



Coast Dispatcher September 2011

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
Here are our next few events.**

Division Meet

September 11, 2011

Janet Pomeroy Center,

207 Skyline Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94132-1025

Notice new location

(map on last page)

- 9:00 AM..... Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.
 9:30 AM..... Get Auction Cards.
 10:00 AM..... "The Art of the Backdrop" by Dave Biondi. Developing a theme and concept for your backdrop and creating a realistic setting for your layout.
 11:00 AM..... "Layout Tricks and Solutions" by Jim Betz. Operations basics and layout design concepts and ideas to incorporate for greater realistic running.
 11:00 AM..... Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Jerry Littlefield
 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: Steam Locomotives, Diesel and Other Locomotives, Passenger

Photo Contest: Steam Locomotives

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

* Auction actually starts as soon as Business Meeting ends.

Division Meet

December 4, 2011

Location TBD

Model Contest: Favorite Model

Photo Contest: Favorite Railroad related Photo

Clinics: 10 AM "Operations, Plain and Simple" by Seth Neumann. An initiation into the wondrous world of operations with a view to the simple.

11 AM "Building a Resin Car Kit" by Dave Connery . Dave will walk us thru the steps, share his tricks and techniques for constructing a resin molded freight car.

Coast Call Board

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Editor's Notes:

There is no information on Layout Tours because we do not plan on having any more layout tour this year. The next layout tours will be in January 2012 associated with the LDSIG/ OPSIG meet.

The E-Dispatcher is the full color and full size version of the Dispatcher which is distributed by E-mail. It is also available on the Coast Division Website.

<http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/>

You may subscribe to the E-Dispatcher for free by contacting Tom Crawford at Crawford.Tom@sbcglobal.net

I'm noticing that the Dispatcher has fallen into a rut. It's the same old formula every time. My question is - is it really in a rut that needs to be changed, or are people happy with the format? Let me know.

Also, for a different slant on things, see my editorial on page 8.

Super Notes

By Mark Schutzer

I hope everyone had a good time at the X2011 convention in Sacramento. With this convention in PCR territory there were a lot of Coast members directly involved in running the convention. Thanks to the convention committee and all the volunteers who helped to put together a great convention.

Thanks to Edwin Ness our September meet will be at a new site in San Francisco. The meet will be held at the Janet Pomeroy Center out near the SF zoo. We have not had a meet in the northern peninsula for a long time and I hope to see some new faces at the meet.

I don't really have much more to report, I hope everyone has had a chance to recover from the convention. I didn't get enough trains and as I write this I am currently in Durango, CO and will be taking a great trip on the Durango and Silverton narrow gauge railroad tomorrow.

I hope to see all you at the meet in September.

The Director's Cut

Rod Smith

Well, we've recently finished a really fine NMRA National Convention in Sacramento. I sure hope many, even most, of you had a chance to attend, even if for just a day or two. I had planned to name as many of the Coast Division members who volunteered and started a list of those I saw or worked with. The list soon became so voluminous it looked like some of those email forwards we all see. So, I've decided to just thank everyone who had a hand in the planning, running, and volunteering of this very successful convention. I have only heard good comments about it, and I spent several days at the tables just at the entrance to the convention – prime place to see complainers. Thankfully, those were few and far between. One of the most memorable complaints I had was a fellow who couldn't find Tony Koester and wanted me to locate him so they could meet. I suggested he look for a tall gentleman with white hair and surrounded by model railroaders. Wonder if that worked?

The National Train Show was a Great Train Expo on steroids. Not so many used equipment sellers but lots and lots of dealers, manufacturers, and model layouts in all scales. It was huge! I saw an awful lot of folks leaving with bags overflowing of purchases. Mine included. Hope you found some stuff you really needed too. Prices seemed fair all around. The Tool Man was always busy. I read the preliminary count of Train Show attendees is almost 20,000! Thanks also to those who operated the display layouts. Several were from Coast Division who had joined with other groups to make a super size layout. There were a lot of ideas for scenes presented there.

Now, if you learned some new techniques at a clinic, or observed a neat idea on a layout tour, how about sharing the experience with those who didn't have a chance to be there. You can put on a clinic and demonstrate your new knowledge. I think it's called "pay it forward." Just contact John Marshall, the Clinics Chair, and he will schedule you for a time slot. The slots are for one hour, but your presentation can be of any length, shorter or longer. John will accommodate you.

Rod Smith Coast Division Director

Made in the PCR: A Tale of Two Cities
Steve Wesolowski, Coast Publicity

This Dispatcher I'll review a couple Made in the PCR products I've really enjoyed recently.

Extra 2011 West, the NMRA Convention last month was a most excellent Made in The PCR product. Observing from the sidelines, putting it on and bringing it together required countless hours and meetings of many volunteers all of whom could have chosen instead to spend their precious time modeling or enjoying other train fun. Instead, many volunteers from both within & outside the PCR worked together to produce a wonderful NMRA national convention in the PCR. I'm sure others here will mention this huge event, and thank Ray deBlicke's "Black Shirted" volunteer Core who spent years working to bring this event to life.

Based on an email with Ray, I know he and I both also really thank the Clinicians, Layout Owners, Tour Guides, Bus Captains and so many other volunteers who also made X2011 a success and fun for those lucky to come from around our world. So many volunteers donated many hours so everyone had a week+ of great Train Fun in PCR which I'm still tired & recovering from 3 weeks later. Thank You everyone, for helping create & facilitate so many wonderful memories which I and many others will cherish forever.

This was billed as "The Unconventional Convention", a concept maybe I understood less because I've only enjoyed Seattle 2004 after San Jose's 2000 NTS lured me back into NMRA, in addition to 3 Narrow Gauge & one Garden Railway National conventions. Conventional or not, I know I was lucky to attend a well organized and really fun week even if the summer heat overloaded some AC units. After really enjoying X2011's Non-Quet with its WinterRail picture shows including funny 'commercials' and several Ice Cream Sandwiches, now I want to attend WinterRail some day. In Sum, if you missed it, I'm sorry: X2011 & NTS were both really FUN!

You know, we are all very lucky to live in PCR, where the depth and breadth of volunteer talents necessary to put on such a huge, successful and totally fun convention are available. Thank You, Ray,

et al, for the fantastic job you all did for all of us to enjoy so much train fun in so little time.

News Flash: Extra 2011 West lives on! Of Course, no one person could attend ALL the Tours, Clinics, Operating Sessions and other Train Fun at X2011: difficult choices were/are made every day. However, thanks to many wonderful Clinic Presenters and the ongoing help of Dave Grenier, Extra 2011's Webmaster, everyone, even those who couldn't attend, may still enjoy many Clinics, including many you probably missed! 43 Clinic handouts and/or presentations are to be found at

<http://www.x2011west.org/handouts.html>.

When you read this there could be more than 43! Check it out/tell your friends! What incredible resources these presentations are! Dave tells me the X2011 web site will be there for a while, but no web site lasts forever, so look there soon. Big Thanks to the presenters for sharing their hard work & knowledge with us, again!

While probably a majority of PCR's available pool of convention volunteers were getting ready for Extra 2011 West, a sufficient number also worked together under Steve Skold's capable leadership to also put on a 2011 PCR Mini Convention, the Sonoma Shortline, in May. In fact, some of these volunteers even worked on both!

Although the Sonoma Shortline only spanned a Friday through Sunday, Steve and his merry band of capable volunteers packed a whole lot of train fun in a short time. We had many excellent layouts to visit I had never seen before, driving past many lovely vineyards and other beautiful Northern California scenery, AND I learned some really neat stuff in the clinics I attended. I even entered some models and photos and received valuable feedback from judges and fellow entrants. Just like at X2011, I could not attend every clinic I wanted to, but the choices were equal in quality to those I attended at Extra 2011 West.

You know, we are really very lucky in PCR to have so many talented members with so many fine-tuned and interesting skills along with the talent and ability to communicate their ideas and skills well to others in clinics. Now I've enjoyed my 2nd NMRA National, I understand even better and agree with someone (of course, I can't remember who!) who's

opinion is that PCR Clinics are equal to clinics at NMRA conventions.

Moreover, in PCR we are very lucky to have such a great depth and breadth of resources of volunteers, clinicians and proto tour hustlers, to name only a few of the many volunteer roles and talents every convention needs to be Fun, Successful and Well Organized. I heard the location of our Sunday Am Breakfast & meeting required a last minute change!

The Depth & Breadth of what can be Made in the PCR with our experienced capable and unselfishly giving Volunteers is truly extraordinary, and the total success of both the Sonoma ShortLine AND Extra 2011 West within 2 months of each other is truly amazing proof. Wow!

More examples of the depth of resources among our members are those who volunteered to staff the PCR/NMRA recruiting tables at the San Jose GTE show at the Fairgrounds the weekend after Extra 2011 West. Our Volunteers helped answer questions of many nice parents, kids and new/returning adult model railroaders, and we also had some train fun ourselves, too. Thanks to Darrell Dennis, Steve Peters, Stanley Keiser, Jim Eckman and Keith Wandry for volunteering.

I also want to thank Coast Division member Ed Ness, who, after hearing Mark Schutzer's appeal for future Coast Division meeting sites at our June Meeting in Palo Alto, inquired at the Janet Pomeroy Center in San Francisco. As a result of his inquiry, Ed only has to travel a few blocks from home to enjoy his next Coast meet and the rest of us will enjoy our next Coast Division Meeting Sunday September 11th in San Francisco near the Zoo! I understand other Coast Division members are also actively looking into other suitable meeting sites in the East Bay. Thanks to our Volunteers, we may soon have enjoyed Coast Meets in Palo Alto, San Francisco and

East Bay regions of our Division. If you know of any sites meeting our needs, please contact Mark Schutzer or myself, and thanks for volunteering, we can always use your help to enjoy more train fun together.

Steve Wesolowski, Coast Publicity guy

Auction Report by John Marshall

Entries in Silent Auction 32

Entries in Live Auction 204

The auction total continue to slide and the low number of items should be of major concern to us.

The total dollars are falling off and the revenue for the division is dropping.

John

Tom's Trackside Trains
558 Santa Cruz Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(rear of Cindy's Flowers, side door on right)
Tom Van Horn
tomstracksidetrains.com

Hours:

Thu & Sat: 12-5

Fri: 12-8, Sun: 10-1

Phone 650-692-9724

Fax 650-321-1764

Model Railroad Appraisals
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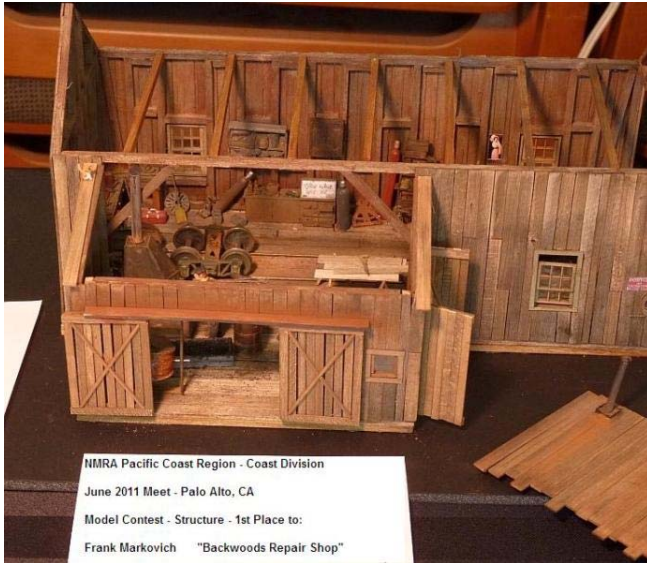
Model Contest / Show Tell / Photo Contest Report By John Sing

Model Contest

The categories were "Structures," "Traction and Self Propelled," "Diorama"

First Place, Structures:

Frank Markovich - Backwoods Repair Shop



Second Place Structures:

Andrew Merriam - SP 65,000 Gal Water Tank



Third Place, Structures:

Tom Vanden Bosch - Kansas City Southern trestle



First Place Traction and Self Propelled:

Al Kuhn—Hall Scott Motor Car



Second Place Traction and Self Propelled:

Alf Modine— North Shores Silverliner



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First Place Diorama:

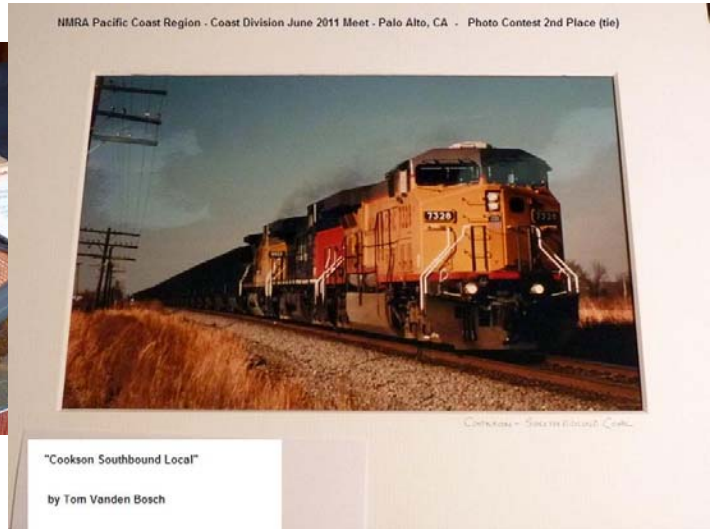
Al Kuhn—Oyster Bay



NMRA Pacific Coast Region - Coast Division June 2011 Meet - Palo Alto, CA
Model Contest - Diorama - 1st Place to: Al Kuhn "Oyster Bay"

Second Place (tie)

Tom Vanden Bosch - Cookson Southbound Local



NMRA Pacific Coast Region - Coast Division June 2011 Meet - Palo Alto, CA - Photo Contest 2nd Place (tie)

"Cookson Southbound Local"

by Tom Vanden Bosch

Photo Contest

First Place:

Tom Vanden Bosch - Arkansas and Missouri Springdale Switcher



NMRA Pacific Coast Region - Coast Division June 2011 Meet - Palo Alto, CA Photo Contest 1st Place

"Arkansas & Missouri Springdale Switcher"

by Tom Vanden Bosch

Show and Tell

Pat LaTorres—Wooden Disconnect Cars



NMRA Pacific Coast Region - Coast Division June 2011 Meet - Palo Alto, Ca

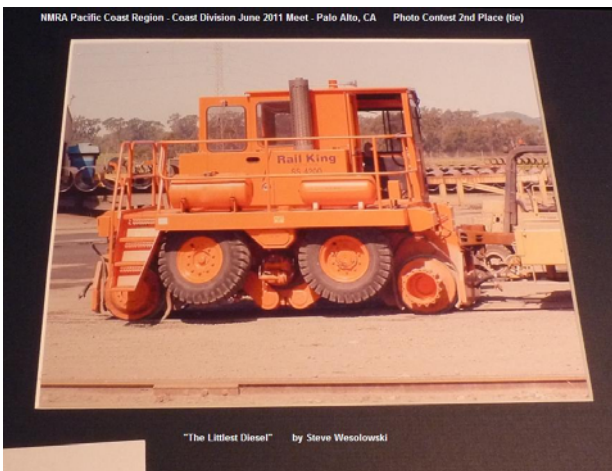
Show and Tell table

Disconnect Log Cars by

Pat LaTorres

Second Place (tie)

Steve Wesolowski - The Littlest Diesel



NMRA Pacific Coast Region - Coast Division June 2011 Meet - Palo Alto, CA Photo Contest 2nd Place (tie)

"The Littlest Diesel" by Steve Wesolowski

Frank Markovich - Mack Trucks



Mack Trucks - For Show and Tell
Resin kits - Backwoods Miniatures
Very well detailed - well painted and
look like real trucks

NMRA Pacific Coast Region - Coast Division June 2011 Meet - Palo Alto, Ca

Show and Tell table

Mack Trucks by Frank Markovich

SHOW+ TELL #2 by FRANK MARKOVICH

(Continued from page 7)

Stevens Creek Models - Jack's Cabin Tank



Popular Voting Contest Table



Editorial By Tom Crawford

I had the opportunity to discuss with our PCR President ideas about things we could do to get more new members and to increase our participation.

We came up with some ideas, but as a project manager I can tell you that you can't really solve a problem until you decide what the problem really is. Too often we come up with proposed solutions without really understanding what the problem we are trying to solve really is.

Okay, the symptoms of the problem are that our membership is declining. But that is just the symptom we see. What is the problem? Why is causing the membership to decline? Why are we not attracting new members? What is the REAL problem? That is the question we bring to you.

We need help in clearly identifying the problem. Once we have that, we also need help in coming up with proposed solutions.

Too often we come up with our favorite proposed solutions (I have my favorite proposed solutions too) without understanding if they will really fix the problem because we don't know what the problem is.

So, we ask you to help us identify the real problems and some proposed fixes.

We will be looking for help, and possibly a small team of younger members to help us old fogies see the problem. IF you are interested in being on this team, or if you have idea, speak up. Contact our superintendent. Or post something on the PCR-NMRA Yahoo group. Or just contact me and I will pass it on.

Let's figure out what we need to do.

Tom Crawford
Coast Dispatcher Editor and PCR Secretary

NMRA Infolink

In this edition, we have some news from the Sacramento convention earlier this month.

- This year's Sacramento convention **attendance topped the 2,000 mark** -- the continuation of an upward attendance trend.
- The folks at the NMRA Membership Booth at the National Train Show signed up **243 new members in three days!**

Many of the clinicians at the Sacramento convention have **uploaded their handouts or full presentations** as PDF files to the x2011 website at www.x2011west.org. Anyone can download them. Just look for the Clinics tab, then Clinic Handouts.

- Based on two big proposals for the 2015 National NMRA Convention, the Board of Directors selected **Portland, Ore. as the winner**. Details and exact timing of the convention will be announced in the coming months.

- The "Carpet Cutting" at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento marked the **official start of fundraising for a scale model railroading exhibit** in the museum's Gallery area. No NMRA dues or regular revenue streams will be used to fund this project, so its construction will rely entirely on donations. For more details about the Gallery Exhibit, see the article in the May 2011 issue of *NMRA Magazine*.

The Board continues to review the **timing of all future conventions**. While a mid-summer date has been traditional because of lower hotel and convention center rates over the July 4 weekend, many NMRA members have voiced the concern that it conflicts with family functions. Constructive suggestions may be directed to the Convention Committee, headed by Pacific Director Peter Jensen.

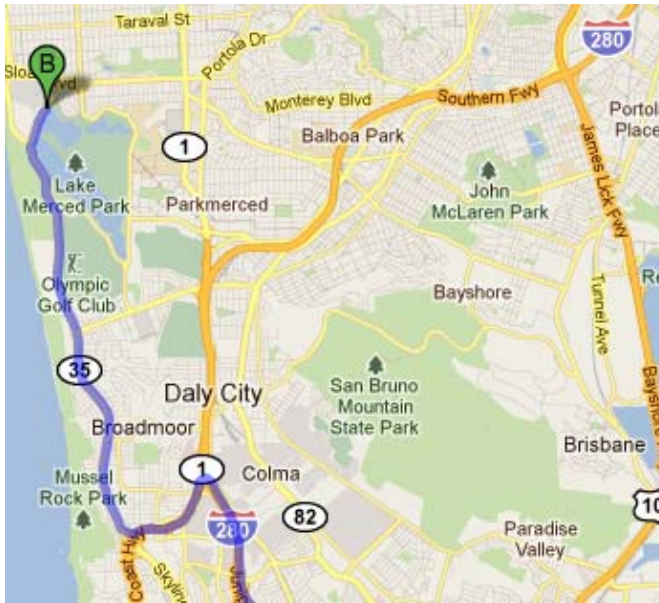
For a complete summary of the Board of Directors meeting, visit the homepage of our website at www.nmra.org in the next few weeks. The report will also be published in *NMRA Magazine* in the near future.

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 NMRA Magazine.

And if you're changing email addresses, please let me know at this email address: NMRA-infonet@earthlink.net

-Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA Communications Director

The next meet will be on Sept 11, 2011 at the
Janet Pomeroy Center, 207 Skyline Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94132-1025
 Details are on Page 1. Here is the map.



From the East: Head southwest on **I-80 W** toward **Exit 1B**
 Merge onto **US-101 S**
 Take exit **431** toward **Daly City**
 Merge onto **I-280 S**
 Take exit **49** for **John Daly Blvd** toward **Junipero Serra Blvd**
 Turn right onto **John Daly Blvd**
 Turn right onto **CA-35 N/Skyline Blvd** 207 Skyline will be on the left

From the North: Head south on **US-101 S** toward **Exit 439**
 Take exit **438** for **California 1 S** toward **Golden Gate Parkway/19th Avenue**
 Merge onto **CA-1 S**
 Turn right onto **Sloat Blvd**
 Slight left onto **Skyline Blvd** 207 Skyline will be on the right

From the South: Take **280 N** (if you are coming North on 101, take 380 to 280 at the SF Airport)
 Take exit **47** to merge onto **CA-1 S** toward **Pacifica**
 Take exit **508B** for **CA-35 N/Skyline Blvd N**
 Merge onto **CA-35 N/Skyline Blvd** 207 Skyline will be on the left

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