



# The Daylight Observation

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## Daylight Director's Message: Woodlake Pre-Convention Meet

By Walter Mizuno, Daylight Division Director

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Between holiday celebrations and the excitement of the Bakersfield train show, Daylight Division members gathered in Woodlake, CA, for a special pre-convention quarterly meeting on January 25.

Hosted by Dave and Sandra Theis, the event brought together hobbyists eager to refine their skills and share their passion for model railroading

Former Daylight Superintendent, Neil Fernbaugh and yours truly were the clinicians for the day. Neil led the tree-making clinic, a preview of the clinic that he will be presenting at the Daylight Limited 2025 PCR convention.



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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

**Director**

Walter Mizuno  
(559) 977-8577  
[wkmizuno@gmail.com](mailto:wkmizuno@gmail.com)

**Superintendent**

Vacant

**Chief Clerk / Paymaster**

Vacant

**Observation Editor**

Robert Pethoud  
(559) 438-7705  
[pethoud@comcast.net](mailto:pethoud@comcast.net)

**Clinics**

Doug Wagner  
(661) 589-0391  
[carldw@aol.com](mailto:carldw@aol.com)

**Contest**

Chuck Harmon, MMR  
(559) 299-4385  
[harmonsta@yahoo.com](mailto:harmonsta@yahoo.com)

**Achievement Program  
And Webmaster**

Dave Grenier  
(408) 431-8989  
[grenida@pacbell.net](mailto:grenida@pacbell.net)

**Member Aid**

Robert Pethoud  
(559) 438-7705  
[pethoud@comcast.net](mailto:pethoud@comcast.net)

**Membership**

Doug Wagner  
(661) 589-0391  
[carldw@aol.com](mailto:carldw@aol.com)



*Neil demonstrates expert tree modeling techniques, showing attendees how to bring realistic foliage to their layouts.*



*Enthusiastic participants jot down notes on crafting lifelike trees using affordable, everyday materials.*



*A hands-on experience! Neil provides personalized guidance to help attendees perfect their tree-making skills.*



***Success! Participants showcase their newly crafted trees, ready to enhance their layouts with realistic scenery.***

After wrapping up the tree-making clinic, attendees switched gears to tackle another essential skill—soldering.

Soldering is a fundamental skill in model railroading, essential for wiring layouts and assembling components. The hands-on clinic introduced attendees to key techniques, from tinning wires to creating durable joints. Participants had the opportunity to bring their own equipment, ensuring they left with practical, real-world skills.

***Soldering 101: Attendees receive expert tips on making strong, reliable soldering connections in their layouts. (Photo courtesy of Dave Theis.)***



# Woodlake Meet

**Attention to detail:**  
*A participant carefully cleans his solder joint before applying heat for a secure bond. (Photo courtesy of Dave Theis.)*



**Practice makes perfect!** Attendees refine their soldering skills under expert guidance. (Photo courtesy of Dave Theis.)

With full bellies from a super-sized burrito lunch, attendees wrapped up the event discussing upcoming modeling projects and the highly anticipated PCR convention. Neil and I truly enjoyed sharing our knowledge and connecting with new faces in the hobby. We look forward to seeing you at the next Daylight Division meeting—join us and keep the creativity rolling!”



## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Association Official

By Dave Grenier



In this installment, we will review the requirements for the Association Official certificate. The full requirements for this certificate are available on the NMRA website at <https://www.nmra.org/official>. You can also get a copy of the requirements by contacting me, either by phone, e-mail, or letter. Also look at the *Scale Rails*, October 2008 issue, page 10, for additional information.

The Association Official certificate, as its name implies, is to recognize an individual's service as an officer at the national, regional, or divisional level. To qualify for this certificate, you must serve in an office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Director, and have completed satisfactory service in one of the following:

- At least one year in office at the National level.
- At least two years in the office(s) at the Region level, of which one year shall be that of Region President or National Trustee. (The National Trustee position was eliminated in January of 2005 with the new Regulations.)
- At least three years in the office(s) as a voting member of a Region Board if other than as Region President or National Trustee.
- Division Superintendents/Presidents shall be eligible for the Association Official certificate on the same basis as any other Region Board member (i.e., three (3) years of service required).

In some regions the Region President and the National Trustee were the same person (The National Trustee position was eliminated in January of 2005 when new NMRA Regulations were formally adopted by the BOD). In this case, that person would get credit for serving in both offices, which would mean that they would only require one year of service.

Sometimes there is a question about whether a particular office qualifies for

Sometimes there is a question about whether a particular office qualifies for "Association Official " or "Association Volunteer". In general, the test is: if holding an office makes you a voting member of the Region (or National) Board of Directors, then it counts toward "Official"; otherwise, it counts toward "Volunteer". The exception is that all Division Superintendents/Presidents are eligible for the Association Official certificate whether they are voting members of a Region Board or not.

However, you may receive "Volunteer" credit for holding an office that would otherwise qualify for "Official" as long as you are not claiming credit for "Official" at the same time. For example, if someone were to serve as a Division Superintendent/President for 5 years, they could use the first three years of their term to qualify for the "Association Official" certificate, and the remaining two years to qualify for 24 months' worth of "Association Volunteer" points.

The final requirement for this certificate is the usual paperwork. You must submit a completed [Statement of Qualifications Form](#) (SOQ), listing the offices you held with the dates served, along with the signature of a qualified witness, usually the Region President or Secretary. Be sure to send a copy of your NMRA membership card along with your paperwork. If you mail it to the President or Secretary for their signature, include a stamped envelope addressed to Jack Burgess, 36129 Sandalwood Street, Newark, CA 94560, and a short note asking them to forward it to Jack.

That's all it takes! In one to three years, depending on what level you serve at, you can earn the Association Official certificate. All you need to do is get involved in the NMRA. To paraphrase JFK, "Ask not what the NMRA can do for you but ask what I can do for the NMRA." Unlike the other AP certificates, this service-related certificate does not require any judging of your efforts. All you must do is get involved in the NMRA, do the work, and put in the time. Don't be bashful! Jump right in and lend a hand. You'll be glad you did.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the Achievement Program or Golden Spike Award, call me at (408) 431-8989 or e-mail me at [grenida@pacbell.net](mailto:grenida@pacbell.net).



## Expand Your Horizons: Join an NMRA Special Interest Group

Article by Dave Theis



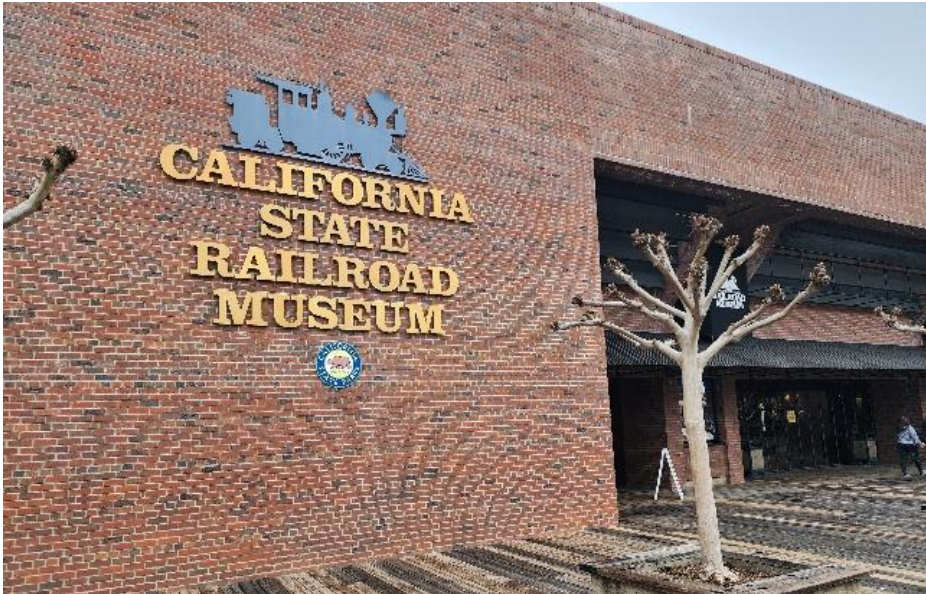
When I first joined the NMRA one of my primary goals was to try and learn more about model railroading and to gain insight into how I might build my first HO Scale layout (with DCC). Never having built anything more than a traditional 4x8 transformer-powered DC layout, my knowledge and skill set in layout design and wiring for DCC was severely limited; and by that, I mean non-existent.

Fortunately for me, when I joined the Daylight Division of the PCR, I found out the NMRA had Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and particularly, a Layout Design Special Interest Group (LDSIG) which had a focus on my area of interest.

With just a little bit of research, I found out that the LDSIG was also part of an annual meeting in conjunction with the Operations SIG (OPSIG) called the Layout Design and Operations weekend. This event includes several clinics, layout visits, and operating sessions, and is held around the first of each year. The Layout Design and Operating weekend offered the option to attend in person, or, if I wanted, I could attend through their online virtual experience. As a newbie, I opted for the virtual experience since I didn't really know anyone, and I felt this would be a great way to see if this was something that could help me. Little did I know that this would be one of the best learning experiences I could have imagined: both from an educational point of view, and through the friendships and contacts that I made with people who are truly invested in our hobby and in helping those like me with their layouts.

I must admit that I was impressed. The virtual clinics were well done, and the hosts (John and Cydney Abatecola of TSG Multimedia) were excellent. To top it off I was able to virtually meet one on one with an advisor, who was none other than Seth Neumann himself, who listened to my questions and offered some invaluable guidance and advice on my project.

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*The 2025 Layout Design and Operations Weekend was held at the CSRM in Sacramento*

Fast forward a couple of years and I finally pulled the trigger on attending the Layout Design and Operations weekend which was held in January, 2025 at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, CA. While the virtual option is exceptional, and I recommend it for anyone who can't attend in person, being present at the event was awesome and an experience I will not soon forget.

Starting with the meet-and-greet dinner, attendees were able to catch up with old friends, and depending on where you sat, meet some new ones. As luck would have it, I got to sit next to some folks that I already knew (Seth Neumann and John and Cydney Abatecola) which made for an evening of great conversation and fun.

The following morning, attendees met at the California State Railroad Museum for a day of clinics on a variety of topics. Information on both layout design and operations was covered throughout the day, culminating that evening with the opportunity to visit several of the area's outstanding local layouts.



*Clinic taking place at the 2025 Layout Design and Operations Weekend in the CSRM*





***Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society's HO scale layout***

The Layout Design and Operations weekend concluded on Sunday with the opportunity to participate in a couple of operating sessions. Since this was only my third time at an operating session, I chose the session offered at the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society. As a larger HO Scale layout with multiple jobs and assignments, this choice would give me the ability to work within my skill level and to learn by observing the more skilled and experienced operators. I was not disappointed.

So, you may ask yourself what my story has to do with each of you: well, it's simple. For those who are new to the hobby, I would encourage you to expand your horizons by joining one of the many SIGs that the NMRA offers. With several SIGs that cover a variety of topics, there is surely one that will catch your eye and start you down a path towards greater enjoyment of the hobby.

For those who have been around for a while, please consider the positive influence that your knowledge and mentorship as part of a SIG can have on others within the hobby. If we want to see our NMRA membership—and that of model railroading in general—expand, as well as have an impact with new or younger modelers, then we need you, investing your time and talents with the next generation of our hobby.

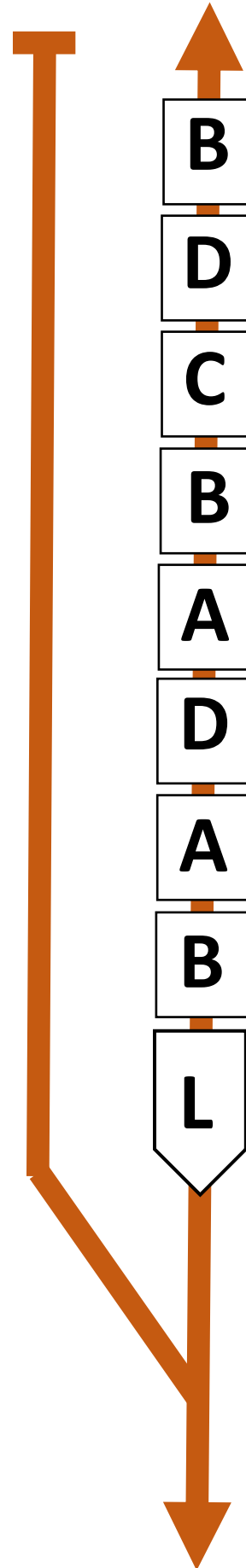
As for me, I am already making plans for next year's Layout Design and Operations weekend and looking forward to growing personally in the knowledge and skills that will help me to become a better model railroader. I hope to see you there!



# Switching Puzzle

Using only the spur beside the main track, how would you sort the cars in the train into alphabetical order, with car A right behind the locomotive (labeled L)?

The editor's answer is below.



Begin by uncoupling between the third car and fourth car behind the locomotive, then switch that third car onto the spur.  
Next, switch the two or three cars in front of the last car onto the spur.  
Then, switch the car right behind the locomotive onto the spur.  
Finally, recouple to the three or four cars still on the main, then pull forward to clear the switch and back onto the cars on the spur. The cars should now be in the correct order.

## Daylight Membership by County

<u>County</u>	<u># Members</u>
San Luis Obispo County	24
Fresno County	17
Santa Barbara County	15
Kern County	14
Tulare County	10
Merced County	3
Madera County	2
Mariposa County	1
<u>Kings County</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>86</b>

## Daylight Division Membership Gauge

February 28, 2015	129
February 29, 2024	79
March 31, 2024	79
April 30, 2024	85
May 31, 2024	87
June 30, 2024	87
July 31, 2024	88
August 31, 2024	90
September 30, 2024	90
October 31, 2024	88
November 30, 2024	84
December 31, 2024	87
January 31, 2025	89
February 28, 2025	86

## Daylight Division's Newest Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>City/Sate</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Stefan Anderson	Santa Ynez, CA	12/2/2024
Raymond Olivares	Fresno, CA	12/3/2024
Logan Bertollette	Atascadero, CA	12/12/2024
Kenneth Stillwell	Merced, CA	1/6/2025
Will Kastner	Arroyo Grande, CA	1/7/2025
Christine Horn	Goleta, CA	2/24/2025

**Welcome Aboard!**



If you ever travel through Bakersfield on a Saturday, please drop by and say “Hi.” Hours on Saturdays are 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Directions to the clubhouse and further information on the Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society can be found by visiting our website at [www.gehams.club](http://www.gehams.club) and our Face Book page by going to this link: [www.facebook.com/bakersfield.gehams](https://www.facebook.com/bakersfield.gehams) We’d be glad to see ya’! --Doug Wagner

## Spring Time at the Depot

Saturday, April 5 10:00am – 4:00pm  
 Sunday, April 6 11:00am—3:00pm  
[San Leandro Historical Railway Society, 1302 Orchard Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577, USA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/slhrs)

Mark your calendars. Upcoming model train show in Thrasher Park, San Leandro, CA. Please come visit us. Admission is free. Donations are always welcomed.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/slhrs>  
<https://www.instagram.com/slhrsorg/>

## Sierra Division Meeting

Saturday, April 12 9:00am—3:00pm  
 Sacramento, CA

## Sierra Division Meeting

Saturday, May 10 10:00am—3:00pm

## O Scale West

May 23—25, 2025  
 Hyatt Regency Santa Clara  
 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA

## Coast Auction

Sunday, June 1, 2025  
[Alameda Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA 94501, USA](https://www.facebook.com/coastmasc)

Join us on June 1, 2025, for the Coast Auction. With around 300 items, and many bidders, the Coast auction is a great place to sell and buy items.

### Auction Day Schedule

9:00 – 10:00 – Set-up – Drop in early to help us get the tables and chairs set up.

10:00 – Noon – Item drop off and buyer perusal

11:00- 11:50 – Clinic – To do one, contact Phil Edholm at [coastsup23@gmail.com](mailto:coastsup23@gmail.com)

Noon – 12:15 – Coast business Meeting and Update – discuss potential future activities

12:15 – Close – The Auction -Please stay and help clean up the chairs and tables.

## The Daylight Observation The Official Publication of the Daylight Division, PCR / NMRA Volume 39, Issue 2 2nd Quarter, 2025

The Daylight Observation is published quarterly to inform members of division activities and to provide educational articles for the advancement of railroad history and the art and science of model railroading. It is distributed to all members of the Division and to officers and newsletter editors of other divisions in the PCR.

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Robert Pethoud  
 460 West Vartikian Avenue  
 Fresno, CA 93704  
 Phone (559) 917 – 4825  
 e-mail: [pethoud@comcast.net](mailto:pethoud@comcast.net)

Every Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 PM / [Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club](#) (HO)  
Roseville, CA / George Carter, e-mail: [Geo\\_Claire\\_Carter@msn.com](mailto:Geo_Claire_Carter@msn.com)

Every Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 PM / [Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society](#) (HO, N)  
Bakersfield, CA / Doug Wagner, e-mail: [carldw@aol.com](mailto:carldw@aol.com) or 661-589-0391 / Club phone 661-325-5820

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

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

Every Saturday 9:00 AM to Noon / Belmont Model Railroad Club (HO)  
1719 E. Belmont Avenue, Fresno, CA / [Facebook](#) page. Info: (559) 289-5549.

Second Wednesday 7:30 PM / [Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society](#) (HO&N)  
Bakersfield, CA / Doug Wagner, e-mail: [carldw@aol.com](mailto:carldw@aol.com) or 661-589-0391 / Club phone: 661-325-5820

Second Saturday 10:00 AM / [Tehachapi Loop RR Club](#) / Tehachapi, CA / Tom O'Brien, e-mail: [threerail@earthlink.net](mailto:threerail@earthlink.net) 661-822-1546

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

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](mailto:cecil_eppler@sbcglobal.net)

Third Saturday / [Sacramento Modular Railroaders](#) Operating Session (HO) / Sacramento, CA / Scott  
McAllister, e-mail: [scooter923@att.net](mailto:scooter923@att.net)

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: [kenattr@thirdrail.com](mailto:kenattr@thirdrail.com)

Irregular / Central California Operators Group (all) / varies / Steve Hayes, e-mail: [hayeswp@hotmail.com](mailto:hayeswp@hotmail.com) 209-536-1847





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**Daylight Observation**  
**460 West Vartikian Avenue**  
**Fresno, CA 93704-1441**

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