



Coast Dispatcher

June 2014

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

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

Welcome to the Coast Division of PCR

Division Meet

June 1, 2014

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

9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.

9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.

10:00 AM Build a Memory: Part 2 – Frank Markovich and Mike Blumensaadt

11:00 AM Technology Transforming TT Trains - Richard Brennan

11:00 AM Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Howard McKinney Theme: "More on Dead Rail"

12 Noon Business Meeting

~1:00 PM* Auction starts, Roundtable continues

1:30 PM Model/Photo Contest Results – afterward Auction continues

3:30 PM Timesaver Results, Raffle – afterward Auction continues if required

9:30 AM – 1:15 PM:

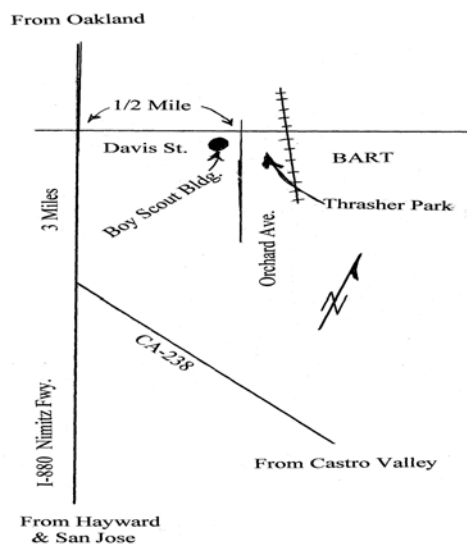
Model Contest: Structures, Traction and Self Propelled, Diorama

Photo Contest: Diesel Locomotives

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

* Auction actually starts as soon as Business Meeting ends.

Directions to the Boy Scouts of America 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.

Coast Call Board

Director: Mark Schutzer
Ph: 650-369-0481
Email: mark.schutzer@sbcglobal.net

Superintendent: Frank Markovich
Ph: 408-505-2727
email: frank@frankmarkovich.com

Chief Clerk: Darlene Ferguson
Ph: 925-231-5883
email: totempolekds@hotmail.com

Paymaster: Bob Ferguson
Ph: 925-228-6833
email: BobPCRCDD@aol.com

Achievement: Kermit Paul
Ph: 925-935-1859

Auction: John Marshall
Ph: 925-461-0206
email: jkmarsshall43@gmail.com

Auction Accounting: Bill Swindell
Ph: 925-372-6996
email: bill_swindell@value.net

Clinics: Dave Falkenburg
Ph: 408-425-3936
email: falken@mac.com

Publisher, Coast Dispatcher:
Tom Vanden Bosch
Ph: 650-369-8305
email: tom-marian@att.net

Editor, Coast Dispatcher:
Tom Crawford
Ph: 510-790-0371
email: tom@thecrawfordfamily.net

Roundtable Facilitator:
Howard McKinney
Ph: 408-996-1581
email: mckinney@pacbell.net

Model Contest: Jim Eckman
Ph: 650-996-6728
email:
jim_eckman@roninengineer.com

Nominations: Dave Connery
Ph: 925-735-0134
email: dgconnery@sbcglobal.net

Photo Contest: Keith Wandry
Ph: 408-507-6469
email: keith@lobstershack.com

Publicity: Steve Wesolowski
Ph: 408-252-4192
email: swezz@comcast.net

Quartermaster: Stan Keiser
Ph: 510-791-1504
email: sbkeiser@juno.com

Registration: Veronica LaTorres
Ph: 510-317-7456
email: veronicashadlow@yahoo.com

Switching Contest: Eric Moe
Ph: 510-425-4915
email: moerailroadstation@gmail.com

Web Master: John Sing
Ph: 650-372-0765
email: singj@us.ibm.com

Meeting Sites: Steve Wesolowski
Ph: 408-252-4192
email: swezz@comcast.net

Layout Tours: Dave Parks
Ph: 650-961-7644
email: [Bearwestern@comcast.net](mailto: Bearwestern@comcast.net)

Membership: Darrell Dennis
Ph: 510-303-3431
email: u8444p@comcast.net

In This Issue

Upcoming Events.....	1
Call Board	2
Editor's Notes.....	2
Superintendent's Report ...	3-4
Director's Cut	4
Coast Member of the Year....	5
New MMRs.....	5
Publicity.....	6-7
Registrar's Report	7
Model/Photo Contest	8-13
Twain Harte and Sonora Pass RR.....	14-18
NMRA Infolink	19-20

Editor's Notes

This Dispatcher has the first of a set of articles about layouts written by layout owners. This one is by our Superintendent, Frank Markovich about his Twain Harte and Sonora Pass RR. I have one more in the queue for another Dispatcher, an article by Tom Harryman about his High Sierra Stamp Mill and Mine with Cableway Ore Bucket System.

We would love to see other articles about layouts. If you would like to do an article about your layout, let me know. I can help you if you need it.

Coast Division Superintendent's Report

Frank Markovich

Some important updates:

We have decided to end the raffle – the board has tried this for the past 3 meets and the organization lost money on the raffle for each of the meets. As a group we do not feel that it attracts members to the meets. But we are keeping the door prizes and will even have opportunities for the members to get more than 1 door prize tickets: You get 1 ticket for signing in, 2. An additional door prize ticket if you wear a name badge, 3. An additional door prize ticket if you bring a contest model, contest photo or model for show and tell (only 1 ticket in this category). Lastly, you can purchase an addition 10 door prize tickets for \$5.

We do not have a place yet for the September meet!!! The BOO is working on it but as of now there are no locations – please if you know of a place we can get let me know!!

Need some individual to step up to do the website updates. I have been doing them but I am anything but an expert and we need a local member who actually knows what they are doing to help.

Need some individual to step up to do the website updates. I have been doing them but I am anything but an expert and we need a local member who actually knows what they are doing to help.

The two clinics were well attended and below are some of the pictures from the Build a Memory clinic, the roundtable, auction and model contests.



(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Auction



Roundtable:

The Director's Cut ***By Mark Schutzer***

As I'm writing this I just returned from the PCR convention in SLO this last weekend. It was good to see a lot of old friends and to meet some new ones from the PSR region. As usual it was three days packed with tons to do, I saw a lot of good clinics, layouts, and got a chance to operate on a couple of them.

Congratulations to Paul Deis and his committee for putting on a fine convention.

It was my pleasure to announce that Steve Wesolowski is this year's Coast Member of the Year. Steve has done a great job of promoting the model railroad hobby through all his efforts at the Train Shows and his efforts in the publicity department. Steve also stepped in to help out in the publicity position for the convention when the original volunteer became unavailable. I'm sure you all have seen Steve's emails promoting the convention. Congratulations Steve, you earned it.

Speaking of volunteers we still have several positions where we need some additional help. If you can help out please contact me or any of your other Coast Officers.

At the Board meeting at the start of the convention the election results were announced. I was elected for another two year term so you're all stuck with me for a while longer.

I hope you all had a chance to make it to the convention, and I hope you can make the June meet at the Boy Scouts HQ.

That's all for now,

Mark

Coast Division Member of the Year—Steve Wesolowski

At the 2014 PCR Convention banquet, Director Mark Schutzer Awarded the Coast Division member of the Year award to Steve Wesolowski for his participation and publicity work at many levels in both Coast Division and the PCR.



Frank Markovich—New MMR

Also at the convention, the 4 new PCR MMRs were recognized, including our Superintendent, Frank Markovich. The others were Giuseppe Aymar, Chuck Harmon, and Andrew Merriam



(Continued on page 6)

Publicity Report

Steve Wesolowski

Please, Share your Talents! Accept My Challenge!

Sadly, PCR's 2014 Convention ended last Sunday. As always, it was a fun gathering of mainly PCR Model RailFun enthusiasts and friends. I hope everyone who came received a shot in the arm of modeling enthusiasm: there were many fine clinics, beautiful layouts to visit and operate on, and vibrant San Luis Obispo to enjoy. I saw smiles on many faces every day in the Contest Room, where there were many fine models, photos and arts & crafts.

As usual, I volunteered to help with Contest Judging. This year, I helped Mary Moore-Compagna judge Arts & Crafts, as I had helped before. Sadly, there were only 4 entries in 3 categories, all Beautiful.

Then I asked Giuseppe what he wanted me to do next, and I was totally surprised: Joseph asked me to Judge Photographs, which I've never done before. But, working with two other judges, I learned. The only photo we easily agreed upon was which one was the Best Photograph in the Show: a nicely exposed photo inside the Jamestown machine shop.

I learned, after judging was over, that Tom Van Horn took that picture just after Daybreak in the machine shop -- a time Tom much prefers to be asleep, but he was up early as a Jamestown Docent. Several hours later I learned, at the Banquet, the same picture earned Popular Vote for Best of Show. Wow!

Although we didn't have as many Volunteer judges as Joseph Aymar wanted, that wasn't a big problem, because there weren't that many entries. Some model categories had no entries; the Black and White Prototype Photo category had one entry. With fewer entries to judge, our judging work was completed earlier than I ever remember, although with maybe the highest number of Merit Awards in recent years, very few entries were simple kits that could be judged more quickly.

I also concluded during the awards at the banquet it's very likely few people entered the contests, partly because both Ronnie LaTorres and Giuseppe Aymar earned several 1st Place Awards in photo and model categories. IMO, if more people had entered, more different people would have earned 1st Place Awards. I know at least one Photo award earned 1st Place as it was the only entry in the category.

This year, for my first time since 2001, I entered no Photos, Models or Arts & Crafts; for many reasons too boring to mention here, I had nothing finished in time. For that, I am very sorry: because, win or lose, I always learn and improve my skills by creating and entering my work for constructive criticism.

So, what is my point? Please, Share your Talents! We only inspire & learn from each other IF we bring and share our Photos, Models and Arts and Crafts with each other whenever we get together.

My Friendly Challenge

So, my Challenge, to both myself and You: I will try to bring & share my models, photos and, I hope, some of my RR themed arts and crafts to Display -- if my entry is not quite finished or not in any category for that meet -- or for Popular Voting at every Coast Division meet before May 2015.

I will bring my finished models/works in progress for YOUR constructive criticism and comments. I hope to learn how to improve my work BEFORE I enter it for judging at The Club Car, PCR's May 2015 Convention in Newark. I hope you'll bring YOUR work to share at our Coast Meets, so I can learn from your work, too. The 10 Model categories for every meet before May 2015 are:

June: Diorama, Structure, Traction & Self Propelled

(Continued on page 7)

September: Steam Locomotive, Diesel Locomotive, Passenger Car

December: Favorite Model (Open Category)

March: Caboose, Freight Car, Maintenance of Way

The Photo Theme for our June meet is "Railroad Structures": I will also bring and enter a Photograph every meet, too! I hope YOU or someone else wins every Popular Vote, because I will learn more that way!

My Bonus Challenge:

IF ANYONE enters ALL 10 Model Categories AND ALL 4 Photo Themes besides me, I'll give you a Useful Modeler's Bonus Prize -- a Useful Modeling Tool.

So, I'll bring a Diorama, a Structure, and a Traction or Self Propelled Model, plus a "Railroad Structure" Photo to San Leandro June 1st. I hope you also do the same! We all have just over 3 weeks to do this!

The Race is On!

Steve Wesolowski

Coast Publicity Wonk/Volunteer

Registrar's Report

Ronnie LaTorres

Registered / Attendance Total: 62 (With so much activity, how do you make sure every "signs in" when they walk in the door? I don't think they know the importance?!

Daylight	0
Sierra:	2
RED	6
Coast	52
Guest	2

Money spent \$127.04

Door Prize: \$52.04 (purchased 10 items) + 3 donated items from estate of Richard Pelletier*

Raffle: \$75

Raffle Winners:

\$25 Gift Cert (Train Shop in Santa Clara) to Russ Hora

\$25 Gift Cert (Train Shop in Santa Clara) to Paul Larson

\$50 Gift Cert (Just Trains in Concord) to Bill Burket [says he'd never been there before]

Veronica LaTorres

March 25, 2014

Model Contest/Photo Contest

Jim Eckman

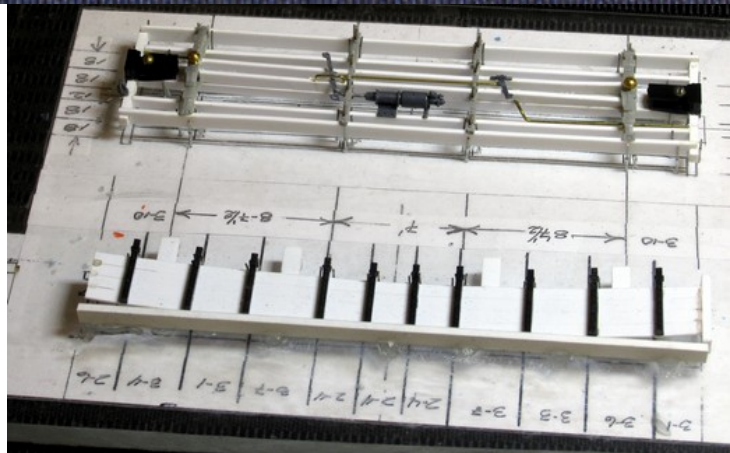
Model Contest

Freight Category

1st Place The clear favorite, Tom Harryman's HO_{N3} Victor Mining High Side Gondola Cars, these were also judged and scored for merit. Mostly scratch built with some commercial details these cars were close to perfect.



Jigs and fixtures example



2nd Place Pat LaTorres' Flatulene Tank Car, a funny car.

(Continued on page 9)

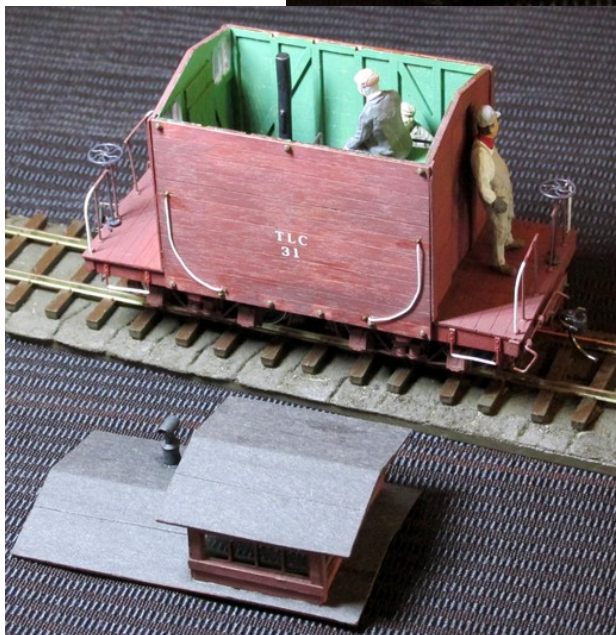
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3rd Place Kenneth Martin's SP Boxcar 36501 built from an old school craftsmen wooden kit. Extremely nice, another kit escapes the box! On an odd chance, when I took the photo with my LED light, a white fringe appeared around the decals. This was not visible under normal lighting! **A note for those thinking about changing over to LEDs!**

Normal Lighting



LED Lighting



Caboose Category

– Votes were fairly evenly split in this category, we had three very fine entries.

1st Place Pat LaTorres' Tower Lumber Company, On30 caboose. Included extensive interior detailing on this kit.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)



2nd Place Kenneth Martin's DSP&P Way Car, detailed brass model. I like the old timer cars.

3rd Place Tom Knapp's Pacific Coast RY Caboose/Track Cleaner, a narrowed MTI/Aztek track cleaning car modified for Nn3.



M.O.W. Category

1st Place Kenneth Martin's CB&Q Ditcher 268 on Flat 212621. A nice combination for a proto- freelance.

(Continued on page 11)

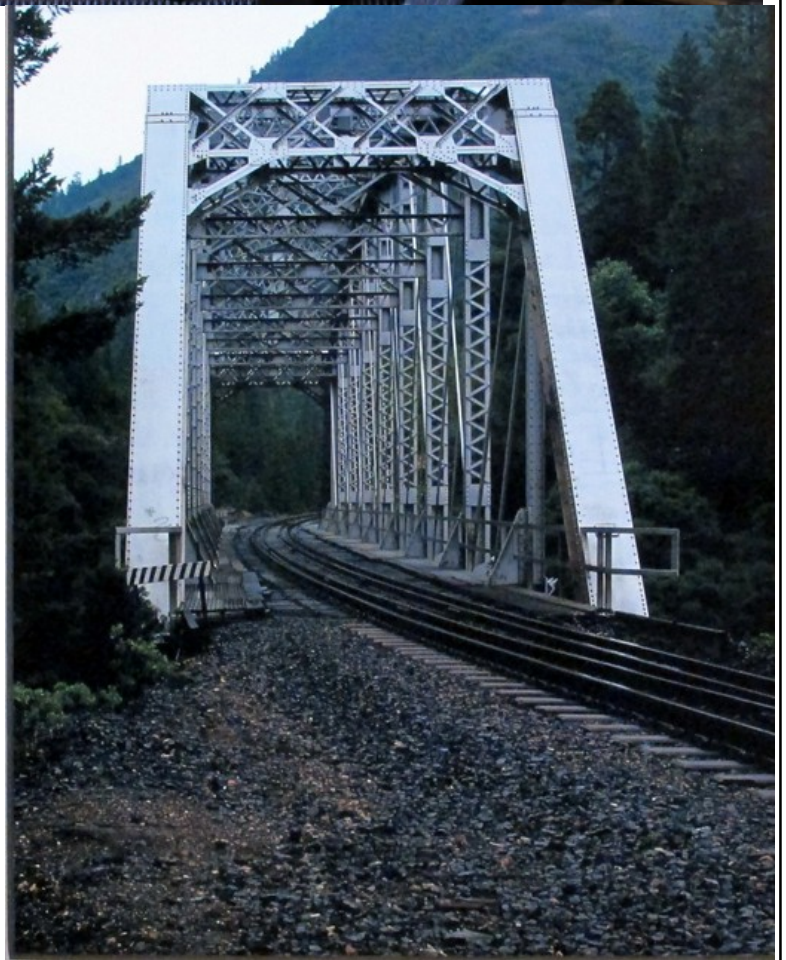
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2nd Place Pat LaTorres'
Executive Lounge Car.
Another funny car for the
large scale fan.



Photo Contest

One entry, **1st Place**, *W.P Bridge at Belden*, taken
by Pat LaTorres



(Continued from page 11)

Show and Tell

Paul Ingraham's scratch built N scale diesel. Included was a magazine article. This model was built several decades ago and must have been extremely challenging given early N scale components.



Frank Markovitch's cheap modelling show and tell! He used pan pastels for weathering.

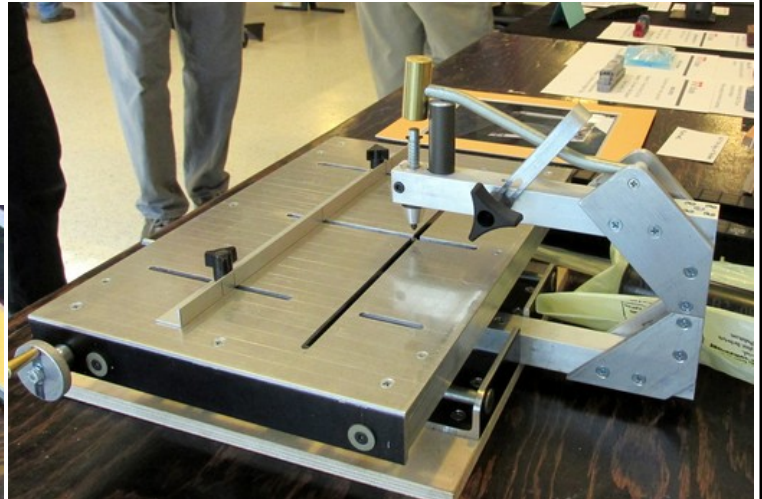


A couple of fine buildings by an unknown modeler, I messed up and don't have the card for it. If someone does know, I can update this with a proper credit.

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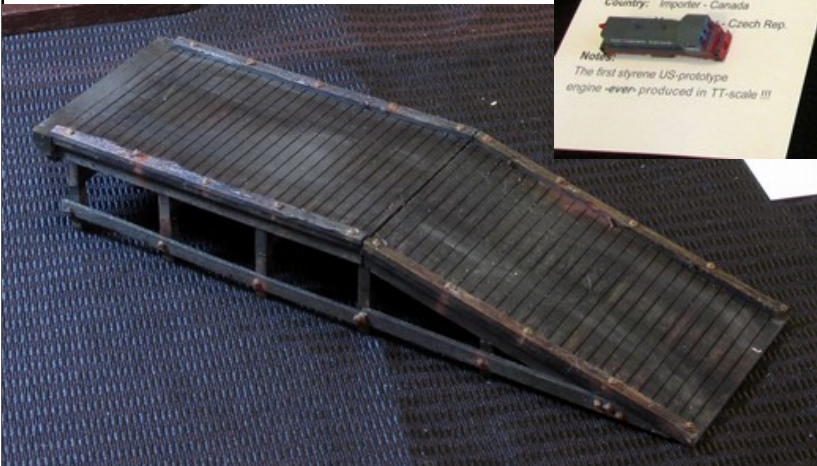
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Fantastic riveter by Paul M. Larson, with both X and Y axis traverse.



Also by Paul, a stretched Lionel car closer to prototype and a pipe load with flanges drilled in a radial pattern.

Richard Brennan's TT display, mind boggling for what was at one time a dead scale in the US.



Ronnie LaTorres Loading Ramp

(Continued on page 14)

Twain Harte and Sonora Pass RR

Frank Markovich

Following are the notes and goals I set out before building the layout.

Vision:

Logging railroad set in late 40's in foothills and Sierra's. Center point is Twain Harte – just north of Yosemite Park. Railroad heads east towards Pinecrest Lake. Will be narrow gauge On3.

Mission:

To represent what a logging line might have looked like in the Twain Harte area. The railroad is based loosely on the West Side Lumber and Pickering Lumber Companies along with other logging railroads in the Sierra's. Era modeled is late 40's early 50's, scale On3.

Purpose:

A place to run model trains on a scale model logging railroad.

Overall goals:

- Logging railroad. Mill with transfer really may just do all Narrow Gauge. Note mill to be added in the next 2 years – have started the planning.
- Passenger service. Also added in next 2 years.
- Freight service to bring goods into the town.
- One town – may be 2 names – dual service.
- Log loading area – Spar tree or McGriffith loader. Added next year
- Lots of trees.
- Mainly Ponderosa Pines, Sugar Pines and Fir trees.
- Area where trees logged.
- A few key structures.
- Mainly point to point but would want continuous operation.
- Mountain railroad.
- Layout mainly at or slightly below eye level.

A large number of bridges and trestles – at least 4 – 1 – one so far.

Construction Desires.

Mainly open grid - Exception maybe in yard area.

Plaster Cloth covered in plaster castings or Bragdon resin.

Trees

Have 40 to 50 foreground trees and 100 plus background trees, not counting trees on backdrop.

Lots of stumps and lots of forest duff.

Pine and Fir (mainly Ponderosa Pines)and for the town area – oak and other deciduous trees.

(Continued on page 15)

Operation

Is mainly point to point but there is one large loop for continuous operation.

Logging – load at spar tree and dump in log pond.

Industry – drop off and make trains for goods.

DCC with sound installed for all locos.

How Many will Operate

Operation should allow for 1 to 4 operators, but ability for single operator.

Motive Power

Mainly geared locomotives – mainly Shays and Heislars.

Features:

Forest with trains going through the forest.

Streams etc.

Mill area

Engine storage area.

A number of bridges and one large trestle.

Water tanks – at least 3 – one every 10 scale miles.

Log pond

River and stream areas.

Sound in all loco's

Standards

Main line min radius 36"

Other min radius 30"

Max grade on mainline 4%

Switches are 4 to 6 no sharper.

Furthest to reach scenery 3 feet, topside Crawler is used for reach.

Layout high enough to crawl comfortably underneath

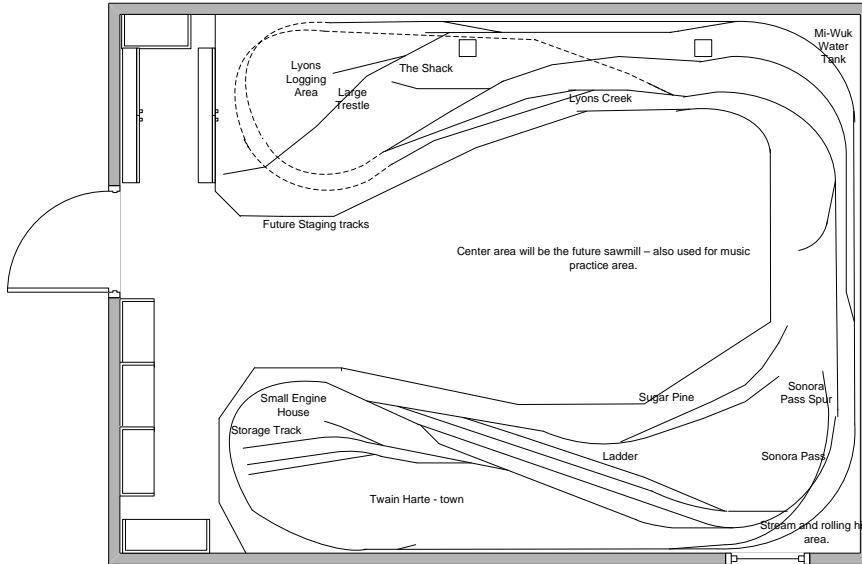
History

This layout started once a room was ready – which took about 4 years from start to finish. Room was dug out under the main part of the house and permits had to be secured – which took the longest time. Once the room was completely finished then the layout building started. Started the layout over 20 years ago but had a number of years when little or no work was done. Main push was to get it ready for the O scale convention in 2010. At that time the layout was scenery and track work was complete. Following are some photographs and the track plan.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Track Plan



Notes: Room is 22.5 by 16.2.
 Area under layout and by the doors for storage and music studio.
 Started in 1989. Worked for 3 years on it after building room (that took 2 years). Put aside until 2008. Started work again in earnest at that point.

To contact me: Frank Markovich, 1904 Chula Vista Dr, Belmont Ca 94002.
 Email: frank@frankmarkovich.com
 Phone: 650-594-9073

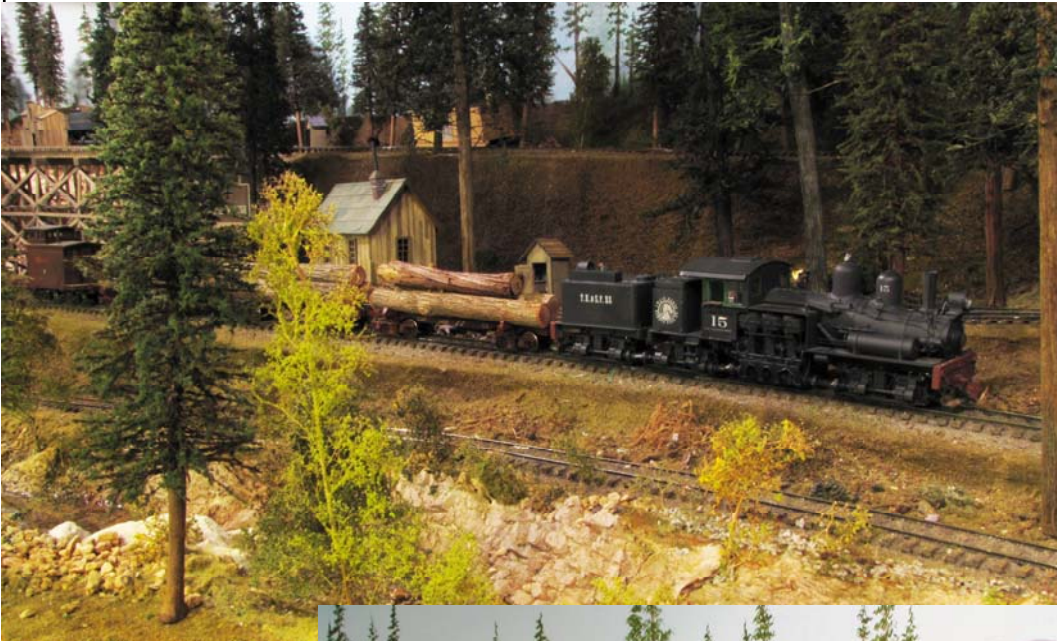
Lyons Creek Area



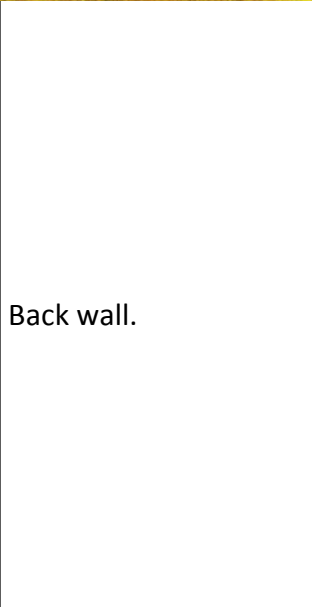
On the Way to the Sawmill – If you look closely you can see the post that is hidden by blending it in with the scenery and the rest of the backdrop.

(Continued on page 17)

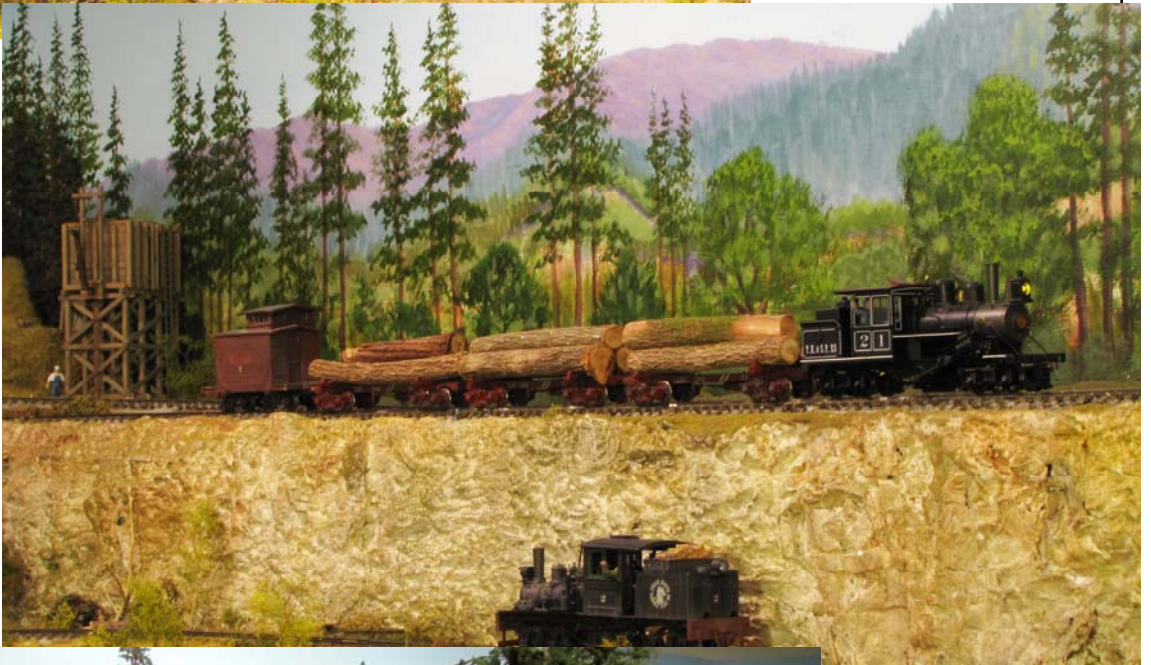
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Load of logs for the mill area.



Back wall.



Water and bridge area – updated.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Woods repair –
Donkey in back.



Updated town area.

This layout was covered in an issue of the Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette a few years ago the photos show work done since then.

Layout is built by Frank Markovich, 1904 Chula Vista Drive, Belmont CA 94002. Email frank@frankmarkovich.com. Visitors are welcome but all visits must be pre-arranged.

Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News For April, 2014**Message from Bruce De Young – Education Department Manager:****Education Department Initiatives**

Bruce De Young, Education Department Manager

The Education Department has two major new initiatives on the table where we could really use some volunteer help from around the Regions and Divisions.

The first is the EduTRAIN® Program. Hopefully you have seen the article on the Program that appeared in the March 2014 issue of the NMRA Magazine. In simplest terms, the Program will provide Regions and Divisions with a wide array of turnkey Clinics which will be housed on the NMRA Website for download and use. Although there are many great clinics out there that focus on such topics as “The History of the XYZ Railroad” or “How to Increase Attendance at Meetings”, etc., the focus of the EduTRAIN® Program will be on skill development. To be useful to members, there must be a clear learning outcome, and the clinic should lead directly to that outcome. Finally, the documentation that accompanies the clinic must be detailed enough to allow a person who did not originally develop the clinic to use and/or present the clinic. Now here is how the Regions and Divisions can help. First, Bob Blake who heads up the program will be trying to attend as many Regional Conventions as possible this year in order to ‘get the word out’ to our membership. Anything you can do to facilitate this process if Bob contacts you will be appreciated. Second, if you know of a member in your Region/Division who has developed a quality skill oriented clinic, encourage them to submit it to Bob for possible inclusion in the Program. Bob can be reached at rm7blake@earthlink.net.

The second Education Department initiative that is on the front burner is a review and revision of the Beginners Pages on the NMRA Website (<http://www.nmra.org/beginner/>). A new website will be rolled out between now and the Cleveland Convention and the Department is taking this opportunity to update the Beginners information that will be included on the new website. I am looking for a few volunteers who will be willing to help out in the process. If you know anyone in your Region or Division who would have an interest in doing so, please have them contact me at bdeyoung@optonline.net.

In Memoriam – Gayle M. Olson, MMR113 1930 – 2013

By Mike Engler

Gayle Olson, MMR died at age 83 on December 13, 2013. Gayle was a former President of the Thousand Lakes Region (1971-1972), and was on the region board of directors for several years. He also held several offices at the national level, including Plains Vice-President and also Chairman of the Site-Selection Committee for the NMRA Headquarters.

Gayle is survived by his wife, Dee; daughter, Debbie; and grandchildren, Andrew and Sara, and also by business and hobby friends all over the world. He graduated from the University of Minnesota. His college education was interrupted when he became a soldier, serving his country with the U.S. Army in Korea. He had a highly successful business career with State Farm Insurance.

Gayle worked hard at living life to the fullest, and he had the most diverse interests of anyone I have ever known. He studied comedy and comedians and became skilled at getting his “one-liners” into most presentations and conversations. He was an accomplished musician on several instruments. On several occasions, he sat in with professionals like the Stan Kenton Band when they were in Minneapolis.

He liked to race things, and I helped pit crew several adventures, including motorcycle racing, dirt-bike motocross racing, sail boat and professional power-boat racing, and engineer on 1:1 steam and diesel locomotives. He loved flying his own plane and was a commercial pilot for several years. Gayle was a sports enthusiast and ardent fan of the Twins, Vikings, and Gophers. He loved to tell people that he played in the very first Minnesota State High School Hockey Tournament, and the rink in the St. Paul auditorium had “square” corners.

Gayle was an accomplished investor and he wrote several software programs on investing, as well as many articles and books. He founded and was president of three very successful investment clubs, and was a teacher and adviser for the National Association of Investment Clubs. He was also a very talented photographer, and he won many contests with his black and white photos, several of which were published.

I met Gayle well over 40 years ago at a hobby shop, and he invited me to lunch with him and three other friends (one of whom was another MMR, and also a former NMRA President – Gene Hickey). This was the first of more than 2,000 lunches I shared with Gayle and a changing cast of other “bunch for lunch club” model railroaders at “greasy spoons” located near Twin Cities’ hobby shops. In addition to being a great friend, Gayle was certainly my modeling mentor. He invited me to join two model railroad clubs, and we had many hours of fun in both. We also traveled together to at least six National NMRA Conventions, four National Narrow Gauge Conventions, and more than 50 NMRA regional conventions, most of which were in the TLR.

Gayle was a very accomplished modeler, and he scratchbuilt just about everything he built. On the way to becoming a Master

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

Model Railroader, he built and completed three layouts. His eye for detail and his ability to create “mini-scenes” puts him in a very select class of model builders.

Gayle will be remembered fondly by not only his family, his many friends around the world, but also by model railroaders everywhere.

National Train Day – May 10

May 10 is National Train Day. Please reference www.nationaltrainday.com for further information.

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

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

Regards,

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA
Director – Support Services