



The Daylight Observation

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Daylight Director's Message: Get Involved!

By Walter Mizuno, Daylight Division Director

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As spring approaches, the 30th annual GEHAMS Train Show in Bakersfield in early March and the Ventura Train Show in February once again gave an opportunity for the Daylight Division to recruit new members.

This year, new member Larry Young and veteran Bruce Morden recruited new members in Ventura along with PSR members. Another new member, Tom Osterdock volunteered to help recruit alongside veterans Neil Fernbaugh and yours truly.

I believe that sharing what our new members are doing with the rest of the members is important because I'm proud that they are actively contributing to the NMRA. The simple fact that getting our newest members involved and becoming a part of the

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Observation Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Articles Due</u>
Winter (Jan-Feb-Mar)	December 10
Spring (Apr-May-Jun)	March 10
Summer (Jul-Aug-Sep)	June 10
Fall (Oct-Nov-Dec)	September 10

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activities of the PCR are important to the rest of the members of the region. Our new members would not be active in the division were it not for the mentorship provided by experienced members in the division. In Larry Young's case, Bruce Morden provided excellent mentoring and was able to introduce him to fellow model railroaders in his neighborhood and thereby got him involved. In Tom Osterdock's case, Doug Wagner helped him get involved with other members in the division by welcoming him to the in-person Daylight Division meetings.



The Bakersfield Train Show recruiting crew included new Daylight Division member Tom Osterdock (left) and Daylight Division Director Walter Mizuno (right)

Speaking of getting involved, this year marks the 30th annual GEHAMS Bakersfield Train Show. This year's attendance topped last year's attendance by over five hundred people. Helping to make the show successful were Daylight members Neil Fernbaugh and Doug Wagner. Doug and Neil worked the front table at the show, helping the attendees enjoy the show.

Notice the theme in these stories. Our Daylight Division members actively participating and helping fellow model railroaders are good for the hobby, and they discover that they really enjoy interacting with other, especially newer members of the hobby.



Daylight members Neil Fernbaugh (seated) and Doug Wagner (standing) helped answer questions from the numerous attendees during both days

As usual, the main attraction at this year's train show was the layouts. Families were able to get out of the house and enjoy the trains.

All the family members enjoyed watching the trains and learning more about our engrossing hobby.



From the very youngest to the oldest, people wanted to know more about model railroading. Note the video interview being conducted in the background.

Another reason to attend a train show is the opportunity to visit local layouts. Tom Osterdock had an open house and welcomed many visitors. Tom was a very gracious host who allowed the pictures on the next page to be shared.

Concluded on Page 4

Always smiling, Tom welcomed visitors to his layout, the Olympia Logging Mining Navigation.



Visitors to Tom's layout were greeted with desert scenery which featured nicely done structures that looked right at home.

Twin ore tipples mark the transfer point between the narrow gauge and standard gauge railways.



Watching the diminutive mine switcher approach the ore tipple with its headlight glowing. You can almost hear the rails creak and groan. With apologies to Ed Merrin on the foreground focus.



Whether you are new to our division or have been a member for a long time, remember that it takes all of us to welcome someone new and to keep our division active. As we continue to recruit new members, please volunteer to mentor our new members and help them enjoy the benefits of membership. Share the joy of model railroading with our newest members. I hope to see many Daylight Division members at the upcoming Tech Line convention in Milpitas. If you see me, please stop me to say hello.



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Master Builder – Prototype Models

By Dave Grenier



In this installment, we will review the requirements for the Master Builder – Prototype Models certificate, the third and final category in the “Railroad Setting” area. This category is the newest in the Achievement Program, being added in 1987. It is also the category that many consider to be the most challenging. It goes beyond the [Master Builder – Scenery](#) certificate reviewed in the previous article and evaluates how well you create a specific prototype scene.

The full requirements for this category are available on the NMRA website at www.nmra.org/prototype-models. You can also get a copy of the requirements by contacting me, either by phone, e-mail, or letter.

To qualify for this certificate, you must construct an animated or static model of a prototype scene containing at least six models of prototype equipment or structures. Unlike the [Master Builder – Scenery](#) category, there is no minimum size requirement for your prototype scene. It only needs to be big enough to adequately display the required models and give the overall effect of the intended scene.

At least four different types of models must be represented:

- 1) Rolling stock
- 2) Railroad structure
- 3) Caboose or passenger car
- 4) Motive power.

Two of the models must be [scratch built](#) with four different types of models represented and the remainder [super detailed](#). Refer to the [NMRA website](#) for the definition of these terms.

The prototype scene, with the six models in it, must earn a Merit Award with a minimum score of 87½ points. This does not mean the individual models must win a Merit Award individually. It means that the whole scene, with the models in place, is judged using the following Prototype Models criteria:

- a) **Terrain (35 points)** – The ground and all natural features such as rocks, water, trees, hills, and depressions, as well as manmade features such as railroad roadbed, cuts, fills drainage ditches, embankments, streets and roads, etc. Also remember different types of vegetation and the effects of weather, animals, and humans. Remember the details on streets and roads, whether in urban or rural areas: sewers / storm drains, manhole covers, shoulders, drainage ditches, cracks, patches, road wear marks, oil stains, and tire ruts in dirt roads. Look at the photograph(s) that you are working from, and notice the details there, then work to recreate them. If your model includes areas which are not included in the photographs, make sure to carry the same level and type of detail throughout.
- b) **Structures (35 points)** – Structures are considered from the standpoint of prototypical suitability, placement, and appearance as scenic effects – not as construction, which is covered under [Master Builder – Structures](#). This includes bridges, trestles, culverts, buildings and all other types of structures, track, and right-of-way features such as turnout controls, signaling structures, crossing gates and shanties, turntables, and other service structures, etc.
- c) **Background (15 points)** – Treatment of the wall, backdrop, and/or ceiling to realistically depict depth, distance, horizon, and sky. This doesn't mean you have to have a photographic quality background. Your background should continue the "illusion of reality" that you are trying to create with your scenery. Make sure that the background matches the scenery, and the transition where the two of them meet is smooth and/or hidden. Skyboards behind the model are a good way to control the background.
- d) **Lighting (15 points)** – illumination effects from three aspects: 1) Railroad cars, signals, etc. 2) Buildings, streets, and roads, etc. 3) Overall lighting effects – day and/or night. An entirely daylight scene is acceptable.
- e) **Realism/Conformity (35 points)** – General overall impression that the scene is a believable, miniature representation of a prototype railroad.

If you wish, either before or after their inclusion in a Prototype Model scene, you may also use the models as some of your qualifying models for other AP categories, such as Motive Power, Cars, Structures, and Scenery. None of this will affect, or be affected by, their use in a Prototype Models scene. Think of this as a "two-fer" and a very nice return on your modeling time investment.

Note that in this category, simply having the scene receive 87½ points in an NMRA-sponsored contest in the "Modules" or "Displays" class will not qualify it for the Prototype Models category. It must be judged according to the above

criteria. However, if there is time, you may ask the contest coordinator or AP Manager to have the module judged according to the Prototype Models standards. It is suggested that you do this beforehand.

In addition to the models, you will need the usual paperwork describing what you did. Prepare a written description, along with photographs (or a video tape presentation), documented evidence and/or maps, which will verify the actual prototype scene used as the basis for the modeled scene. You need to describe, using photos and text, how your model scene has duplicated the prototype scene. Include a description of the intended setting of the model scene, including the scenic details and any towns or cities used to achieve the desired effect.

If possible, take photos of your model from the same angle as the photos you have of the prototype. This way you can have side-by-side photos showing how faithfully your model recreates the prototype. If you have created your own plans, which you most likely will have to do, also include them along with a description of how you developed them. This is one category in which you cannot have too much documentation!

Between the pictures and the paperwork, you will end up with a package of 15 to 45 pages. The minimum being:

- [SOQ – Master Builder – Prototype Models](#)
- One signed [Merit Evaluation Form](#)
- One copy of the Merit Award
- One prototype picture
- One map or text (evidence)
- One model scene picture
- Six required model pictures
- Two pages of description of materials and methods of the scene and models
- Photocopy of NMRA membership card

Make copies of everything in case something gets lost en route in processing your package.

Once you have satisfied all of the requirements, submit a completed [Statement of Qualifications \(SOQ\) Form](#), which includes the required supporting descriptions and photos, the signed [Achievement Program Master Builder Prototype Models Evaluation Form](#), and a **photocopy of your NMRA membership card** to the Daylight Division AP Chairman, and you are on your way towards another AP certificate!

For more insight and photos of what is involved in earning this certificate, look at the *Scale Rails*, June 2008 issue, starting on page 10. There you will find an article describing the personal experiences of Peter Magoun, MMR #396, when he earned his Master Builder – Prototype Model certificate. Also refer to the articles "[Master Builder - Prototype models](#)" NMRA Bulletin, March 1991, and "[Prototype Modeler...Getting Judged](#)" NMRA Bulletin, April 1991.

If you are interested in learning more about the Achievement Program or Golden Spike Award, contact me for more details. My phone number and e-mail address are in this issue of the *Daylight Observation* and on the Daylight Division website at: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/callboard.html>

Next installment: Model Railroad Engineer – Civil

Dave Grenier

Achievement Program Chairman

Daylight Division



Daylight Division's Newest Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Sandra Theis	Woodlake CA	1/4/2024
David Braun	Carpinteria CA	1/16/2024
Jerry Harris	Tulare CA	2/5/2024
Jeremy Green	Madera CA	2/5/2024
Family Green	Madera CA	2/5/2024
Anthony Orosco	Visalia CA	2/9/2024
Terry Dahl	Bakersfield CA	2/20/2024

Welcome Aboard!

In Memoriam

<u>Member</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Joined NMRA</u>
Charles Thorpe (Lifetime)	Goleta CA	1/1/1972
Nick Frischhertz, Jr.	Bear Valley Springs CA	12/16/1995

Daylight Division Report

by Doug Wagner,
PCR Membership Manager



The 30th Annual Bakersfield Model Train Show is now history. Although considered a smaller show by the International Railfair and Great American Train Shows standards, which can draw up to several thousands of attendees, we did have an increase in attendance of 481 over the 2023 show, for a total of 1,782--which is great for our humble little train show! Most sellers reported very active buying from the attendees and there was a total of 10 layouts on display for the public to enjoy. I guess the rumors that model railroad was a dying hobby are premature!

A big THANK YOU! to the Daylight Division members who staffed the NMRA table, at the Bakersfield Model Railroad Show. The members who staffed the NMRA table were Tom Osterdock, Neil Fernbaugh, Greg Mizuno, Kevin Mizuno, and Daylight Director/Superintendent, Walter Mizuno (sorry, Doug Wagner was too busy staffing the entrance table to help!!!). We were able to sign up 4 new NMRA members.

Planning is already underway for the 31st Annual Model Railroad Show, which will be March 1st and 2nd. There is never any rest for the planners! We hope to see you next year!

Here are many of the 1,792 attendees at the 30th Annual Model Railroad Show in Bakersfield. Photo by Doug Wagner



Bakersfield March 2 & 3



*R2D2 graced us with his presence, but Chewbacca turned down our request.
Photo by Doug Wagner*

*S Gaugers of Southern California.
Photo by Doug Wagner*



*Central California's HO
Free-Mo Layout: Mole
photo by Barry Draper,
others by Jacob Klatt*



Top to bottom:

*--SP drag freight
at Chaffee*

*--SP's Oakland
Mole by Larry
Saslaw, GEHAMS
member*

*--SP drag freight
on Sherman Hill*

*--SP drag over
Afton Canyon*



Daylight Division Members in Ventura

Article by Bruce Morden



NMRA Booth at the Ventura Train Show. L to R: Pat Raymer, PSR President; Bruce Morden and Larry Young, Daylight Division members; and John McGreevy of the Los Angeles Division

Several Daylight Division members helped out at the NMRA booth on Saturday, February 17 and Sunday, February 18 at the Great American Train Show when it came to Ventura. Daylight Division Director/Superintendent Walter Mizuno worked together with John McGreevy and Pat Raymer, president of NMRA's Pacific Southwest Region and Chair of the 2024 Surfliner NMRA national convention. Larry Young and Bruce Morden, joined John and Pat to publicize NMRA membership and the national convention in Long Beach this coming August. We also pushed the NMRA Railpass as an entry into model railroading. Also featured at the booth was a video of the PCR Tech Line convention in Silicon Valley in April. There were flyers for the Bakersfield Train Show and the Operations Special Interest Group.

We were in one of the large exhibition halls at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The hall was filled with model train layouts – two N-scale, one S-scale, one HO-scale, one toy train (Lionel), one European layout and some large scale (G-gauge) exhibit. There was also a booth demonstrating moving watercraft (boats and barges) in several different scales.

We had visitors all day long from 10am until closing at 4pm. Lots of general public interest and also visitors from the crews staffing the layouts sharing the hall with us. Hopefully, many will attend the Long Beach convention.

There are several Daylight members who will be presenting clinics and otherwise participating in the 2024 Surfliner Convention. This is the first national convention in Southern California since the Anaheim convention in 2008 and it has been 28 years since the Long Beach convention in 1996. We hope Daylight Division members take advantage of the 2024 convention's proximity.



Daylight Membership by County

<u>County</u>	<u># Members</u>
San Luis Obispo	18
Fresno	15
Kern	14
Santa Barbara	13
Tulare	6
Madera	4
Merced	3
Mariposa	1
Kings	1
Total Members	75

Daylight Division Membership Gauge

November 30, 2013	135
February 28, 2023	83
March 30, 2023	93
April 30, 2023	91
May 31, 2023	91
June 30, 2023	89
July 31, 2023	87
August 31, 2023	86
September 30, 2023	85
October 31, 2023	84
November 30, 2023	84
December 31, 2023	80
January 31, 2024	74
February 29, 2024	79



***Amtrak's California Zephyr
over Afton Canyon, Central
California's Free-Mo layout.
Photo by Jacob Klatt***

Sierra Division Zoom Meeting

Saturday, April 13: 10:30am – 12:00pm

Organizer: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

PCR 2024 Convention, The Tech Line, Silicon Valley, CA

Wednesday, April 24, to Sunday, April 28, 9am – 10pm

Sonesta San Jose - Milpitas, 777 Bellew Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035, USA ([map](#))

[The Tech Line, Silicon Valley, CA](#), Pacific Coast Region 2024 Convention.

Sierra Division Zoom Meeting

Sat, June 8, 10:30am – 12:00pm

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

Surfliner 2024 NMRA National Convention

Aug 4 – 11, 2024

The Westin Long Beach, 333 E Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802, USA ([map](#))

<https://surfliner2024.org/index.php>

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

GEHAMS Weekly Meetings

Every Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 PM / [Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society](#) (HO, N)

Bakersfield, CA / Doug Wagner: carldw@aol.com or 661-589-0391 / Club phone 661-325-5820

Thursday Nite Boomers Weekly Meetings

Every Thursday 6:15 PM / Thursday Nite Boomers (all) / San Luis Obispo County, CA / Terry N. Taylor, e-mail: terryntaylor@charter.net or 805-595-9535

Fresno Model Railroad Club Weekly Meetings

Every Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM / Fresno Model Railroad Club (HO, N)

1321 Betty Lane, Selma, CA / Mailing Address: PO Box 181, Selma, CA 93662

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association Monthly Meetings

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

Visalia Electric Monthly Meetings

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: cecil_eppler@sbcglobal.net

Coast Toy Train Club Monthly Meetings

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: kenatatr@thirdrail.com

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Number 4 is getting ready to depart for another load of logs. The gandy dancers to the right seem to have taken a well-deserved break next to their Kadee coupler height gauge. Photo by Walter Mizuno on Tom Osterdock's Olympia Logging Mining Navigation layout





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