



The Daylight Observation

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Volume 38, Issue 3
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Daylight Director's Message: Get on Board the Daylight Limited!

By Walter Mizuno, Daylight Division Director

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Have you heard the good news? The Daylight Division will be hosting PCR's 2025 convention next March in SLO, also known as San Luis Obispo.

Convention Chair Bruce Morden and his committee

have already started making plans for the event and welcome other members of the division to provide input and assistance in the planning and offerings at the convention. Many of you may have thought that conventions magically happen. I know I did when I first got involved with the NMRA. Only after attending my first convention, did I realize what goes into the planning of a successful convention.

PCR's annual convention is hosted by a different division every year. There are four divisions within

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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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the region, so naturally, each division will host the event every fourth year. Our division's last convention, in 2021, was forced to go virtual due to COVID (thank you Zoom), so the 2025 convention will be our first chance to host an in-person convention in a while. As COVID fears have eased, more people are returning to in-person gatherings. Zoom may be convenient, but you can't beat the experience of an in-person convention.



As the Director, I want the members of the Daylight Division to be more vocal. Tell us what you would like to see for division activities and at the convention. We can't deliver what you want if we don't know what you want.

Are there activities that would entice you to join your fellow modelers in SLO? For the convention, we are planning to host clinics, op sessions, layout tours, excursions, contests, and swap meets. Close to one-third of the clinics are expected to be available virtually, for the benefit of the many interested folks around the world who will not be able to attend in person. We plan to have a variety of make-and-take clinics that are popular with many of you. This year we are encouraging a spouse or child of the member to register for free and be able to attend clinics and other activities that are part of the regular fare registration package. The companion fare is

new for our convention, as a way to encourage more interested folks to attend without breaking the bank. Extra fare items will still be charged for, however.

On tap for one of the many layout tours and operating sessions is the San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (<http://sломra.org/>). Imagine being able to operate on SLOMRA’s layout.

This one opportunity alone is worth the entire price of admission. Still in the early stages of consideration is a ride on Amtrak’s Coast Starlight over the Cuesta grade with none other than Bruce Morden providing color commentary.

If you want to take a break from trains for a bit, there are quaint shops in the area, enjoy the relaxing coastal climate, visit Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, or other popular tourist destinations such as Morro Bay, Hearst Castle, Pismo Beach, and of course the many wineries, breweries, and distilleries in the area.

Let the planning committee know your thoughts. The Daylight Division belongs to all its members. We have some of the most active members in the PCR and welcome your participation. Bruce and his committee are working hard to make the 2025 convention enjoyable and the most well-attended convention in recent history.

As always, the committee could use your help in planning and organizing the event. So if you’d like to get involved and join fellow Daylight members or just want to let Bruce and his committee know what would make an awesome convention, please let him know by dropping him a line at chair@pcr2025.org. This is a great way to meet other members of the division and help your fellow members. Just ask this year’s convention attendees.



In Memoriam		
<u>Member</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Joined NMRA</u>
Richard Christ, Life Member	Lompoc CA	1/1/19
Nate Goodman	Carpinteria CA	9/15/1987
Kenneth Pierskalla, Life Member	Santa Barbara CA	1/1/1956

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

By Dave Grenier



In this installment, we will review the requirements for the Model Railroad Engineer – Civil certificate, the first of three in the “Engineering and Operations” area. While the requirements for this certificate may seem long and daunting, they really are not. It just seems that way because there are so many options for you to choose from. There are only four basic requirements that need to be completed to qualify for this certificate.

- 1) Prepare an original scale drawing of a model railroad track plan, identifying overall size, scale, track elevations, curve radii, and turnout sizes. It does not have to be in ink or drawn with CAD software, although it must be neat and legible.

Before drawing your track plan, look at requirements #2 and #3 to see what features you may want to include in your track plan. Also look at the requirements for Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical category and Chief Dispatcher category when planning your layout to also include those requirements from the beginning. It is much easier to do it now in the planning stage than to add them later during construction.

Your plan **must** include:

- a. Adequate terminal facilities for handling freight and/or passenger cars
- b. Adequate terminal facilities for storage and service of motive power
- c. A minimum of one mainline passing siding
- d. Four switching locations, not counting yards, interchanges, wyes, and reversing loops
- e. Provision for turning motive power
- f. Provision for simultaneous operation of at least two mainline trains in either direction

Remember, you do not have to build all these facilities, just show them on your plan to demonstrate that you understand what the design of these facilities would look like.

- 2) Construct and demonstrate the satisfactory operation of a completed section of the model railroad from your layout plan that consists of at least 25 linear feet of track in Z, N, or TT scale, or 50 linear feet in HO or S scale, or 75 linear feet in O scale, or 100 linear feet in G, F, or #1 scale, with appropriate ballast, drainage facilities, and roadbed profile. All track counts toward the linear feet requirement, including spurs, yards, sidings, not just mainline track. Using commercial products, including flex track and turnouts, is perfectly acceptable.

The track work must have examples of **six** of the following features:

- Passing siding
- Spur
- Crossover
- Reversing Loop
- Wye
- Simple Ladder (minimum of 3 tracks)
- Compound Ladder
- Turntable
- Transfer Table
- Super Elevation
- Simple Overhead Wire (such as trolley system)
- Compound Overhead Wire (catenary)
- Scale Track
- Cog Railway Track
- Coal Dump Track
- Ash Pit
- Service Pit Track
- Grade Elevation

- 3) Construct for Merit Judging, scratch-built models of any **three** of the following, and demonstrate their satisfactory operation:

- Turnout (point or stub)
- Crossover
- Double Crossover
- Single Slip Switch
- Double Slip Switch
- Crossing
- Gauntlet Track
- Gauntlet Turnout
- Dual Gauge Turnout
- Gauge Separation Turnout
- Double Junction Turnout

- Three-Way Turnout
- Spring Switch
- Operating Switch in Overhead Wire

Commercial frogs are **NOT** permitted to be used on any of these items, however you may use commercial rails, spikes, ties, and Fast Tracks™ jigs. The jigs are considered “tools” and are permissible. These items may be built and demonstrated as part of your layout or on separate pieces of wood and may be a different scale or gauge.

If they are built separately, include enough track to demonstrate their satisfactory operation. A unit of motive power must be able to run through all possible routes under its own power. It is not enough to push or pull a car through by hand.

- 4) Earn a Merit Award (there are three pass/fail criteria) with the three items in requirement #3, using the “2019 Evaluation Form” below to show that each of the models meets all applicable NMRA standards. The track items in requirement #2 do not have to be judged at all, except to demonstrate that they work.
- 5) Submit a Statement of Qualification (see SOQ link below) which includes the following attachments:
 - Copy of your track plan from requirement #1
 - List of all scratch-built features
 - List of all commercial components used
 - Materials used in building the model
 - Description of the track work features, methods of construction and identification of commercial components used in paragraph #3
 - Verification of the Merit Awards (copy of certificates or signed “2019 Evaluation Forms”)
 - Copy of your NMRA membership card

Submit your SOQ and its attachments to the Daylight Division AP Chair, currently yours truly. I will then review it and forward it to the PCR AP Manager, Jack Burgess. If possible, scan the documents as PDF files and email them as attachments instead of mailing paper copies. Each document should be a separate PDF file.

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The full requirements for this category are available on the NMRA website at: www.nmra.org/civil . You can also get a copy of the requirements by contacting me, either by phone, e-mail, or letter. Do yourself a favor and read the two instructive articles on Model Railroad Engineer - Civil from the NMRA website's "The Masters Articles" at www.nmra.org/masters-articles-updated-2009 BEFORE starting work on this category. You will be glad you did.

Forms available for this category:

- 2019 SOQ Form: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
- 2019 Evaluation Form: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)

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

Next installment: Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical

Dave Grenier

Daylight Division AP Chair



Daylight Division Membership Gauge

May 31, 2014	139
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
March 31, 2024	79
April 30, 2024	85
May 31, 2024	87

Daylight Membership by County

<u>County</u>	<u># Members</u>
San Luis Obispo County	20
Fresno County	19
Santa Barbara County	15
Kern County	15
Tulare County	8
Madera County	4
Merced County	3
San Luis Obispo	1
Mariposa County	1
<u>Kings County</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Members	87

Vacation in England

Article by Bruce Morden



I have the dreaded trains addiction. I have been addicted since I was about four years old and while it lay dormant a few years here and there, it always sprang back with a vengeance if given the chance. The addiction includes prototype trains as well as their model cousins.

Recently my wife and I took a trip to England. We had visited the UK shortly after we were married 44 years ago. At the time we visited England, Wales and Scotland. We missed the extreme southwest of England – Devon and Cornwall. We wanted to return and see that part of the country. We talked to a professional travel planner, but she did not have the expertise to plan an atypical, eclectic type tour we were looking for. We wanted to see historic sites from pre-history through all of English history, areas of unusual natural beauty, UNESCO World Heritage sights, gardens and, of course, trains. We also had a couple of friends we wanted to visit and normal commercial tours don't usually make accommodation for those types of stops.



Platforms at Kings Cross Station

Train announcement board for trains leaving in the next 90 minutes from Kings Cross Station



I planned the trip for 27 days and filled the period with what we wanted. We had a few transportation issues where flights were delayed or canceled and a last minute change in ferry schedules that rendered that part of the trip unmanageable. Otherwise, we saw all that we wanted to see and more. This is just a short telling of the railroad related portion of the trip.

When we were there in 1980, we traveled to York and saw some of the sights, but somehow we missed going to the National Railway Museum. I am not sure how that happened! Perhaps I did not want to overload my new bride with my addiction. This trip we went out of our way to visit the museum.

We flew into Heathrow airport in London and took the Underground [London's magnificent subway system dating from and fondly called the "Tube"] from the airport to King's Cross where we had reserved a hotel. The hotel was within walking distance of both the King's Cross and St Pancras stations. After a night's sleep we schlepped our luggage to Kings Cross and took a LNER train the 2.5 hours to York. [It takes almost 4 hours to drive from London to York on the Motorway.]



Our train to York at the platform in Kings Cross Station

We spent two days in York including several hours touring the National Railway Museum which includes in its collection trains from the early 1800's to TGV's and *Shinkansen*. We often forget that railroad locomotives development started in England. The second day in the morning we spent at the National Railway Museum. <https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/>



Eurostar Locomotive and Chunnel section



Early and late steam locomotives at the National Railway Museum in York

We also did the only stop on our trip to a model railroad shop while in York. Hiding literally under the York City Wall, Monk Bar Model Shop is a full-service hobby shop with all scales and lots of scenery, structures and accessories.

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After the two days in York, we traveled back south to London, again on the LNER train. Arriving at London's King's Cross station we took two Underground trains to arrive at Waterloo Station where we boarded a South Western Railway train for Portsmouth Harbor. Again a smooth trip as fast as an automobile on the Motorway but much more relaxing, allowing us to enjoy the scenery through South London and on through the landscape of southern England. We stayed a night in Portsmouth before taking a hovercraft to the Isle of Wight where we had tickets to ride the Isle of Wight Steam Railway. <https://iwsteamrailway.co.uk/>



Locomotive Calbourne, the Isle of Wight Railway's first restoration



Isle of Wight Steam Railway on the move

Model railway layout with fiddle yard at the Isle of Wight Railway Museum



We boarded the Island Line in Ryde taking it to Smallbrook Station where we were able to transfer directly to the Steam Railway. We were fortunate [actually, I planned it] to have our visit coincide with a Model Train Exhibition featuring layouts, sellers and groups. We rode the steam railway from one end to the other and also visited their main station at Havenstreet which includes their shops buildings and several buildings filled with railway exhibits, and the weekend we were there, with model trains.

Bruce and Andrea Morden's adventures in England conclude next issue. --Ed.



Daylight Division's Newest Members		
<u>Member</u>	<u>City/Sate</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Edward Angel	Lompoc CA	3/20/2024
Richard Parisse	Santa Barbara CA	4/2/2024
Marcos Acosta	Fresno CA	4/23/2024
Kevin McDonald	Visalia CA	4/25/2024
Dennis McKay	Tehachapi CA	4/25/2024
Robert Hoffman	Fresno CA	4/26/2024
Thomas Ciccarelli	Visalia CA	5/2/2024

Welcome Aboard!

Daylight Division Report

by Doug Wagner,
PCR Membership Manager

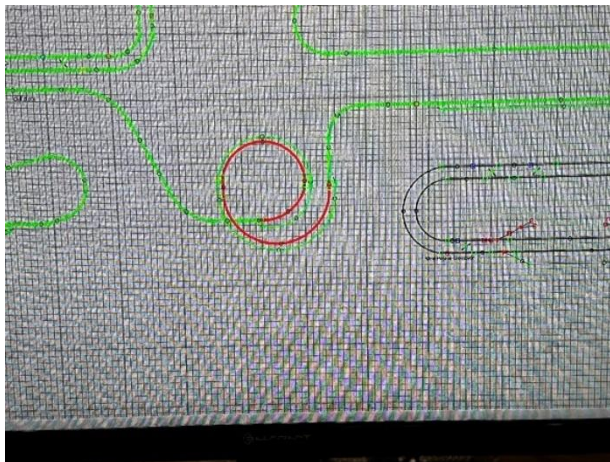
Now that the 30th Annual Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society's Bakersfield Model Train Show is over, it's time for the GEHAMS members to get back to what they do best—either running trains or working on the layouts. This past Saturday, June 15, was no different.



GEHAMS member, Tim Stinson, pulls yard duty this shift, on the GEHAMS HO layout. Tim is making up a mixed manifest train to be heading out later that day.

--Photo by Doug Wagner, GEHAMS member.

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 and our Face Book page by going to this link: www.facebook.com/bakersfield.gehams We’d be glad to see ya’!

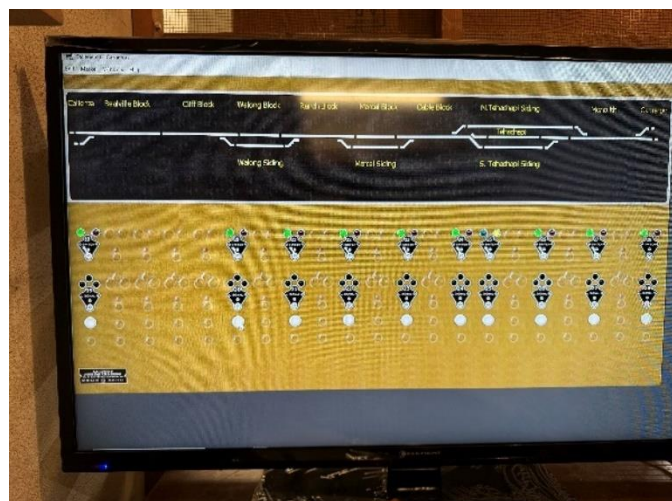


Even though the N scalers weren't doing anything as exciting as running trains, Doug Wagner was diligently working on the signaling project for the Tehachapi Loop area on the GEHAMS N scale layout. This screen shot shows that there is a train occupying the mainline on the Tehachapi Loop, signified by the red-colored track.

--Photo by Doug Wagner

Next step is for Doug to take the information that's shown in the above photo and display it on the Dispatcher's Panel. It's a work in progress and a learnin' on the job experience!

--Photo by Doug Wagner, GEHAMS member



Action on the GEHAMS HO layout. This Chessie train is being held up by Farmer Brown's caterpillar as it is being used to turn right-side up the fire department brush rig that wound up on its side while responding to a track side fire. Despite being short 1 fire engine, the Fire Department extinguished the blaze in no time!

--Photo by Mike Cronin, GEHAMS member.



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](#)

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: kenattr@thirdrail.com

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

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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



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