



PACIFIC COAST REGION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 8:00 AM

Red Lion Hotel

200 N. Riverside Ave, Medford, OR

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 AM by President Pat LaTorres.

A. Quorum Verification

The following voting members of the Board were in attendance:

President Pat La Torres

Vice President Ed Merrin

Redwood Empire Division Director Carol Alexander

Sierra Division Director Mary Moore-Campagna

Coast Division Director Rod Smith (also proxy for incoming Mark Schutzer)

Daylight Division incoming Director Paul Deis (proxy for outgoing John Houlahan)

The following Ex-Officio members were in attendance:

Treasurer Larry Altbaum (via Skype)

Secretary Tom Crawford

The following additional incoming Directors were in attendance:

Redwood Empire Division Director Dave Croshere

Sierra Division Director Melvin Jones

Others present were:

Audit Committee Chair, Convention Department Chair and 2013 Convention Chair Dennis Stokely

2012 Convention co-Chair Jim Providenza

Contest Chair Giuseppe Aymar

Publications Chair Gus Campagna

Honors Committee Chair Ray deBieck

Daylight Division Superintendent Dave Grenier

Branch Line Editor Chuck Harmon

Redwood Empire Division Call Board Editor Dick Foster

Daylight Observer editor George Phisling

NMRA VP Bill Kaufman

NMRA Western Director Jack Hamilton

Member Steve Sköld

Member Clark Stewart

Guest Michael Mickens of the San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association

B. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

C. Written Communications

There was a letter from Paul Deis representing the Thursday Night Boomers presenting their bid to run the 2014 PCR Convention in San Luis Obispo. It was discussed under Conventions.

D. Members Comments

There were no member comments.

E. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting

The minutes of the board meeting of October 29, 2011 were approved by consent.

F. Officers Reports

- F.1. President LaTorres submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. The president asked the secretary to send a reminder to all board members on any outstanding action items 2-3 months prior to the board meeting.
- F.2. Vice President Merrin submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. Ed focused on our aging membership.
- F.3. Treasurer Altbaum submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. He stated that we need to look at subscriptions for the Branch Line. He also noted that one issue is that National has stopped sending money for Rail Pass members.

The President asked that people come up with ideas for handling the Branch Line issue for presentation at the October Board Meeting.

- F.4. The Secretary had no separate report.

G. Directors Reports

- G.1. Daylight Division Director Houlihan submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- 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. Mary noted that Jim Long is not doing well.
- G.4. Redwood Empire Division Director Alexander submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. She noted that Redwood has been successful doing show and tell as opposed to contests, and they are holding their own for division meet attendance.

- G.5. Hawaiian Division is currently without a Director, and there has been no activity. President LaTorres will send letters to Hawaiian division people about how they would like to be handled. He asked the Secretary to remind him about this in August.

H. Department Reports

H.1. Administration Department

H.1.i **Audit Committee** Chair Dennis Stokely noted that the committee will get an audit conducted in 2012.

H.1.ii **Honors Committee** Chair Ray deBlieck reminded the incoming directors that they need to get their Division member of the year award nominees to the Honors Committee in the spring of the year.

H.1.iii **Bylaws Committee** Chair Tom Crawford submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. The Committee decided to take no action on the Director's terms. He noted that we may have some items in our Manual of Operations (approved by the Board) which should be approved by the Membership (i.e. Bylaws). He will look into the California Corporate Code to see if there are any such issues.

H.1.iv **Ballot Committee** Chair Jim Providenza submitted a written report on the results of the elections, which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. The Board authorized him to destroy the ballots. There was general concern regarding the number of people who did not vote, even when we had a contested election.

H.2. Membership Department

There was no report. Rod Smith asked about the status of the brochure. Gus will send a cost estimate to the Secretary, who will set up an e-mail Board meeting to approve it. Jack Hamilton asked that we send NMRA some copies to use as samples.

Rod Smith reported that Member Aid is alive and well, but under-used.

H.3. Publications Department

Branch Line Editor Chuck Harmon noted that the next Branch Line deadline is June 10.

Director Alexander noted that she would really hate to see the Branch Line go all electronic. There was general agreement on the board with this.

H.4. Convention Department

Convention Department Chair Dennis Stokely submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

2012 Joint PNR-PCR convention co-chair Jim Providenza reported that this convention has 311 registrants, 55 of whom are "Side Tracks" (Non-rail).

2013 Dennis Stokely reported that the early registration rate is \$79 and the rooms are \$79.

2014 Paul Deis submitted the convention proposal, which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. The San Louis Obispo Model Railroad Association will be working with them.

Director Moore-Campagna moved that we accept the proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

X2011 Convention chair Ray deBlieck reported that X2011 had 1800 attendees, and netted about \$120,000. Of that the NMRA got about \$17,000. Ray is now National Manager of Conventions.

Although details are not worked out, it appears that Dave Falkenburg will be the new Convention Department Chair. The Board gave Dennis a round of applause for his work as head of the committee for all these years.

H.5. Contest Department

Contest Chair Giuseppe Aymar submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

H.6. Achievement Department

No report.

H.7. Non-Rail Activities Department

Chair Mary Moore-Campagna reported that the Non rail program is very successful at both the division and regional level. She is now hunting for a potential replacement.

I. Other Reports

- I.1. NMRA VP Bill Kaufman reported that they have created a Gen X workgroup to work with Gen X people to see how NMRA can appeal to them more.
- I.2. NMRA West Director jack Hamilton noted that the NMRA is incorporating in Missouri so that they can have electronic meetings.
NMRA's big issue today is supporting educational programs.

J. Unfinished Business

- J.1. Written Agreement with 21st Century Limited.
Ray deBlieck says that 21st Century Limited wants to be the “foundation” arm of PCR. He is looking at potential projects. He wants a PCR rep on the 21st Century Limited Board. 21st Century Limited now has deposits of roughly \$140,000. This will be an October 2012 Board meeting agenda item.
- J.2. Term Change Over Review
This was covered under the Bylaws Committee report, agenda item H.1.iii
- J.3. Ray deBlieck handed Mary Moore Campagna her John Allen Award from last year, which had been delayed.

K. New Business

K.1. Seating of New Directors

The new directors took office. They are:
Redwood Empire Division – Dave Croshere
Daylight Division – Paul Deis

Sierra Division – Mel Jones
Coast Division – Mark Schutzer (Rod Smith held his proxy)

K.2. Ballots

Director Schutzer submitted a written comment (which is attached to the record copy of these minutes) on the dismal turnout for the election, and suggested that we send out separate ballots. We need to look into the laws regarding sending out ballots. Secretary Crawford will see what he can find.

K.3. Hobo In Charge

Rod Smith reported that he is acting as Head Hobo in Jim Long's stead noted that there is a pile of cash (small amount – lots of coins) found in the hobo bucket. Rod said that we need a safer place to put/track the money, although, admittedly, the bucket is the hobo way. President LaTorres said he will direct the Treasurer to get the money from Rod and establish a line item in the budget for tracking/dispersing it.

K.4. Projectors

Sierra Division bought a new projector to replace the one lost at Silver Rails 2010. They will transfer ownership to PCR, but physically keep it themselves. This is SOP for projectors and similar equipment.

L. Budget

Treasurer Albaum provided a proposed budget (part of the Treasurer's Report)
Director Deis moved that the budget be approved. It was approved by a voice vote.

M. Announcements**M.1. Next Board Meeting**

The next board meeting will be Saturday, October 20, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Express in Dublin, CA at 1 PM unless otherwise advised.

N. Adjournment

It was moved by Vice President Merrin that the meeting be adjourned. It was approved by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Crawford
PCR Secretary

5/11/2012

**Attachments
Listed by Agenda Item**

B	Agenda
	2012-05-02 PCR Board of Directors Meeting Agenda.pdf*
E	Approval of the Minutes
	2011-10-29 PCR Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Complete.pdf*
F	BOD Reports
F.1	2012-05-02 PCR President's Report.pdf
F.2	2012-05-02 PCR Vice President's Report.pdf
F.3	2012-05-02 PCR Treasurer's Report.pdf
G	Director's Reports
G.1	2012-05-02 Daylight Directors Report.pdf
G.2	2012-05-02 Coast Director's Report.pdf
G.3	2012-05-02 Sierra Director's Report.pdf
G.4	2012-05-02 Redwood Directors Report.pdf
H	Other Reports
H.1.iii	2012-05-02 Bylaws Committee Report.pdf
H.1.iv	2012-05-02 Ballot Committee Report.pdf
H.4	2012-05-02 Convention Department Report.pdf
H.4	2014 Convention Proposal.pdf
H.5	2012-05-02 Contest Chairman's Report.pdf
K	New Business
K.2	Mark Schutzer Election Comments.pdf

* Not included in final minutes distribution

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MAY 2, 2012, ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Well, I've managed to survive twelve months as President of the Pacific Coast Region and it still seems to be functioning in spite of my efforts at guidance. While I've been maybe a bit distracted the last few weeks, I haven't been totally asleep at the wheel. There are a number of things that I feel need to be addressed as we move forward, though overall I feel that the region really does seem to be working well and we have a number of good people in place that are responsible for this. If at any time I don't say thank you to everyone that volunteers for this organization, PLEASE realize that this is an unintended oversight on my part, because I well know that everyone on the Board and all of the associated volunteers do a lot more to make things work than what I contribute.

The first thing on my mind is the week just ahead of us. This is an experiment that appears as if it's going to work and I need to give a great deal of thanks to Ed Liesse and Jim Providenza and their committee for putting this event together and showing everybody that it CAN be done! Has everything been perfect? Absolutely not, there have been some bumps in the road. But then again, nothing else would be expected for a first attempt. If the PCR decides to try something like this in the future, I'm sure that things will need to be tweaked and adjusted. But we'll burn that bridge when we cross it. In the meantime, I would like everyone here to take some time and make mental (or written) notes regarding what does and doesn't work this week, so this information can be passed on to the Convention Department Manager and his committee. The one rule that I'll put out with this request is, no criticism without a positive remedial recommendation.

While the 2014 convention is not planned as an "official" joint convention, I'm sure that the committee for that event will extend a hand southward, to entice some of our PSR neighbors to travel a little ways north to join us. And I would hope that some of the learning experiences from this event will be of help to that committee as they put their show together. It would be nice to have some of the folks from PSR involved in putting that convention together, but I'll leave that up to the people doing the heavy lifting.

Another item which is still a serious concern for me is membership. From what I've been able to figure out, our membership count has managed to sort of hold its own. At least I don't see the precipitous drop that seemed to be hitting all across the NMRA just a few years ago. But the fact is, we need to figure out how to tap into a source of younger model railroaders. They are out there. Anyone that is involved with the RPM groups and the SIGs has a clear view of the potential members we have around us. The key is how do we put together a program that will interest these folks? I'm asking everyone on the board – and even those stepping down – to think on this and let's see what we can put together. The other thing that I'll put out is to repeat the challenge that I've stated in my last few columns in the Branch Line. If each person here can bring even new regular member into the organization and then encourage the members in your home divisions to do the same, we probably wouldn't know what to do with all of the new people. I for one have been nurturing a new member that joined as a RailPass at last July's NTS, but is now looking at a full membership and has expressed a serious interest in the A.P.

The fact is, we have a darned good product, but we need to step up to the plate and figure out how to market it for the new generation of modelers – NOT what was the norm in 1980s (that's TWENTY YEARS AGO!), much less the '60s. Maybe the focus on "competitive modeling" needs to change to something along the lines of what the RPM folks are using. I don't know. But, we need to take some time and a long hard look at what we are doing to see what adjustments need to be made. I'm hoping that some of the 21st Century Ltd resources might become available for this type of an effort. And on that level, I'd like to see a working committee come together to brainstorm a bit.

As a last point, I'll take the heat for not following up on the Hawaiian Division situation. I said I would try to contact the few members we have over there and I dropped the ball. Unless someone else would like to run with that one, I'll try to follow up in the next few months with some letters and see what the folks in the islands are looking for from us. One favor that I'll ask of our Secretary is that in about three or four months, he please send out some reminders to all of us that are taking on specific tasks. This should help all of us with failing memories to keep our projects in sight.

As always, I'm sure that I've missed some items, but I'm equally sure that someone in this room will be more than willing to remind me of what it is that I missed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat LaTorres, President, PCR/NMRA



PACIFIC COAST REGION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Vice President's Report
April 5, 2012

To the Board of Directors:

In my first report I had discussed my efforts to obtain membership data that would give us a picture of what is happening in terms of the aging of the PCR and its implications for our future membership. At that time I had found the available database somewhat lacking in terms of the information I was looking for and suggested collecting some of our own. In fact, I did make an effort to reach out to divisional officials about this and didn't get much in the way of bites. I then took another crack at the database and, with limitations I outlined in the *Branchline*, came up with some information that was consistent with my concerns. My columns in the *Branchline* have pretty much summarized where I have come to this point. Basically, we're getting older as individuals and as a group, and that's not sustainable in the long term.

Now I didn't make this all up. The regions and divisions Yahoo group has been full of discussions about how to make NMRA membership more attractive and interesting, why it is that people join in the first place, and problems with members being turned off by politics, insiders, and all that stuff. There are a number of steps proposed, but never does any consensus appear. However, the most common motivation suggested for joining NMRA is social.

Given all this, one might ask why people aren't joining. I have begun asking around, and although this isn't scientific I have some preliminary observations. First off, NMRA meetings, whether divisional, regional, or national, involve a lot of sitting around in structured meetings or clinics and not much sharing about trains. The big exceptions are the LD/OpSig rooms and events, which actually aren't NMRA functions. Public shows and contest rooms aside, there are very few trains actually at the meetings. The welcome material for new members says little about things like the Achievement Program. Biases are encountered around what is modeled. Since there are other opportunities to get together with modelers that don't have these drawbacks (modular groups, clubs, etc.) is it worth the money? Whether these are really common reactions or I just talked to some malcontents remains to be seen. I hope to be reaching out to nonmember modelers in the coming months and find out more.

Ed Merrin

PACIFIC COAST REGION
of the
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

April 21, 2012

The Region financial picture is essentially unchanged from that of the past few years. Interest income is low, BranchLine expenses continue to exceed income by a substantial amount, and we continue to use convention proceeds to bolster operating funds. We did, however, benefit from the sale of estate items belonging to the Region. On the other hand, new this year is a decrease in the amount of the rebate from National. Until this last rebate, Rail Pass members were counted in determining the amount. The decision this year was to not continue this practice, given the low Rail Pass dues. Hence, our rebate decreased about \$300. 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.

It is important to recognize that the cost of supporting our member BranchLine subscriptions continues to exceed the income derived. Our projected subscription related income for this coming year (including the interest from the Life Savings account) is about \$3,200, while the cost to produce and distribute the BranchLine is over \$6,700. Even including the rebate from National retained by the Region, the publication will still be about \$2,500 underfunded for 2012. A return to reasonable returns from our investable assets will help to improve this issue.

In summary, the finances of the Region are stable, and we have more than sufficient reserves to weather the current financial climate. It may be prudent, however, to begin thinking about an increase in the BranchLine subscription fee within the next few years.

I will not see you at the meeting on May 2, but expect to participate by Skype, if we can work it out. Please email me at emerbaum@msn.com or call me on my cell, (510) 912-1076, with any questions or comments should you wish prior to the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Altbaum

Larry Altbaum
Treasurer

Pacific Coast Region - NMRA

Budget

	Adopted 2011 Bud.	Actual 2011	Variance	Initial 2012	Revised 2012
Operating Income					
Life Interest	400.00	267.33	(132.67)	100.00	40.00
BL Subscriptions	3,150.00	3,423.00	273.00	3,000.00	3,200.00
From Nat'l	2,200.00	2,431.00	231.00	2,600.00	2,100.00
Other	800.00	1,109.92	309.92	400.00	400.00
Bank Interest	150.00	69.13	(80.87)	120.00	100.00
Total Income	6,700.00	7,300.38	600.38	6,220.00	5,840.00
Operating Expense					
Operations					
Member Services	50.00	0.00	(50.00)	50.00	50.00
Member Promo.	150.00	0.00	(150.00)	150.00	150.00
Achievement	150.00	178.27	28.27	150.00	150.00
Supplies	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	100.00	100.00
Bank Charges	10.00	(42.00)	(52.00)	10.00	10.00
Fees & Taxes	20.00	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00
Accounting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Branchline					
Printing	4,600.00	5,207.89	607.89	5,200.00	5,200.00
Postage	1,900.00	1,280.31	(619.69)	1,500.00	1,400.00
Supplies	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	100.00	100.00
Division Support	1,200.00	1,203.00	3.00	1,300.00	1,200.00
Projects		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Web Page	240.00	239.40	(0.60)	250.00	240.00
Awards	300.00	199.07	(100.93)	250.00	250.00
Misc.	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	100.00	100.00
Total Expense	8,920.00	8,285.94	(634.06)	9,180.00	8,950.00
Operating Excess/Deficit	(2,220.00)	(985.56)	1234.44	(2,960.00)	(3,110.00)
Convention Income					
Conv. Exc.		494.93	494.93		
Total Income		494.93	494.93		0.00
Convention Expense					
Total Expense		0.00	0.00		0.00
Convention Exc/Def		494.93	494.93		0.00
Total Excess/Deficit	(2,220.00)	(490.63)	---	(2,960.00)	(3,110.00)

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

31-Mar-12

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Income Statement**

	12 Months Ended Mar/12	12 Months Ended Mar/11	Variance Fav/<Unf>	% Var
Income				
PCR NMRA Rebate	\$2,431.00	\$2,209.00	\$222.00	0.10
PCR BL Subscriptions	3,423.00	3,310.00	113.00	0.03
Equipment Proceeds	150.00	0.00	150.00	
Convention Proceeds	494.93	3,006.36	(2,511.43)	-0.84
Merchandise Sales	959.92	250.00	709.92	2.84
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TOTAL Income	7,458.85	8,775.36	(1,316.51)	-0.15
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Expenses				
Supplies - Operations	0.00	331.39	331.39	1.00
Supplies - Member Promo.	0.00	53.94	53.94	1.00
Supplies - Achiev. Prog.	104.00	0.00	(104.00)	
Postage - Branchline	1,280.31	1,772.81	492.50	0.28
Postage - Achiev. Prog.	74.27	16.20	(58.07)	-3.59
Printing - Branchline	5,207.89	4,672.49	(535.40)	-0.12
Awards - Operations	0.00	174.52	174.52	1.00
Awards - President	199.07	0.00	(199.07)	
NMRA Division Rebates	1,203.00	1,087.00	(116.00)	-0.11
Taxes, Fees, Licenses	20.00	0.00	(20.00)	
Web Services	239.40	401.31	161.91	0.40
Bank Service Charges	(42.00)	42.00	84.00	2.00
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TOTAL Expenses	8,285.94	8,551.66	265.72	0.03
-----	-----	-----	-----	
OPERATING PROFIT	(827.09)	223.70	(1,050.79)	-4.70
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Other Income & Expenses				
Life Interest	267.33	590.26	(322.93)	-0.55
Convention Interest	69.13	4.49	64.64	14.40
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TOTAL Other Income & Expenses	336.46	594.75	(258.29)	-0.43
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PROFIT BEFORE TAXES	(490.63)	818.45	(1,309.08)	-1.60
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NET PROFIT	(\$490.63)	\$818.45	(\$1,309.08)	-1.60
=====	=====	=====	=====	

March 31, 2012

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Balance Sheet**

	Mar-12	Mar-11	Inc/<Dec>	%
	=====	=====	====Var====	==Var==
ASSETS				
Current Assets:				
Cash				
General Checking	\$8,745.89	\$3,579.98	\$5,165.91	1.44
Convention Checking	44,215.62	48,152.85	(3,937.23)	(0.08)
Life Savings	29,412.71	30,132.02	(719.31)	(0.02)
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Cash	82,374.22	81,864.85	509.37	0.01
	-----	-----	-----	
Convention Adv. Recv.	2,000.00	3,000.00	(1,000.00)	(0.33)
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Current Assets	84,374.22	84,864.85	(490.63)	(0.01)
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL ASSETS	84,374.22	84,864.85	(490.63)	(0.01)
	=====	=====	=====	
LIABILITIES				
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	-----	-----	-----	
CAPITAL				
Retained Earnings	84,864.85	84,046.40	818.45	0.01
Year-to-Date Earnings	(490.63)	818.45	(1,309.08)	(1.60)
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL CAPITAL	84,374.22	84,864.85	(490.63)	(0.01)
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	\$84,374.22	\$84,864.85	(\$490.63)	(0.01)
	=====	=====	=====	

May 2, 2012

Daylight Division Report

John Houlihan, Division Director

Daylight division meets have been well attended with more than 20 attendees at the various locations. We have been graced with the attendance of the PCR president, Pat La Torres and his lovely wife Ronnie. Our division has been run in an efficient and educational manner by Dave Grenier. His ability to get interesting clinics for the meets is exceptional. The membership has enjoyed the comforts of Santa Barbara at Gary Seigel's house with its competing HO L&N and G scale layouts. Bruster Bird has arranged several great meeting locations in the Visalia area. Gary Saxton has done a great job in coordinating the public layout tours in December for the past several years.

At each Daylight Division meeting, I ask for membership input as to what items should be brought to the board meetings. All of the requests have been duly brought to the meetings, with the board taking appropriate action.

Thank you for giving me four years to serve the PCR membership.

John Houlihan, Daylight Division Director

Coast Division Report
PCR Board Meeting – May 2, 2012
Medford, Oregon

This is my final report as Director of the Coast Division.

Coast has had a good six months since my last report. Two new meeting sites have been located and have allowed us to meet in San Francisco and San Leandro, moving out of the south bay for the first time in several years.

Our meets continue to be popular and well attended. The auction proceeds are sufficient to keep the Division running. As of January 2012, the Coast Division has found it necessary to discontinue our printed and mailed newsletter, The Coast Dispatcher. We have converted to an all on-line format which has been available for some years, but is now the only way to read the Dispatcher. We are still sending a postcard notice of the next meeting to all members shortly before the meeting advising them of the activities to be had. It's too soon to tell if the change will have an effect on our attendance.

Financially, the Coast Division is healthy. Income is about equal to expenditures. We seem to have lost our Job's Daughters snack bar at meets, but our Superintendent, Mark Schutzer has stepped up and runs a smaller, but more than adequate, snack bar with a selection of food. We owe him a great thank-you as we have become accustomed to food being available.

The 2013 PCR convention will be in Coast Division territory – Dublin – and we look forward this convention. Many Coast members are involved in the committee and layout tours. Come to Dublin and “Let Coast Be Your Host” in 2013. Dennis Stokely will have a report on the convention at the Board Meeting.

Rod Smith
Coast Division Director



Director's Report 5/2/12

I. Division meets

The Sierra Division has held one meet since the last Board of Directors' meeting in October: in February, we were hosted by the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society at their clubhouse. They presented two clinics in which they explained how their LED lighting and signaling systems are made and controlled. After the clinics, we were invited to be part of their operating session in the morning, after which they prepared a hamburger and hot dog lunch. Following lunch, we had our division meeting while the operating sessions continued.

At the meeting, Gary Ray announced that the Sierra Division had obtained a limited number of NorthEastern Scale Models "Yard Storage" laser kits in HO and N scale. These kits were made available to the members (one per member) for \$5.00, with the intention that they would be built and brought to a future meet.

Our next meet will be held on May 12 at 195 Placerville Road, Suites 100 and 110 (an unoccupied storefront across the street from the Hampton Inn) in Folsom. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m., but the club will be set up all day. There will be many activities going on: the speeder group is going to be running their speeders on the abandoned Placerville SP Branch. The Sacramento Modular Railroaders will be running trains for the public to see and will have a couple of modules set for us to do some switching on. Dick Witzens will be presenting a clinic on "35 Years on the Sacramento Central". The laser kits that were ordered in February will be handed out at the May meet, with the models to be displayed at the August meet.

II. Other Events

1. The Northern Nevada layout tour, which was previously organized by Chuck Gardner at High Sierra Hobbies and has been renamed the "High Sierra Model Railroad Tour", took place on the weekend of November 4-6. The tour included 18 layouts in the Reno-Sparks, Fallon and Carson City areas.
2. Our major publicity and fundraising event, International RailFair, took place on Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13. While the overall attendance was down from last year (and the gate proceeds correspondingly lower than in the past), the vendors reported reasonably good sales and the attendees had a

great time. We suffered somewhat from Placer County's decision to take back the administration of the front parking lot – they were charging \$5.00 per vehicle for parking; and many attendees expressed their dissatisfaction. We explained that it had nothing to do with Railfair – it was purely a Placer County decision – but there were still some unhappy people. It will be interesting to see if (and to what extent) this change affects our future attendance.

As always, the Sierra Division thanks everyone who volunteered their time and efforts. (Just an advanced heads-up: RailFair 2012 will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11.)

3. We participated again in the California State Railroad Museum's small train show on Thanksgiving weekend. Unfortunately, it was the same weekend as the train show in Santa Clara, so we did not get as many attendees as we might have otherwise. Assuming we can come up with the volunteers (and assuming the event continues in future years), we would like to continue participating in the show.

4. Once again, we regretfully concluded that a Sierra Division Banquet was just not in the cards for this year. Between the uncertain economic situation and the declining health of our Superintendent, it was not a feasible idea at this time. Hopefully we will be able to resume the tradition in the future.

5. The traditional Sierra Division Picnic meet will be held on August 11. Details on date and location (somewhere close to Sacramento) will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

III. Division Elections

Our elections for Sierra Division Director were held and the results will be officially announced at the PCR board meeting in May.

Our division elections will be held this fall, with the new officers scheduled to take office at the beginning of the year. We tentatively have a candidate for Superintendent to replace Jim Long, who has declined to run again due to health reasons. Our current Chief Clerk and Paymaster have expressed their willingness to continue in their respective offices; however, I will also be looking for other people (especially newer members) who might be interested in becoming part of the division leadership team.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Moore-Campagna
Sierra Division Director

Director's Report from the Redwood Empire Division

The R.E.D. continues to move forward with new leadership. By the time the PCR Board convenes we will have elected a new Director to represent the Division on the Board. Our current Director has met with the Director-elect and they have worked out a means to ensure a smooth transition.

R.E.D. is well represented in the PCR with both Officers and Staff. Mr. Giuseppe Aymar, PCR's Contest Chairman has been working with his counterpart in PNR to prepare for the joint convention in May. To that end, Mr. Aymar has worked with the current Director to add features and enhancements to the contest management database application.

R.E.D. and the various clubs within the Division have continued to share our hobby with our neighbors through exhibitions, museum displays and open houses.

Carol Alexander

Director

PCR NMRA Bylaws Committee Report

May 2, 2012

The Problem

The Bylaws committee was tasked with addressing the fact that all 4 directors term out at the same time and thus there can be a huge loss of institutional memory at the same time. The committee was charged with the task of leveling out this brain drain.

Discussion

At first the committee considered offsetting the terms of the Division Directors so that in one odd numbered year 2 directors term out and in the other odd numbered year the other two term out. This would be accomplished by either extending or shortening the terms of two of the directors on a one time basis. This seemed reasonable until one considered the very real possibility of a director only staying for one term. We could then be right back where we started.

The committee then considered the idea of splitting the terms so that some of the directors were elected in the odd numbered year and some on the even numbered years. This would mean that in some years 4 people would be elected (2 officers and 2 directors) and in the other two directors would be elected. This would not really change the amount of institutional memory lost each time, but rather spread the Director loss over two terms.

There was a discussion about the ballot confusion when the Branch Line had a ballot that only some divisions were to vote on, but not all. The ballot confusion, when interspersed with the Pres/VP elections, was seen as a major source of confusion. The sense of the committee is that we just did not want to go there.

The Conclusion

The committee felt that there was relatively small loss in the institutional memory because most of the memory was in the individual departments, not the director. When all was said and done, the committee felt that it was incumbent on the director to collect information from his division departments.

Committee Recommendation

Make no changes to the voting process.

To: PCR President Pat LaTorres
From: Jim Providenza, Ballot Committee
Date: April 20, 2012
Subject: Results of the PCR 2012 Director's Ballot

Pat:

As stated in the Branchline, ballots were due by Saturday April 15, 2012. Today, April 20th I have opened and counted the ballots with the following results:

Coast:

Mark Schutzer: 25
Ted Stephens: 14

Daylight:

Paul Deis: 10
Unopposed

Redwood Empire:

Dave Croshere: 11
Unopposed

Sierra:

Mel Jones: 19
Unopposed

I certify that Mark Schutzer, Paul Deis, Dave Croshere and Mel Jones have been elected to their respective director's positions.

I will keep the ballots for 90 days unless directed otherwise.

Sincerely,

Jim Providenza

CONVENTION DEPARTMENT REPORT
Submitted May 2, 2012

Siskiyou Summit

Medford, OR with PNR May 2-5,2012

The convention started this morning. Jim Providenza, co-chair from the PCR to this joint convention with PNR is here to provide an update on this week's activities and answer any questions.

Iron Horse Express

Dublin, CA April 3-7,2013

The convention will be at the Holiday Inn Express in Dublin. The Holiday Inn is within walking distance of BART for a non-driving alternative for Bay Area registrants or out of area attendees desiring to stay with friends or relatives. We have managed to hold the convention registration at \$79 for Early Bird and \$89 for late registrations BANQUET INCLUDED. The room rate for the hotel is also \$79, which is fantastic for the Bay Area.

We have a committee made up of veteran convention committee participants and newcomers and are enthused about hosting the first immediate Bay Area convention in four years.

2014

Daylight Division

Paul Dies is here to make a formal presentation for a convention hosted by the Daylight Division in 2014.

2015

Coast Division

I will be working with the new Convention Department Manager to begin recruiting a 2015 chairman shortly.

This is my last report as Convention Department Manager. I thank the Board for their support making the six years I held that position enjoyable.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Stokely

Paul Deis
1203 Windsong Way
Paso Robles, CA 93446
805-776-2082

Pat LaTorres
President, NMRA/Pacific Coast Region

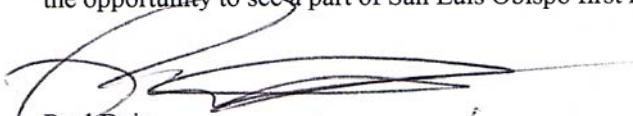
May 1, 2012

Dear Pat,

The Thursday Night Boomers would like to present a bid to host the 2014 NMRA/PCR convention in San Luis Obispo, CA.

After discussion with the San Luis Obispo County Visitors and Conventions Bureau, we are proposing to host the convention on Wednesday thru Sunday either the first or third week of May. The convention will be held at the Sands Hotel in San Luis Obispo.

We would also like to host your fall 2012 Board of Directors meeting in San Luis Obispo so you may have the opportunity to see a part of San Luis Obispo first hand.



Paul Deis
Chairman, 2014 PCR Convention (proposed)
Curlyp2@gmail.com

PCR BOD meeting, Medford , Or

5/2/2012

Pre Contest Report

PNR & PCR have had a good relationship working out the differences between the Two Regions as it pertains to handling the Contest at the Siskiyou 2012 Convention.

John DeSteeese and myself (co-chairs) have ironed out the differences to both Regions' satisfaction and I expect a superlative program.

I have to mention the contribution to our efforts from Dave Grenier who, unselfishly, offered advice and knowledge and was not afraid to put forth his opinion which resulted in critical changes, all to benefit a well run and smooth program.

Carol Alexander was also a critical member of our ad-hoc committee lending her expertise in reformulating many of the items found in the PCR Contest electronic program (which she had originally created) With these changes, she has instituted a more fluid report administration from all the data collected with each Contest entry. We will now be able to send reports, thank you letters and certificates much more expediently.

We had a very informative program offered at my house on sat 4/21 in calibrating "old" and "new" judges for the Contest. Steve Skold, Carol Alexander (our outgoing RED Director), Dave Croshere (our incoming RED Director) , David Grundman, Veronica LaTorres and myself. We spent 3.5 hours reviewing the protocol used in judging models. It was a unanimous consensus that such "recalibration" should take place on a regular basis, to offer judges a solid base and more uniform skills. A recalibration CD was also mailed to Mel Jones in Carson City for his own home study.

Help was also received in the person of Gus Campagna who is always available whenever anyone needs him, in this case procuring us with the use of the RED projector for our meting and making it available for the Award Ceremony at the Banquet.

Tom Crawford, Pat LaTorres are two more people I relied on for information and directions.

I have to laude the leadership of our two Convention co-chairs (Ed Liesse and Jim Providenza) for being prompt in answering as well as instigating questions.

I have to say that my venture in the PCR Contest chairmanship position (all by myself for the first time without being able to lean on Bill Scott) has been a very positive one; thanks to many folks who were there to help. Our PCR is strong and doing well because it is populated with individuals who care and are willing to help one another.

Respectfully submitted by

Joseph Giuseppe Aymar

Comments by Mark Schutzer re elections April 24, 2012. (sent via e-mail)

Rod,

Here's something to bring up for discussion in the new business portion of the BOD meeting. In looking at the election results from Jim I can see that the overall ballot response to the election is pathetic. Only 39 votes out of roughly 550 coast division members. Less than 10% participation.

That leads me to a suggestion. Once a year we mail the BL out to everyone in PCR because it contains the ballots for the election. The question to be discussed is; would it be more cost effective to send out a separate mailing with only the ballot info? As the BL is many pages it is costs more than a first class stamp to send. The ballot mailer would be a first class stamp times all the members in PCR where the BL costs more to send, but if we go to a separate ballot mailing we may actually save money. It really depends on what the BL costs to send, and the current subscriber rate on the BL. If we have only 20% of the folks subscribing to the BL we may save money with a separate mailer.

I don't know if the numbers would result in savings or not, but it wouldn't hurt to raise the topic to see if PCR could save on some of the mandatory mailing costs for the balloting.

Just an idea...

Mark Schutzer