



The Daylight Observation

Summer Meet at Tehachapi Moved to August 28

by Doug Wagner

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The Daylight Division's Summer meet will be August 28th, 2010, at the Village Grill Restaurant, 410 East Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi 93561. [Editor's note: the meet was originally scheduled for the 21st, but that turned out to be the day of the Mountain Festival, when the Tehachapi modelers will all be involved in festival activities.]

The Village Grill is just across the street from Tehachapi's Railroad Park. (Directions on page 8) There will be a no-host breakfast from 8:30 to 10:00 AM. During breakfast Doug Wagner will present his photos of railroading action in Cajon Pass from over the last 13 years. Registration will start at 9:30. At 10:00 we will have all the stuff associated with a division meet.

Brewster Bird will present a clinic on making background buildings with foamcore.

A local resident, Jim Jury, will be presenting a part of his collection of railroad slides he has taken all over the country from the mid 1950's.

Don't forget to bring any item wrapped in a newspaper for the White Elephant Auction. After the contests have been judged, and the presentation/clinics, we will have the Daylight Division's Quarterly Business meeting. At the close of the business meeting, the \$25 door prize will be handed out, and the White Elephant Auction will be held. At the close of the activities, maps to the layouts that are on tour will be made available.

Three outdoor garden layouts are scheduled to be on tour, including Dennis Keck's narrow gauge steam layout, Rick Passalacqua's "Rick's Rock Back-Breaking Railroad," and John Bell's layout overlooking UP's Cable Siding.

There are 2 model railroad shops in Tehachapi, As an extra added bonus, the Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum will be open for your pleasure.

About 4:30 PM, we will have a BBQ dinner at John Bell's. This is a great location for photo opportunities. To take part in the BBQ at John's house, you will have to RSVP Doug Wagner at carldw@aol.com or phone (661) 589-0391, no later than August 26th. (Please leave message if you get the answering machine.) The cost for the BBQ dinner, which includes ribs, corn-on-the-cob, hot macaroni and cheese, dinner rolls, green salad, and pie and ice cream for dessert is \$10. Drinks are included. (Chicken is also available, but please mention this when you RSVP Doug or you will get ribs!!!)

Hope to see you at the meet!

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DAVE'S DISPATCH

From the Super's Desk

By Dave Grenier

Daylight Division held its Spring Meet on Saturday, May 22, at the Fresno home of Marlin and Patricia Costello. The meet started with three clinics presented by Gary Saxton, Bob Pethoud and Ron Baker. Gary showed us how to use some of Microsoft Excel's obscure features to create useful model railroading goodies, such as track diagrams, siding materials, windows and more. Bob showed us and described how he is constructing three lightweight portable layout modules and wiring it for DCC. Specifications were provided, along with a challenge, to construct additional modules to connect to his. Ron's fast-paced clinic was on using Bragdon Enterprises' Geodesic Foam materials to create lightweight foam scenery. Hmmm, how about building some of Bob's modules and using Ron's scenery techniques? Could this be the start of something bigger for future train shows?

After the clinics, we enjoyed a scrumptious lunch provided by our gracious hostess and host, Patricia and Marlin Costello. Thank you for your hospitality!

Following lunch, the quarterly business meeting was conducted. Director John Houlihan announced that Jay Smith had been named "Daylight Division Member of the Year" at the Awards Banquet during the Silver Rails 2010 PCR Convention in Sparks, Nevada. Elections Chairman Doug Wagner reported that I had been elected as Superintendent and that Suzie Paff had been elected as Chief Clerk/Paymaster for the next two years. It was announced that due to a lack of participation, ordering of Division name badges and shirts has been cancelled for the foreseeable future.



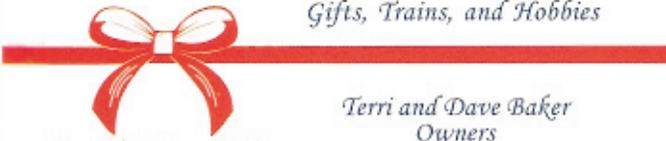
The meet concluded with an operating session on Marlin Costello's HO Goshen and Goosechase Shortline huge layout and layout tours to John Houlihan's O-scale Santa Fe layout, Gary Saxton's N-scale Carbondale & Kingston (NYO&W) layout, and Chuck Harmon's HO San Joaquin Central (SP) layout.

The next Daylight Division meet is August 28, 2010, at the Village Grill Restaurant in Tehachapi. Registration starts at 9:30 AM, along with the usual refreshments. [Breakfast service starts at 8:30 - Ed.] The meet starts at 10:00 AM. Doug Wagner is planning a full slate of events for us. (Details are elsewhere in this issue.) Be sure to mark your calendars and make the trek to Tehachapi for a fun-filled day.

The "Early-Bird" registration rate of \$99.00 for the Extra 2011 West NMRA 2011 National Convention in Sacramento, July 3-9, 2011, ends September 1st! Be sure to take advantage of this special rate and get your registration in early. It's shaping up to be another great NMRA convention and it's in the PCR! Visit the website at www.x2011west.org for more information.

Also frequently check the PCR Master Calendar website at www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.htm for more things to do, as events are constantly being added to the calendar as information comes in from all over. It's the one best place to check for events in the PCR and beyond. If you have railroad-related events you'd like to publicize, send it in via e-mail. See you in Tehachapi!

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Please send your e-mail to me at harmonsta@aol.com. Please put Observation in the subject box so I won't mistake it for junk mail.

Chuck Harmon

Fresno Meet Shots



Gary Saxton showed us how to use Microsoft™ Excel to make car cards, track plans and building paper for our railroads.

Bob Pethoud brought his portable switching layout and encouraged others to make additional modules to add to it.



It was a beautiful May afternoon on Marlin's patio.

Jay Smith is Daylight Division's "Member of the Year."



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Upcoming Events

August 28, 2010 – Daylight
Division Summer Meet - Tehachapi

October 7 - 11, 2010 - Central
Coast Railroad Festival, San Luis
Obispo and northern Santa Barbara
Counties.

November 20, 2010 – Daylight
Division Fall Meet - San Luis
Obispo

May 13 - 15, 2011 - [Sonoma Short
Line 2011](#) "Mini" PCR
Convention, Santa Rosa, CA

July 3 to 9, 2011 - EXTRA 2011
WEST, 2011 NMRA National
Convention,
Sacramento, California

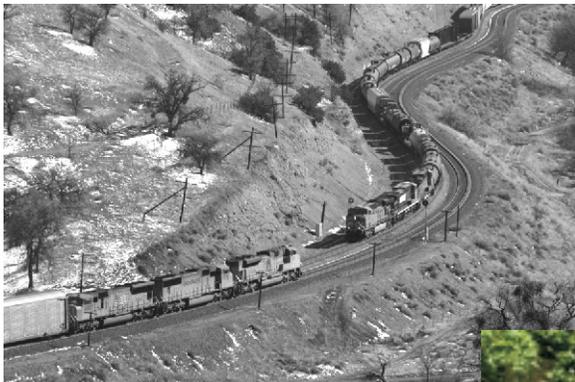
Marlin's Marvelous May Meet*

By Jay Smith, Industry Liaison

I am sorry to say that I was unable to attend the May meet due to my daughter's birthday celebration. It has been reported to me that I missed out on quite a bit of ballyhooing, an extensive amount of hoopla, and a smattering of jubilation. In fact, if music had been present, I am told, a down-home hootenanny would have broken out. Good times at Marlin's seem to be a way of life don't they?

Enough lollygagging around. Let's get to it. A hearty THANK YOU! to all of our donors. As always, we greatly appreciate your generosity. Our donors for the May meet were 1) Chuck Harmon-book entitled "The Whistles Blow No More", 2) Dave and Terri Baker of Terri's Timeless Treasures-Accurail HO 40' Dbl Dr Steel Box Car (Milw Rd), 3) Kayanne Yung (Owner) and Nick the Train Guy of Hobby Town USA-\$25 Gift Card x 2, 4) John Houlihan of The Irish Tracklayer-HO Photo Etched nos. for Train Indicator Lights (SP) x 2, 5) Charlie Worstell of Tom's Trains-2 Tee Shirts: Rio Grande and SP, 6) Dave Grenier-HO Commemorative Box Car (SBHRS), and 7) Roy Ogle of Roy's Trains & Things-Kasiner Hobbies HO Passenger Train: 8 cars w/ extruded aluminum bodies. No birthdays in late August so I'll see you on the 28th in Tehachapi.

*Oops, I did it again.



Neil Fernbaugh took this photo from
John Bell's viewing platform in October
2008, showing a meet on Cable Siding a
few miles above the loop.

More Fresno Pics



"I'll be darned...a note
from Joel Bragdon!

It says do not point the
spray bottle toward
your face."

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Ron is offering...it's
some sort of foam stuff,
and you don't want to
drink it!



**The Daylight Observation
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the Daylight Division,
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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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PCR-NMRA group:
www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/PCR-nmra/join

Daylight Division website:
www.pcrnmra.org/daylight

PCR master calendar:
www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/calendar/mastercalendar.html

**DAYLIGHT DIVISION MEETING
MAY 22, 2010**

The May meet was held in Fresno at the home of Marlon Costello. The business meeting was called to order at 1:18 pm by Superintendent Dave Grenier.

A motion was made by Chuck Harmon and seconded by Bill Scott to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the Daylight Observation. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Brewster Bird and seconded by Don Smith to accept the Treasurer's report as published in the Daylight Observation. The motion carried.

The following bills were submitted: \$71.19 from Dave Grenier for copies and supplies and \$283.06 from Chuck Harmon for the Observation. A motion was made by Bill Scott and seconded by Brewster Bird to pay the bills. The motion carried.

Director John Houlihan said that there will be a mini convention in Santa Rosa next year instead of a regular convention because the National Convention will be in Sacramento next year. Also he announced that Jay Smith was named Daylight Division man of the year at the convention in Sparks. The next meet will be August 21 in Tehachapi. The November meet will be on the 20th of November in San Luis Obispo at Hilding Larson's home.

Doug Wagner announced the elections results. Dave Grenier was elected Superintendent and Suzie Paff was elected Chief Clerk/Paymaster.

The Name badges and shirts orders have been canceled do to lack of interest and other problems. This is still being looked into.

Joe Paff talked about the auction and asked for ideas and suggestions. He said for the all work we did on the one auction the little we made was not worth it. He suggested we have an auction once a year not connected to a meet.

There were no contests at this meet. The meeting was adjourned for the raffle and white elephant Auction.

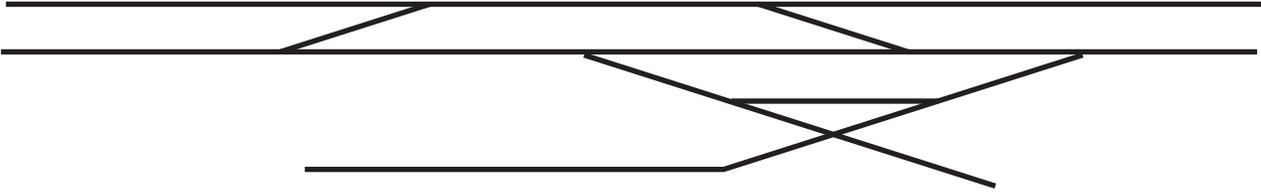
Respectfully Submitted
Suzanne Paff
Chief Clerk/Paymaster

Treasurer's Report

DATE	TRANSACTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	TOTAL
5/22/2010	BALANCE FORWARD			\$3,643.35
5/22/2010	REGISTRATION		\$130.00	\$3,773.35
5/22/2010	WHITE ELEPHANT		\$101.00	\$3,874.35
5/22/2010	RAFFLE		\$108.00	\$3,982.35
5/22/2010	OBSERVATION-Chuck Harmon	\$283.06		\$3,699.29
5/22/2010	SUPPLIES & COPIES-Dave Grenier	\$71.19		\$3,628.10
5/22/2010	BADGE & SHIRT MONEY RETURNED	\$234.00		\$3,394.10
5/22/2010	ENDING BALANCE			\$3,394.10

The Answers Are Out There

By Bob Pethoud, Member Services
Why Build a Portable Switching Layout?



Despite my last name, my heritage is half Scottish, my maternal grandparents having immigrated to this country from Edinburgh in the early years of the twentieth century. I often attend Scottish gatherings and games, listen to bagpipe music, and want to wear the kilt, but I haven't yet purchased all the necessary attire. Why not? Because it's very expensive and I figure I wouldn't have occasion to wear it more than a very few times per year.



It was cold at Bell's place in October 2008, but the vittles warmed everybody up real good. Should be warmer this time.

I mention this because I went through a similar cost-benefit analysis before starting construction on the portable switching layout which I unveiled at the Daylight Division meet in May. I'm very aware of how much money, time, and effort it will take to complete this HO model railroad, and if it will only be brought out for PCR conventions and occasional division meets, then it is probably not worthwhile. As I thought about it, though, I realized that there are many venues where a fully functioning model railroad could profitably be displayed: meets, conventions, train shows (such as Roseville Railfair and TTOS gatherings), craft fairs, malls, church and boy scout groups, presentations for elementary schools, and evening classes for families, to name just a few off the top of my head. I concluded that this switching railroad can be used to promote our great hobby in so many ways it would be a crime not to build it.

The switching layout is way better than a diorama—which would be a whole lot quicker and easier to build—to showcase the appeal of model railroading because it is so much fun to operate. This is the real answer to the question in the title of today's column (a question I was asked by a modeler at the May meet). Operation means running trains, not just at random, but with a purpose and in a manner patterned on prototype railroads. Operation involves at least three aspects: yard switching (classifying and blocking freight cars), road maneuvers (meets and passes on the main), and—my personal favorite—peddler freight switching (setting out and picking up freight cars at industries). This portable model railroad represents a section of a railroad whose industries will be served by a peddler freight train. Imagine the track arrangement above as your portable layout and think of the arrival of a freight train consisting of a road switcher, five freight cars, and a caboose. There are four spurs—two facing point and two trailing point—each with three to five spotting locations for freight cars. Of course, some of these spots are already occupied when your train arrives. You have a switch list which tells you what work to do in town. You will have to set out two or three cars from your train at specific spots, possibly

behind other cars already on those spurs. You will also have to pick up a few cars and put them into your train. Naturally, working a facing point spur will require the locomotive to run around the car(s) involved. Then you may have to respot a car or two from one location to another on the layout. If your train is a turn, you will have to run the locomotive around the entire train and place the caboose on the opposite end. Finally, before leaving town you may need to block the cars in your train in a specific order. Clearly, there is a good deal more to running trains than most people realize. Seriously, if you haven't tried this sort of peddler freight operation, I challenge you to try it—it's a kick

Until next time, contact me at pethoud@comcast.net



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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Association Volunteer

By Dave Grenier

In this installment, we will briefly review the requirements for the Association Volunteer certificate. I say “briefly” because there are so many ways to complete the requirements for this certificate, too many to list here. For the full requirements, go to www.nmra.org/education/achievement/ap_volunteer.html. You can also get a copy of the requirements by contacting me by phone, e-mail, or letter. Also see the *Scale Rails*, November 2008 issue, page 18, for a very informative article describing the requirements and many examples of how to earn this certificate.

The Association Volunteer certificate, as its name implies, is to recognize an individual’s volunteer service at the national, region, or division level. There is only one requirement to qualify for this certificate; you must have served long enough to accumulate 60 time units (TUs) in “active satisfactory service” in various activities. The “TU” is the basic credit earned for various volunteer activities.

Some TUs are given for each month, while others are given for each activity. Serve on a convention committee? Get TUs for each month served. Work one day at a convention? Get TUs for one month. Give a clinic at a meet or convention? Get TUs for each presentation. Open your home or club layout for layout tours? Get TUs for each day. Judge a model contest? Get TUs for the day. You’re a Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge counselor? Get TUs for each month served, PLUS each Scout that qualifies for the badge. Different numbers of TUs are awarded depending on whether the activity is at the national, region, or division level.

Please note that these TUs are in addition to any TUs received for being on the committee that works to set up the event! TUs may be earned concurrently for each qualified activity you perform. The more involved you are, the faster you accrue TUs! Be sure to check the full requirements to see how many TUs are accrued for each of the volunteer activities. Sometimes you can get credit for two certificates, too. Giving a clinic earns points toward the Author Certificate the first time it is presented, while all subsequent presentations earn Volunteer TUs.



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KEEP TRACK OF YOUR SERVICE AS YOU DO IT!
Nobody but you will track the TUs you earn. Use either the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) or Record and Validation Form to list your volunteer activities and have it signed to verify your service as it happens. It is much easier than going back and collecting signatures later when you’re ready to apply for your certificate. Have someone in charge of the event sign off to verify your service.

The final requirement for this certificate is the usual dreaded paperwork. You must submit a completed Statement of Qualification (SOQ) form, itemizing evidence of completion of the requirements. Along with your SOQ, send a copy of your NMRA membership card, to the PCR AP Manager, Jack Burgess. If you need me, as

Superintendent, to verify your Division service, mail it to me instead and I’ll forward it to Jack after I sign it.

Does 60 TUs seem like a lot of work? Remember that past service can be claimed retroactively. Look back and take credit for any service you performed in the past while a NMRA member. You might just surprise yourself at how many TUs you’ve already earned. Fill out the paperwork and send it in and you’ll be on your way to earning another AP certificate. You’ll be glad you did.

Three AP certificates were awarded to Daylight Division members during the last quarter:

Paul Deis, San Luis Obispo – Chief Dispatcher (His first AP award!)

Robert Pethoud, Fresno – Association Volunteer

Mike O’Brien, Bakersfield – Golden Spike Award (His first AP award!)

Congratulations to all recipients! I look forward to seeing more in the future.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the Achievement Program or Golden Spike Award, call me at (559) 297-1345 or e-mail me at grenida@pacbell.net.

Directions to the Meet

The Village Grill is located at 410 East Tehachapi Blvd. Coming from the west of Tehachapi on Highway 58,, take the Tehachapi/CA-202 exit, exit 148. Go 0.3 miles, and keep right at the fork to go onto CA-202/CA-58 Business Route/West Tehachapi Blvd. Go 0.6 miles and turn left onto west Tehachapi Blvd./CA-202/CA-58 Business Route. Continue to follow West Tehachapi Blvd./CA-58 Business Route for 1.4 miles. The Village Grill will be on your right, just after the Apple Shed Restaurant, and just before the dog-leg in the road.

Coming from the east of Tehachapi on Highway 58, take Exit 151 toward Tehachapi. Go 0.3 miles. Turn left onto East Tehachapi Blvd.. Go 1.9 miles and the Village Grill will be on your left, just after the dog-leg in the road.

We will be meeting in the Banquet Room toward the rear of the inside of the restaurant.

EXTRA 2011 WEST

X2011

2011 NMRA CONVENTION
SACRAMENTO, CA

The Unconventional Convention!

The current registration fee for the 2011 NMRA Convention in Sacramento is a very cheap \$99! But this low rate will be only available until September 1, 2010.

Register now! Go to www.x2011west.org


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