



**PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting

**Saturday, October 23, 2010 at 1:00 PM
Finley Community Center Manzanita Room
2060 West College Ave, Santa Rosa, CA**

DRAFT

MINUTES

****These Minutes are subject to change until approved by the Board of Directors****

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM by President Ron Plies

A. Quorum Verification

The following voting members of the Board were in attendance;

President Ron Plies

Vice President Pat La Torres

Redwood Empire Division Director Carol Alexander

Sierra Division Director Mary Moore-Campagna

Coast Division Director Rod Smith

The following Ex-Officio members were in attendance

Secretary Tom Crawford

Others present were

Audit Committee Chair and Convention Department Chair Dennis Stokely

X2011 National Convention Chair Ray deBlicek

Storekeeper Steve Skold

Contest Chair Giuseppe Aymar

Publication Chair Gus Campagna

B. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

C. Written Communications

There were no written Communications.

D. Members Comments

There were no member comments.

E. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting

A number of corrections were made to the draft minutes.

IT WAS MOVED by Vice President LaTorres and seconded ...

THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of April 28, 2010 be approved as corrected.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED on a voice vote.

A copy of the revised minutes will be sent to all and posted on the website.

F. Officers Reports

F.1. President Plies submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

F.2. Vice President La Torres submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. He also noted that the Regions and Divisions Handbook is available on disk, and he has a copy.

He also noted that Giuseppe Aymar will take over as the new contest chair, replacing Bill Scott who has retired.

He also noted that we have three candidates for VP: Paul Deis, Ed Merrin, and Ted Stephens.

There was a discussion about the Leadership training that Dave Connery used to lead, but there was no resolution.

F.3. Treasurer Altbaum was not present, but submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

F.4. Secretary Crawford had no report.

G. Directors Reports

G.1. **Daylight Division Director Houlihan** was not present and submitted no report.

G.2. **Coast Division Director Smith** submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

G.3. **Sierra Division Director Moore-Campagna** submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

G.4. **RED Director Alexander** submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

G.5. **Hawaiian Division** is currently without a Director.

H. Department Reports

H.1. Administration Department

H.1.i **Nominations Committee** Chair Bill Kaufman was not present, but submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

H.1.ii **By-Laws and Manual** Secretary Crawford explained the formatting changes which he made to the Manual of Operations and how the changes from the October 2009 and April 2010 meetings were incorporated.

H.1.iii **Storekeeper** Steve Skold submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. It was noted that the “Tug of War” identified in the report has been disposed of.

H.2. Membership Department.

Membership Chair Doug Wagner was not present but Gus Campagna discussed the membership brochure. We agreed that it is a member retention tool and not a recruiting tool. We concluded that a clean PDF should be sent to the Division Membership chairs to print as they need.

Gus will work with Doug to create it.

H.3. Publications Department

Publications Chair Gus Campagna discussed the effort to find a replacement for Bill Kaufman who is retiring from the Branchline to become the NMRA VP of Special Projects. Gus is looking at splitting the job into two – one to be editor, who edits and proofreads content, and one to handle formatting and packaging. He is also looking at separate print and electronic versions. If Gus gets the help he needs, he will bring a proposal to the board. Gus handed out a 2011 publication schedule.

H.4. Convention Department.

Convention Department Chair Dennis Stokely provided a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. He gave the following summary.

2010. Silver Rails had 251 registrants. We do not yet have a final report.

2011 The Sonoma Short Line Mini Convention in RED will be Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15, 2011. Friday will be the Board meeting at the Skold’s. Saturday will be the convention at the Community Center and Sunday will the breakfast/business meeting at a separate location. Steve showed a sample of the PCR Logo medallion and mold they made based on a previous medallion.

2012 There are a number of issues as mentioned in Dennis’s report. Dennis was given some options and will work something out with PNR.

2013 At this time Dennis is unable to find anyone in Coast Division to head the convention. He is now looking for interested clubs to do it.

2014 We have tentatively selected San Luis Obispo as the location.

H.5. Contest Department

Contest Chair Giuseppe Aymar is just now coming up to speed and will be working with Bill Scott to take over. Tom will provide him with the information he has.

H.6. Achievement Department

No report.

H.7. Non-Rail Activities Department

Chair Mary Moore-Campagna submitted a written report that is attached to the record copy of these minutes. In the report was a request to pay for a new Bingo set for the X2011 Convention. Ray deBlieck stated that X2011 will pay for the set.

I. Unfinished Business:

I.1. Written Agreement with 21st Century Limited, Inc.

Convention Chair Ray deBlieck noted that we do not have an agreement, but that 21st Century Limited, Inc. sees itself as the PCR "Foundation." Tom Crawford noted that in another organization he is involved with, Jobs Daughters, they have a separate "foundation" and we agreed that Tom would look into how that relationship works to see if we can learn something.

Ray stated that 21st Century Limited, Inc. will change their by-laws to say that if 21st Century Limited, Inc. is dissolved, PCR will receive all of the assets.

IT WAS MOVED by Vice President LaTorres and seconded...

THAT "The President of the PCR shall appoint a member to sit on the 21st Century Limited, Inc. Board of Directors. This person's appointment shall be ratified by the PCR Board. This person shall serve for the President's term in office."

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED on a voice vote.

It should be noted that the existence of this position must be ratified by the 21st Century Limited Board.

I.2. 2012 Convention Coordination

This was discussed under Item H.4

I.3. Mechanism for Conducting Business via E-mail

Secretary Crawford presented a written plan and logic for conducting special meetings by e-mail. A copy is attached to the record copy of these minutes. The communication tool proposed was a Yahoo Group. Director Alexander had a problem with this because she has a problem getting e-mails from Yahoo groups. We agreed that we will need to get someone to help her.

IT WAS MOVED by Vice President LaTorres and seconded...

THAT The following paragraph shall be added to the Manual of Operations SECTION 4 – MEETINGS as paragraph E:

"E. ELECTRONIC MEETINGS. For issues requiring immediate attention, an Electronic Meeting may be held. All discussions in the following description will be electronic using the BOD's official mechanism.

1. If a voting member of the Board feels that an issue that would normally require a special meeting could be handled electronically, He will request an electronic meeting. If two other voting members concur, the President will schedule a time

- period for this meeting to occur, after having gotten concurrence from a majority of the voting members.
2. The member proposing the meeting shall provide a copy of the proposed motion to the BOD and shall place a copy on the BOD Group site at least 4 days prior to the start of the meeting period. He shall also post his discussion of the motion.
 3. The president will start the meeting by asking for a second. Once a second is received, other members may comment. Amendments may be made as appropriate using Roberts Rules of Order.
 4. When the President concludes that there are no further comments, he asks for a vote. After all participating voting members have voted, the president will announce the results, and ask if there is any other business. Hearing none, he will adjourn the meeting.
 5. The Secretary will prepare minutes of the meeting and send them to all members and post them on the website.”

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED on a voice vote.

Secretary Crawford will “own” the group, and Vice President LaTorres will “co-own” the group.

I.4. Clean Up of Manual of Operations

Secretary Crawford presented two possible changes to section 9.B.3.a to bring the Convention responsibilities up to date. A copy is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

The first option would continue to use the same logic where the specific divisions and years are spelled out and must be updated periodically. The second would simply provide the sequence with the ability to have alternatives. The board decided to go with the second option.

IT WAS MOVED by Vice President LaTorres and seconded...

THAT paragraph 9.B.3.a of the Manual of Operations be modified to read as follows:

“Each division shall develop at least one bid from a Host Committee for a site located within that division on the following schedule of rotation:

Coast
Daylight
Coast
Redwood Empire
Coast
Sierra

Alternatives may be submitted by the Convention Committee to align with National and other regional conventions.”

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED on a voice vote.

- I.5. (Not on agenda) Director Alexander presented a check for \$250 to President Plies representing PCR’s income from the sales of the convention DVD.

We decided that we will not be doing a DVD this year due to the nature of the mini-convention. We will revisit for 2012.

J. New Business

J.1. Hawaiian Division Status

President Plies will look into this, talking to involved individuals to get a picture of where we should go.

J.2. LD/OPSIG Meet Sponsorship

IT WAS MOVED by Vice President LaTorres and seconded...

THAT "PCR shall Co-Sponsor the annual LD/OPSIG for 2011."

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED on a voice vote.

K. Budget

No action required.

L. Announcements

L.1. Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be Friday, May 13, 2011 at Steve Skold's house, 5306 Yerba Buena Rd, Santa Rosa.

M. Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Director Moore-Campagna and seconded...

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10PM

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Crawford
PCR Secretary

WRITTEN DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD

Listed by Agenda Item

B.	PCR Board of Directors Meeting Agenda 2010-10-23.pdf*
E.	PCR Board of Directors Minutes 2010-04-28.pdf*
F.1	PCR Presidents Report 2010-10-23.pdf*
F.2	PCR Vice President's Report 2010-10-23.pdf
F.3	PCR Treasurers Report 2010-10-23.pdf*
G.2	Coast Division Directors Report 2010-10-23.pdf*
G.3	Sierra Division Directors Report 2010-10-23.pdf
G.4	Redwood Director Report 2010-10-23.pdf*
H.1.i	PCR Nominations Committee Report 2010-10-23.pdf*
H.1.ii	Manual of Operations 2010-08-26.pdf*
H.1.iii	PCR Storekeeper Report 2010-10-23.pdf*
H.3	PCR Branchline Report 2010-10-16.pdf
H.4	PCR Convention Dept Report 2010-10-23.pdf
H.7	PCR Non Rail Report 2010-10-23.pdf
I.1	21st Century Limited Report 2010-10-23.pdf
I.3	Proposed Electronic Meetings for Manual of Operations 4.E.pdf*
I.4	Proposed revision to PCR Manual Of Operations 9-b-3-a 2010-10-23.pdf*

* Distributed prior to the Board meeting

Pacific Coast Region
Of the
National Model Railroad Association
Presidents Report
October, 23rd , 2010

We just keep moving along with outstanding events and programs. Our last convention at Sparks, NV was so great that the President of the Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society was asking about it, so the word is out. I know we will be getting a report on that event so I will leave it at that. I am excited about what lies down the road. All the divisions have upcoming meetings in the next two months and the attendance seems to holding steady with good reports on the content of the meetings. We have the Operations and Layout Design meeting coming in January in the South Bay, Regional Mini-convention, the Sonoma Short Line in Santa Rosa in May, and the National NMRA Convention and Train Show in Sacramento the first of July 2011. Also in the planning stages is the 2012 joint convention with the PNR which I am really looking forward to. I believe Dennis and Jim will have a report for us.

According to our Treasurer's report, because of the low interest that we are receiving on our different savings and checking accounts, we are running a deficit of about \$2,300 for the year. We have a strong reserve in our convention account and could use the interest off of it to make up some of the deficit. We might also encourage more of our members to use the on-line Branch Line to help us cut a major cost for member's service. The big problem I see is getting the word out to the membership through e-mails as people change their addresses all the time and who will keep the data base updated?

We have a number of positions that need to filled at the regional level and trust that we are getting folks to fill those positions. The two positions that come to mind are the Branch Line editor and the Contest Chairman. I know Gus is working on the editor and I believe Bill Scott has someone who might be interested in the contest chairmanship. Any and all suggestions are welcome. I want to thank Bill Kaufman for his many years of service as our Editor of the Branch Line, one of the best regional publications in the NMRA, and congratulations on his election to Vice-President NMRA. Special thanks also to Bill Scott for the great job he has done for many years as the Contest Chair.

All in all it has been a very good first half of the year.

Ron Plies MMR
PCR President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
October 23, 2010, MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING

While the past six months has been pretty quiet, there have been a few matters which have required attention. I'll try to touch on the few matters which I've been aware of and/or involved in, and hopefully won't miss too much.

First I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate (or perhaps offer condolences, whichever is more appropriate) to one of our new national Vice Presidents, Bill Kaufman. Bill is a prime example of a member that has made the commitment to "put his money where his mouth is" and help move the NMRA forward. My hope is that other members of the PCR will choose to follow his example and get involved in making the region and the national organization more effective, rather than sit on the sidelines and complain about all of our shortcomings.

While speaking of Bill, at this year's national convention he helped present a clinic on the handbook which the Regions and Divisions Group put together to help the local elements of the NMRA (hence Regions and Divisions) put together stronger and more effective programs to help grow at the grass roots level. This clinic was the roll-out of version 0.8 of the handbook, with work going forward to refine the initial package. Hopefully we'll have at least a version 0.9, if not 1.0 to work with at the X2011 West, in Sacramento next July. The preliminary draft from last July is available to any members that are interested (I believe as a download from the NMRA national website) and I strongly recommend that all members of this board get a copy to review.

One of the items that came up for discussion was IRS/California tax status. I seem to recall it being addressed in the past, but I'm wondering if we want to investigate trying to change from a 501(c)7 status to a 501(c)3. I believe that we would need to engage in a more pro-active outreach on the educational aspects of our hobby, but our work with the Boy Scouts might already be moving us in the correct direction. Perhaps we might want to look at this more when we reach the New Business portion of the meeting.

Our longtime Regional Contest Chair, Bill Scott has asked to be released from bondage and I know that both Ron and I have been beating the bushes to find a replacement. Since the final decision rests with the President, I'll look to him for any firm prospects to fill this seat. One concern that I have is that there were some changes to our regional contest rules and guidelines made at last year's mid year meeting, but these changes fell into the cracks at the convention last April and were not put into action as they were voted on. This may be due to our not forwarding these changes onto Bill in an effective manner and I will try to work with our new Chairman to ensure that this is resolved before next years PCR Convention.

Finally, as I'm entering my last six months in this chair I took a bit of a pro-active stance and dug up two members that were willing to have their names put in nomination for the V.P. seat. Rather than step on the Nominating Committee's toes, I'll just say that when the nominations come out in a few months it will be a tough choice for our membership.

I believe that this covers what I have to add to this meeting regarding activities of the past six months.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat LaTorres, V.P., PCR/NMRA

PACIFIC COAST REGION
of the
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

October 13, 2010

The finances of the Region are mostly unchanged since my last report to the Board, as income continues to decline. BranchLine subscription revenue has decreased slightly compared with 2009, but the major impact is a continued reduction in interest rates. PCR has a projected operating deficit for the year exceeding \$3000 (which includes an unexpected need to repair one of the Regions projectors), as compared to a \$1700 deficit last year. I expect this situation to continue into next year, as reflected in the \$2680 projected operating deficit, caused by increased BranchLine costs (both printing and postage), but primarily from reduced revenue from income on capital assets. And, I expect this situation to only get worse, as the Life Savings CD will mature early next year. (CD rates currently yield less than a one percent return.) That said, in spite of my firm conviction that operating costs should be covered each year by current year income, I believe we can weather an additional period of this until the interest market improves.

I proposed at the annual meeting in April that we consider investing in higher yield investments, such as bonds issued by Tennessee Valley Authority earning over four percent. While this is still an attractive idea, I have not been sufficiently comfortable with this investment, but continue to do research on the issue.

Our Convention Reserve is now nearing \$50,000, and as yet does not reflect any proceeds from the 2010 Sparks convention as I have not as yet received those reports. Nevertheless, to weather the current financial climate, I propose using these funds to augment our operational needs until the situation improves. It is important, though, to recognize that the cost of supporting our member subscriptions far exceeds the income derived. Our subscription related income (including the interest from the Life Savings account) is about \$3700, while the cost to produce and distribute the BranchLine is over \$7000. Even including the rebate from National retained by the Region, the publication is still about \$2300 underfunded. A return to reasonable returns from our investable assets will significantly improve this issue.

Unfortunately, family circumstances will prevent me from being at the meeting in Santa Rosa. Should you have any questions or comments, please call me at (925) 736-8160 prior to the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Altbaum

Larry Altbaum

Treasurer

Pacific Coast Region - NMRA Budget

	Adopted 2010 Bud.	Actual 2010 6 Mths.	Projected	Projected Variance	Proposed 2,011.00
Operating Income					
Life Interest	600.00	296.09	600.00	0.00	650.00
BL Subscriptions	3,200.00	1,505.00	3,100.00	(100.00)	3,100.00
From Nat'l	2,400.00	1,112.00	2,225.00	(175.00)	2,300.00
Other	800.00	0.00	0.00	(800.00)	800.00
Bank Interest	400.00	2.30	5.00	(395.00)	300.00
Total Income	7,400.00	2,915.39	5,930.00	(1,470.00)	7,150.00
Operating Expense					
Operations					
Member Services	50.00	0.00	0.00	(50.00)	50.00
Member Promo.	150.00	0.00	100.00	(50.00)	150.00
Achievement	150.00	16.20	100.00	(50.00)	150.00
Supplies	100.00	373.88	400.00	300.00	100.00
Bank Charges	10.00	0.00	0.00	(10.00)	10.00
Fees & Taxes	20.00	0.00	0.00	(20.00)	20.00
Accounting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Branchline					
Printing	5,200.00	2,277.84	4,900.00	(300.00)	5,300.00
Postage	2,200.00	879.53	2,100.00	(100.00)	2,200.00
Supplies	100.00	0.00	0.00	(100.00)	100.00
Division Support	1,200.00	548.00	1,100.00	(100.00)	1,150.00
Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Web Page	250.00	119.70	239.40	(10.60)	250.00
Awards	300.00	174.52	175.00	(125.00)	250.00
Misc.	100.00	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	100.00
Total Expense	9,830.00	4,389.67	9,164.40	(665.60)	9,830.00
Operating Excess/Deficit	(2,430.00)	(1,474.28)	(3,234.40)	---	(2,680.00)
Convention Income					
Conv. Excess.		0.00		0.00	
Total Income		0.00		0.00	
Convention Expense					
Total Expense		0.00		0.00	
Convention Exc/Def		0.00		0.00	
<u>Total Excess/Deficit</u>	(2,430.00)	(1,474.28)	(3,234.40)	---	(2,680.00)

Note - Items in bold are discussed in the Treasurer's report.

Sep 30, 2010

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Income Statement**

	6 Months Ended Sep/10 =====	6 Months Ended Sep/09 =====	Variance Fav/<Unf> =====	% Var =====
Income				
PCR NMRA Rebate	\$1,112.00	\$1,143.00	(\$31.00)	-2.7%
PCR BL Subscriptions	1,505.00	1,657.50	(152.50)	-9.2%
Convention Proceeds	0.00	2,286.68	(2,286.68)	-100.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Income	2,617.00	5,087.18	(2,470.18)	-48.6%
	-----	-----	-----	
Expenses				
Supplies - Operations	319.94	0.00	(319.94)	
Supplies - Member Promo.	53.94	0.00	(53.94)	
Postage - Operations	0.00	42.00	42.00	100.0%
Postage - Branchline	879.53	918.27	38.74	4.2%
Postage - Achiev. Prog.	16.20	0.00	(16.20)	
Printing - Branchline	2,277.84	2,578.63	300.79	11.7%
Awards - Operations	174.52	0.00	(174.52)	
Awards - President	0.00	270.00	270.00	100.0%
NMRA Division Rebates	548.00	562.50	14.50	2.6%
Taxes, Fees, Licenses	0.00	20.00	20.00	100.0%
Web Services	119.70	119.70	0.00	0.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Expenses	4,389.67	4,511.10	121.43	2.7%
	-----	-----	-----	
OPERATING PROFIT	(1,772.67)	576.08	(2,348.75)	-407.7%
	-----	-----	-----	
Other Income & Expenses				
Life Interest	296.09	482.52	(186.43)	-38.6%
Convention Interest	2.30	371.65	(369.35)	-99.4%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Other Income & Expense	298.39	854.17	(555.78)	-65.1%
	-----	-----	-----	
PROFIT BEFORE TAXES	(1,474.28)	1,430.25	(2,904.53)	-203.1%
	-----	-----	-----	
NET PROFIT	(\$1,474.28)	\$1,430.25	(\$2,904.53)	-203.1%
	=====	=====	=====	

Sep 30, 2010

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Balance Sheet**

	Sep/10	Sep/09	Inc/<Dec>	%
	=====	=====	====Var=====	==Var==
ASSETS				
Current Assets:				
Cash				
General Checking	\$4,589.97	\$7,523.40	(\$2,933.43)	-39.0%
Convention Checking	45,144.30	9,141.45	36,002.85	393.8%
Life Savings	29,837.85	29,254.93	582.92	2.0%
Convention Savings	0.00	37,000.00	(37,000.00)	-100.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Cash	79,572.12	82,919.78	(3,347.66)	-4.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
Convention Adv. Recv.	3,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	50.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Current Assets	82,572.12	84,919.78	(2,347.66)	-2.8%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$82,572.12	\$84,919.78	(\$2,347.66)	-2.8%
	=====	=====	=====	
LIABILITIES				
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	-----	-----	-----	
CAPITAL				
Retained Earnings	84,046.40	83,489.53	556.87	0.7%
Year-to-Date Earnings	(1,474.28)	1,430.25	(2,904.53)	-203.1%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL CAPITAL	82,572.12	84,919.78	(2,347.66)	-2.8%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	\$82,572.12	\$84,919.78	(\$2,347.66)	-2.8%
	=====	=====	=====	

October 9, 2010

To: PCR Board of Directors

From: Rod Smith – Coast Division Director

Subject: Coast Division Report for the October 23, 2010 BOD Meeting

Coast Division continues our quarterly meetings and attract about 100 members each meet; some from nearby Divisions. We have experienced some difficulty finding new meeting sites as we have lost a couple long time ones. We are looking for additional sites which can supply the rooms and facilities we need. One recent meet was held in a local Masonic auditorium and we hope to use it again. Our current site at Buchser Middle School, hosted by Don Shortt, is our standby. Searches for other sites have not been successful thus far.

The Coast auction continues to be popular, but the number of items offered for auction has shrunk, thus affecting the Divisions income. For many years the auction has provided the needed resources to pay for our meeting sites. Coast remains fiscally sound but may need to find other revenue sources in the future. We do continue to have a presence at the Train shows held in our boundaries where members expose the public to NMRA benefits and opportunities. We also hold layout tour weekends several times each year.

The Board of Operations was recently approached with some ideas about enhancing the regular meets to attract more members to attend. A call for formation of a committee to review such proposals and recommend ways to implement them without detracting from others enjoyment of the current meets has been issued. No committee has been formed as yet, but volunteers are being sought.



Director's Report 10/23/10

I. Division meets and other events

The Sierra Division has held four meets since the last Board of Directors' meeting in April:

- 1) Our Spring meet was held on May 8 in Sacramento. Jim Zeek presented a clinic called "Get Acquainted With Sawmills" which was very well attended. (In light of the fact that we were all still recovering from the convention the previous weekend, there were no additional activities planned for the meet this time.)
- 2) The initial meeting of the "Eastern Sierra Subchapter" was held at Morrison University on June 12. This was the beginning of what we hope will be many additional meeting opportunities for our members who live east of the metropolitan Sacramento area. The plan at this point is to have four meets per year in northern Nevada or eastern California. Also, since we unfortunately lost Chuck Gardner in April, this group will be assuming the responsibility for the layout tours formerly organized by High Sierra Hobbies (see "Upcoming Events" for details).
- 3) In July, we held our annual summer picnic meet in Dunsmuir at the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens. The picnic and business meeting were followed by an entertaining presentation by Richard Hughes, a retired SP conductor from the Dunsmuir area, who shared some stories about his career. (What made it even more interesting is that the park was right across the river from the tracks, and we had actually seen a couple of trains pass by while we were having lunch.) After the meeting, the attendees were invited to visit the Dunsmuir Model Railroad Club and Bruce Petty's layout.
- 4) Our October meet was held in Sacramento, with Dave Bayless presenting his "Gemco Yard (We Don't Need No Stinking Yardmaster)" clinic. The clinic was fascinating – he went for two hours, and many people (including yours truly) said they wanted to attend it again the next time he presents it.

The plan had originally been to conduct the meet in two locations simultaneously, with Dave Bayless presenting his clinic in Sacramento and Jim Petro presenting his clinic in Sparks, and then connect the two via Skype so that attendees at each location could see both clinics.

Unfortunately, due to Ray Ritch's illness and hospitalization, we were unable to use the planned location for the eastern Sierra clinic (Morrison University), which had the necessary equipment for the visual presentation and Skype transmission. Jim Petro graciously volunteered his house as a location for the eastern Sierra part of the meet; and although we were unable to broadcast the two clinics as we had planned, he still conducted his clinic for the "eastern Sierra" attendees. We plan to try the broadcast process again in the future.

II. Upcoming events

We have four upcoming events in the next few months:

1. The Northern Nevada layout tour previously organized by Chuck Gardner at High Sierra Hobbies has been renamed the "Chuck Gardner Memorial Model Railroad Layout Tour". This year's tour will be held the weekend of November 5-7 and will include 22 layouts. Friday and Saturday will be dedicated mostly to the layouts in the Reno-Sparks area and Fallon, and Sunday will be primarily layouts in the Carson City area. Information and maps can be found on the High Sierra Models web site (www.highsierrahobbies.com/content/RRTour2010.pdf).

2. Our major publicity and fundraising event, International RailFair, will be held at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville on Saturday and Sunday, November 13 and 14. The Sierra Division, along with two modular clubs in the greater Sacramento area and the European Train Enthusiasts, are the sponsors of the event; and we always have a good turnout for the show. Once again, the Sierra Division is in charge of the ticket booth and the TimeSaver/NMRA Information Table; and we have been fortunate to have a number of PCR members volunteer their services. (I guess that free entrance to the show, guaranteed parking and a complimentary Saturday night banquet ticket are a good incentive!)

3. The Sierra Division will also have a booth at the California State Railroad Museum's small train show on November 26, 27 and 28 (Thanksgiving weekend). We will reprise the TimeSaver/NMRA Information Table and staff it with volunteers. (As with Railfair, there are some perks: volunteers will receive free admission to the museum, lunch and parking subsidy on the day they volunteer.) Anyone interesting in volunteering can contact Jim Long at (530) 676-1798 or jimclong@sbcglobal.net.

4. Our next event after that will be the annual Sierra Division Banquet. We are still looking for a location, but the tentative plan is to hold the banquet at the end of January or beginning of February. Details will be posted as soon as they are available: the information will be posted on the Sierra Division web site, as well as being sent to Bill Kaufman for inclusion on the PCR Yahoo Group.

III. Division Elections

The Sierra Division's bylaws were changed last year so that the division elections are now held in October rather than in May. This allows the new officers to start their terms at the beginning of the year, rather than trying to compete with the chaos of the PCR convention (especially when the Sierra Division is hosting the convention). Accordingly, we held our election for division officers and announced the results at the October meet.

Our division officers for the next two years are:

Superintendent – Jim Long

Chief Clerk – Bob Warner

Paymaster – Al Rowe

A positive note was that we had a higher turnout of voters than we've had in years (46 ballots were received, which was up from 33 in 2008). Even though the incumbents were running unopposed, there were no abstentions or write-ins; and a few people actually wrote "thank you" on their ballots, which is a tribute to the officers and the excellent job they have done (and will continue to do).

IV. 2011 NMRA Convention

We have been approached by the X2011 convention committee for assistance on layout tours, prototype tours, and convention operations. According to the report given at the October meet, the registrations are coming in as hoped and everyone is excited about the upcoming convention.

V. Miscellaneous

Don Schmitt, after many years of service as our Short Line editor, had found it necessary to resign the position due to his health problems; and Jim Long did an able job at standing in as temporary editor for the past three issues. Recently Gary Ray, a Sierra member from Magalia, has volunteered to take over the position of editor starting with the next edition of the Short Line. Any items to be put into the Sierra Division newsletter can be sent to him at gerber1926@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moore-Campagna
Sierra Division Director

Redwood Empire Division Director's Report

This has been a busy fall season for the Redwood Empire Division. Our annual Picnic was held in conjunction with the Roots of Motive Power Steam-up in Willits and the next weekend volunteers from R.E.D. manned an information booth at the Train Show in Santa Rosa. The huge Hall of Flowers at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds was a cacophony of steam engines, diesel engines, air horns and whistles as trains operated on several layouts in almost every scale. Lots of visitors stopped by and we may even get a new member or two out of it. R.E.D. has already committed to participating in next year's event.

Elections are coming up for Superintendent and Chief Clerk. Our current Chief Clerk is running for PCR Vice President and our Superintendent has served two terms and chaired a convention and is planning to return to "plain 'ol member" status. No one has stepped up to throw his or her hat into the ring at this stage but we have until February to find some new leadership for the Division.

Carol N. Alexander
Director

The report from the Nominations Committee is:

For President –

- Pat LaTorres from Coast Division

For Vice President –

- Paul Dies from Daylight
- Ed Merrin from Redwood Empire
- Ted Stevens from Coast

Oct 23, 2010-- Storekeeper Report—Steve Skold

PCR table top display—Dave Connery

Media Projectors (4)—John Marshall,Gus Campagna,Jim Long,
Dave Grenier

Keith Heinshon Collection—Ray de Blicck

2000 NMRA Convention Store items—Dave Connery and Ray de
Blicck.

Photo Racks—Steve Skold

Model Contest lights - Bill Scott

Tug of war—Jim Long

Convention car display--Jim Long

Projector stands (2) One owned by RED and one by NWPRRHS
and are available for PCR meetings.

IBM Think Pad I --Steve Skold
20GB Hard Drive, 512MB RAM
XP Home Ser Pack 1, Modem & CD Rom Drive
MS Office Pro (2002)

IBM Think Pad II --Steve Skold
20GB Hard Drive, 128 MB Ram
XP Home Ser Pack 1, Modem and CDRom Drive
MS Office Pro (2002)

BRANCH LINE

Modified OCTOBER 16, 2010

2011 Schedule

ISSUE	CALL FOR ARTICLES	DEADLINE	EDITING TIME	FIRST TIME TO THE PRINTER	PRINTER TIME
JAN-FEB-MAR	NOV 15	DEC 12th	1 WEEK	DEC 19th	3 Working days
APR-MAY-JUN	FEB 15th	MAR 10th		MAR 17th	
JUL-AUG-SEP	MAY 15th	JUN 12th		JUN 19th	
OCT-NOV-DEC	AUG 15th	SEP 18th		SEP 25th	

ISSUE	RETURN TO PRINTER	PRINTER TIME	EXPECTED MAIL DATE	NOTICES TO INCLUDE	CONTENT INCLUDES
JAN-FEB-MAR	JAN 2nd	10 working days	JAN 15	P O FORM 3526	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONVENTION STUFF Ballots for regional elections
APR-MAY-JUN	MAR 27th		APR 15	STD OWNERSHIP STATEMENT	CONVENTION PUBLICITY
JUL-AUG-SEP	JUL 3rd		JUL 15	STD OWNERSHIP STATEMENT	CONTEST RESULTS
OCT-NOV-DEC	OCT 2nd		OCT 15	STD OWNERSHIP STATEMENT	

- A call for articles e-mail is sent out.
- Articles are collected and edited. Branch Line is roughed out.
- Branch Line file is sent to the printer. (Bill has used MS Publisher, Dave Connery used PageMaker.)
- A blue line copy is returned to the editor after three working days.
- The blue line copy is sent back to the printer, with corrections*, for final printing.
- A mailing list is requested from the PCR Member services person, an Excel file is then sent to the printer.
- Printer takes 10 working days to print and mail Branch Line, Post Office takes ?? days to deliver.
-

* Corrections add to timeline.

My idea for the new editor is to edit the materials submitted and proof the work to make sure names are spelled correctly and the information presented is correct.

He/she can then set up a format for the print version and send it to the printer.

Then the rest of the publication group can reformat the Branch Line to fit other devices.

The current layout is OK for print, but it is hard to read online. How about a landscape version of the BL for online readers? Less columns or at least shorter ones that fit on a single screen. Look at MRH for ideas of what a pdf can look like and be readable. Bill did not want to do two versions, so he just pdf'ed the print version, I think that is why only 10-12 members choose to not receive the print version.

CONVENTION DEPARTMENT REPORT
Submitted October 23, 2010

Silver Rails

Reno April 28–May 2, 2010

Over 250 people braved the weather and attended the Silver Rails convention in Reno. Registration was at 232 pre-convention and 251 final. There were 30 first time registrations and 11 new NMRA members.

Sonoma Short Line

Santa Rosa May 13-15, 2011

The 2011 Mini convention will be held in this facility. Registration is \$50 and includes Sunday breakfast in conjunction with the PCR business meeting. The Board of Directors meeting will be on Friday, May 13th.

Siskiyou Summit

Medford, OR with PNR May 2-5, 2012

There are several issues with the PNR relative to the convention. The most significant is that the PNR President signed an agreement with the proposed convention hotel without either his board's approval or agreement by PCR. The agreement contains provisions relative to cancellation and attrition fees that PCR would not normally agree to and I would not recommend we accept here. It also does not appear to provide adequate meeting space and potentially over commits on room nights.

There are also scheduling and budget issues, but I believe we can accept those items. The primary issue is PNR allocates \$12 to the region (in this case the two regions) from each full fare registration, pay the advance back second and allocate the remainder to the host division (in this case allocation between regions) last. While different than our methodology of splitting the surplus it gets to the same end result and could give us leverage relative to the hotel contract in the Memorandum of Understanding we need to do with PNR.

I was also disappointed in my meeting with PNR by the lack of activities in Medford. The PNR rationale for hosting in Medford over Klamath Falls was the tour possibilities which included Kadee and the Railroad Park clubs that do regular train shows. It now turns out Kadee will not give tours and the Train Show people will not do a show or swap meet.

Assuming we can resolve the hotel contract issue, I recommend we continue with the convention as joint, and draft a MOU with the PCR. I suggest one of two alternatives, and maybe both, to resolve the hotel issue. PCR takes over the hotel issue by appointing the facilities manager position and obtaining the right to renegotiate the agreement, or we put full responsibility for the agreement on PNR by eliminating PCR from contract liability in the MOU but allow the "split" of surplus funds over the \$12 per head assessment going to PNR. We will need to think about the assessment relative to non-rail registrations in that arrangement.

PACIFIC COAST REGION NMRA
Non-Rail Activities Department

Report to the PCR Board of Directors
October 23, 2010

PCR Convention activities: As the upcoming PCR convention will be a “mini-convention” (due to the National convention being held two months later in the PCR’s territory), there will not be any formal Non-Rail clinics or tours. We will provide a number of suggested activities and destinations, as well as maps and discount coupons for various local area attractions; and there will be a hospitality area with refreshments available. We will also be continuing the PCR Non-Rail tradition of donating quilts and afghans to a local charity. The charity for the 2011 PCR convention will be the Living Room in Santa Rosa, a day shelter for homeless women. All donations of quilts and afghans are gratefully accepted.

NMRA Convention activities: The PCR Non-Rail department will be assisting with the Non-Rail activities at the X2011 convention. We have a schedule of tours and activities that is in the process of being finalized (most of the clinics are already in place). Some of the activities will include the traditional PCR Bingo game and the traditional PCR Night At The Movies (featuring some family-friendly railroad-related movies which are open to all convention-goers).

Budget: The Non-Rail Department is requesting the allocation of \$50.00 for the purchase of a new Bingo game. The bingo set we are currently using was purchased almost eight years ago for the 2003 PCR convention. It has been brought to my attention by the X2011 Non-Rail Activities Chair that we need to purchase a new set, as some of the pieces from the current one have disappeared over the past few years. As we will most likely have a larger number of people playing at the X2011 convention than we usually do at a PCR convention, we can use the pieces from the current set to augment a new set in order to have enough for the participants.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moore-Campagna
PCR Non-Rail Activities Manager

21st Century Limited, Inc.

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

October 23, 2010

The 21st Century Limited Corporation, a Not-For-Profit Corporation, was formed to initially operate the 2000 NMRA Convention and later to manage the surplus funds from the 2000 NMRA Convention in San Jose, California. The Corporations goals are to support the advancement of the model railroading hobby through support of educational and philanthropic functions.

As of July 1, 2009, the date that I became the Treasurer for the 21st Century Limited Corporation (21st CLC), the balance from the Certificate of Deposit in Bank of the West was \$62,164.39. At that time, expenditures had been approved by the 21st CLC for a grant to the Pacific Coast Region of \$4,500 to fund the acquisition of a supply of John Allen Awards and an expenditure of \$752.27 to reimburse the former Treasurer for expenses incurred in the preparation and filing of 12 years of financial reporting filings to the State of California and the Internal Revenue Service.

On June 12, 2009, the former Treasurer opened checking and a savings accounts with the Walnut Creek branch of Wells Fargo bank. These accounts were opened in the name of 21st Century Limited Corporation dba X2011West with opening balances of \$200 in the checking account and \$100 dollars in the savings account. On 7/7/2009, an additional \$886 was transferred into the checking account from the Bank of the West CD to cover X2011West expenses prior to the deposit of registration funds acquired at the NMRA Hartford National Convention. These expenditures left a remaining balance in the CD of \$55,726.12. The CD was closed and the remaining funds transferred to the Wells Fargo Savings account on 8/14/2009 when the CD matured and the CD was closed.

The savings account is being administered as a dual use account. The 21st CLC funds and the X2011West registrations funds are comingled but accounted for separately. X2011West funds are not considered 21st CLC assets at this time. Since the opening of the checking and savings accounts, the X2011West has added \$6,000 to the value of the savings account and during the period from 8/14/2009 to 10/16/2010, the savings account has accrued and additional \$332.41 in interest earnings.

To summarize these transactions, I offer the following:

Final Bank of the West CD value	\$62,164.39
Advance to X2011West	-\$200.00
Savings account deposit	-\$100.00
Advance to X2011West	-\$886.00
Grant to PCR for JA Awards	-\$4,500.00
Reimbursement to Scott Maze (former Treasurer)	-\$752.27
Interest Earned on Savings	\$332.41
Savings Balance (Net assests of 21 st CLC)	\$56,058.53
Deposit to Savings of X2011West Registration funds	\$6,000.00
Savings Balance (21 st CLC + X2011West)	\$62,058.53

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Bob Ferguson

Bob Ferguson, Treasurer
21st Century Limited Corp.



PACIFIC COAST REGION

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Proposed E-mail Business Procedures

By Tom Crawford

August 24, 2010

Purpose

The PCR Board requested that I propose a method for conducting business in between board meetings via e-mail. This is that proposed procedure.

Communication Tool

I propose a PCR-BOD Yahoo Group. Issues could be sent via e-mail, and proposed documents could be sent as attachments and also placed in the files section. Discussion and voting could occur on group.

Procedural Background

In order to promote a sense of following Roberts, the procedure must have the following components:

- 1) Notice of Meeting. This is important because if someone is out of town it would be unfair to exclude them just because they went on vacation at the wrong time. According to our Manual of Operations (MOO) the president may call a special meeting within 30 days of receipt of a request signed by 3 voting members. Our procedure would be set up so that if a voting member requested a meeting, and two others sent an e-mail supporting that request, the president would now calendar a meeting "period" (probably one week) in which to have the "meeting." Anyone who could not fit that in, would request a different week, and then we would work it out.
- 2) Presentation of agenda items. Anyone with an agenda item would present it so that people know what the subject of the meeting is. (This can be handled by the presentation of the motion. See below)
- 3) Presentation of motion. According to Roberts, the only ways to have discussions is via discussions of reports, or in response to the presentation of a motion. Since one of these meetings would only be to discuss a motion as opposed to having reports, presenting a motion would be the mechanism to present the agenda.
- 4) Discussion of the motion.
- 5) Vote on the motion.
- 6) Other Business. Since we now have everyone's attention, if any other item comes out of this, a new motion can be made.
- 7) Adjournment.

The following procedure is designed to use the Communication Tool to meet the needs described above.

Procedure

The following paragraph would be added to SECTION 4 – MEETINGS as paragraph E.

E. ELECTRONIC MEETINGS. For issues requiring immediate attention, an Electronic Meeting may be held. All discussions in the following description will be electronic using the BOD's official mechanism.

1. If a voting member of the Board feels that an issue that would normally require a special meeting could be handled electronically, He will request an electronic meeting. If two other voting members concur, the President will schedule a time period for this meeting to occur, after having gotten concurrence from a majority of the voting members.

2. The member proposing the meeting shall provide a copy of the proposed motion to the BOD and shall place a copy on the BOD Group site at least 4 days prior to the start of the meeting period. He shall also post his discussion of the motion.

3. The president will start the meeting by asking for a second. Once a second is received, other members may comment. Amendments may be made as appropriate using Roberts Rules of Order.

4. When the President concludes that there are no further comments, he asks for a vote. After all participating voting members have voted, the president will announce the results, and ask if there is any other business. Hearing none, he will adjourn the meeting.

5. The Secretary will prepare minutes of the meeting and send them to all members and post them on the website.

Proposed revision to PCR Manual Of Operations

Section 9.B.3.a

Submitted by Tom Crawford 10/23/2010

Purpose

To bring the Convention dates up to date

Existing Text

Each division shall develop at least one bid from a Host Committee for a site located within that division on the following schedule of rotation:

2006 Sierra	2010 Sierra	2014 Daylight
2007 Coast	2011 Redwood	2015 Coast
2008 Daylight	2012 Joint with PNR	2016 Redwood Empire
2009 Coast	2013 Coast	2017 Coast

Proposed Text

Each division shall develop at least one bid from a Host Committee for a site located within that division on the following schedule of rotation:

2011 Redwood	2015 Coast	2019 Coast
2012 Joint with PNR	2016 Redwood Empire	2020 Daylight
2013 Coast	2017 Coast	2021 Coast
2014 Daylight	2018 Sierra	2022 Redwood Empire

Alternative Text

Each division shall develop at least one bid from a Host Committee for a site located within that division on the following schedule of rotation:

Coast
Daylight
Coast
Redwood Empire
Coast
Sierra

Alternatives may be submitted by the Convention Committee to align with National and other regional conventions.