will cover board on board construction with painting and weather techniques completely different from that of the first workshop. If you want to learn some new skills, and especially if the Master Builder – Structures certificate is one of your goals, this would be a great workshop to attend.

A web announcement will be forthcoming along with photos of the pilot model built two different ways. The pilot models will also be on display in the December meet.





## ***Model and Photo Contest Report September 25th, 2016***

***Jim Eckman***

### ***Steam***

No entries

### ***MOW/Non Revenue***

We had three almost equally popular entries, a nice turnout.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Mike Blumensaadt's ***The Dictator*** was the odd duckling this contest, you could call it an anti-MOW car and certainly generated no revenue. A scratch-built N scale car based on various US Civil War drawings.



**2<sup>nd</sup> place** – Craig Matoza's ***Russel Snow Plow*** in G scale.



**3<sup>rd</sup> place** – Kenneth Martin's ***CB&Q Outfit Car*** in

HO scale.



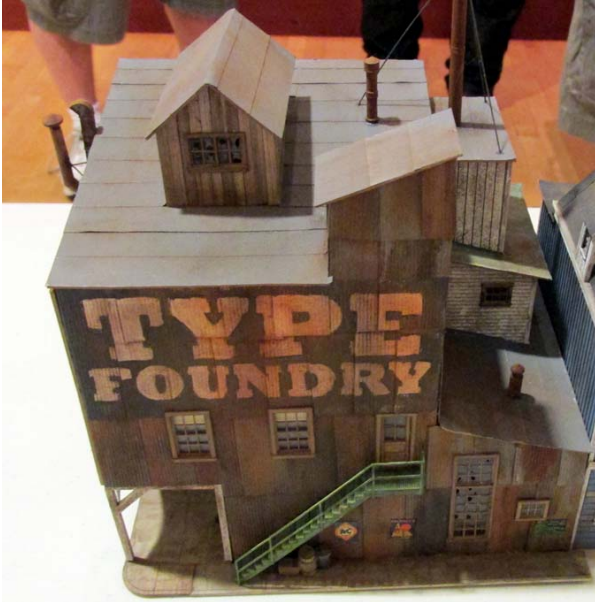
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## Structures

A lot of very nice structures this time.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Earl Girbovan's *Printer's Row* from a FOS kit, truly a lovely build.



**2<sup>nd</sup> place** – Tom Vanden Bosch's *Dill Pickle Salting Station*.



**3<sup>rd</sup> place** – Tom Vanden Bosch's *MacReady Vinegar*.

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Other Entries:

Vicki Newcomer's *Vicki's Alameda Island Layout*, some sample buildings from her layout.



Marc Parson's *Mako's Laundry*, a super-detailed Campbell kit.



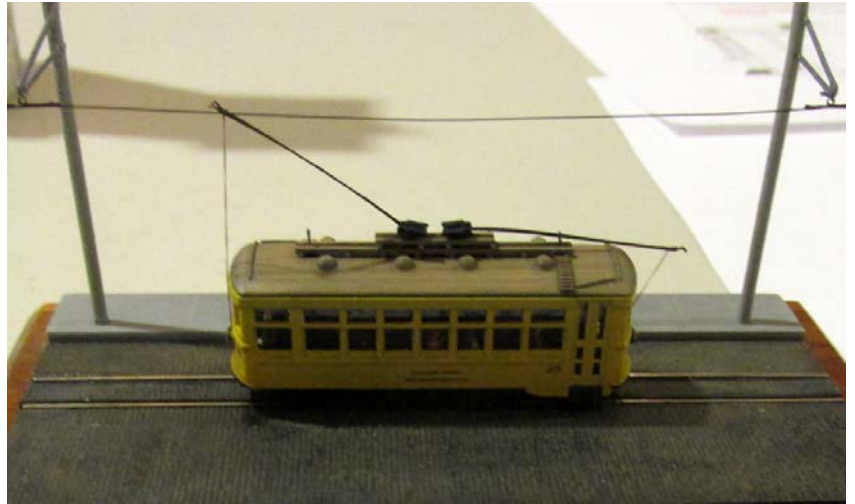
Marc Parson's *Earl's Pipe and Tobacco*, a Bar Mills kit.

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### **Traction**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Tom Knapp's *Birney Trolley* a scratch-built and working version!



### **Passenger**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Mike Blumensaadt's *Civil War Hospital Car*, built based on the only available drawing.

### **Photo**

#### **Working on the Railroad model or prototype**

The voting was really close, one vote made the difference in all three cases!

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Tom Vanden Bosch's *Car Repair Work Crew*

**2<sup>nd</sup> place** – Tom Van Horn's *Water for the Number 3*

**3<sup>rd</sup> place** – Stanley Keiser's *Strassberg Crane*

#### **Other Entries:**

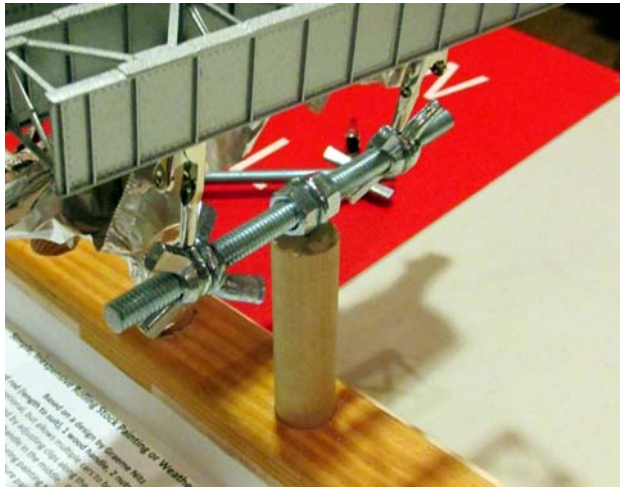
Tom Van Horn's *Knuckleheads at Work* and *Portola RAL*

Stanley Keiser's *Crane Gauge* and *Prefab Diamond*

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### Show and Tell



Rod Smith exhibited a homemade clamp that superior to the commercial versions.

Tom Knapp displayed an awesome Nn3 version of SP #401.



### ON THE WORK BENCH

Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge combine cabooses #401 in Nn3

Built by Carter Brothers for the San Joaquin & Sierra-Nevada, and p  
Queen Valley narrow gauge from 1901



Frank Markovitch showed us a model by Earl Girbovan that will be the model that participants will build in his upcoming workshop.

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Mike Blumensaadt put out more N scale cars along with paperwork as an example for getting Master Car Builder.

