



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 1:00 PM
Lahinch Room, Holiday Inn Express
6680 Regional Street, Dublin, CA 94568**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM 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 Dave Croshere

Sierra Division Director Mel Jones

Coast Division Director Rod Mark Schutzer

Daylight Division Director Paul Deis

The following Ex-Officio members were in attendance:

Treasurer Larry Altbaum

Secretary Tom Crawford

Others present were:

NMRA President Charlie Getz

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

Contest Chair Giuseppe Aymar

Honors Committee Chair Ray deBlieck

Webmaster Dave Grenier

Non Rail Chair Mary Moore-Campagna

Publications Manager Gus Campagna

Member Steve Sköld

Member Carol Alexander

Member Bill Kaufman

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

Director Croshere moved that the minutes of the October 20, 2013 board meeting be approved. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

F. Officers Reports

- F.1. President LaTorres submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- F.2. Vice President Merrin submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- F.3. Treasurer Altbaum submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes. He noted that the 2013 budget has a \$4010 shortfall, ignoring convention income.
- F.4. The Secretary had no separate report.

G. Directors Reports

- G.1. Daylight Division Director Paul Deis reported that the Daylight Division is seeing decent attendance gains at its meets.
- G.2. Coast Division Director Schutzer submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.3. Sierra Division Director Jones submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.4. Redwood Empire Division Director Croshere submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.5. Hawaiian Division is currently without a Director, and there has been no activity.

H. Department Reports**H.1. Administration Department**

- H.1.i **Ballot Committee** Chair Jim Providenza submitted a written audit report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- H.1.ii **Honors Committee** Chair Ray deBlieck reminded the directors that they need to get their Division member of the year award nominees to the Honors Committee in the spring of the year. People are running late and the awards were rushed this year and may not all be available for the banquet.

H.2. Membership Department

There was no report.

H.3. Publications Department

Gus Campagna reported that Ed Merrin, Dave Croshere and Dick Foster created a brochure, made 500 copies, and distributed them to Coast Division. They will send

them to the other divisions soon. They have spent roughly 60% of the \$500 given to them for this purpose.

H.4. Convention Department

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

Dennis noted that we had 46 first timers at the convention.

Paul Deis gave a brief overview of what was happening at the 2014 convention in San Luis Obispo.

Dennis stated that the 2015 convention would be in Fremont, and that there will be a formal presentation for the mid-year board meeting.

The 2016 convention will be in Sacramento.

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

Mary Moore-Campagna noted that the non-rail participation has been growing every year, and that non-rail activities are not limited to conventions.

I. Other Reports

No Other reports

J. Unfinished Business

J.1. Written Agreement with 21st Century Limited.

Ray deBlieck stated that he would like to put a PCR Director on the 21st Century Limited Board.

Director Deis moved that:

“PCR authorizes the creation of a restricted fund for purposes of administering the 21st Century Limited Assets subject to the contingencies that:

- a) The Board of Directors of the 21st Century Limited agrees to the creation and administration of said fund
- b) The terms of said use and said funds are acceptable to the treasurer of the PCR
- c) The treasurer of the PCR determines that the creation and administration of said fund is in the best interest of the PCR.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

President LaTorres moved that the previously tabled motion that the President establish a memorandum of understanding with 21st Century Limited be vacated. The motion was seconded and approved.

President LaTorres moved that the previously approved motion to place a PCR Board member on the 21st Century Limited Board be vacated. The motion was seconded and approved.

This business item is resolved.

For the record, after a short break, at this point NMRA President Getz made some announcements. They are reported under agenda item M.2, Other Announcements.

J.2. Income Augmentation/Branch Line Costs

Vice President Merrin moved that we raise the Branch Line subscription rate to \$8. The motion was seconded. After much discussion, the motion failed.

President LaTorres then created a committee consisting of Dave Croshere, Mark Schutzer, and Gus Campagna to come back with a proposal.

Director Deis moved that the above appointed committee determine the new rate for the Branch Line and the date this new rate will be effective. The rate may not exceed \$12. The motion was seconded and passed.

President LaTorres moved to take from the table and reject the tabled motion from the May 13, 2011 meeting that "The subscription fees for the Branch Line be raised to \$12." The motion was approved (i.e the tabled motion was defeated.)

This business item is still open.

J.3. Storage of Historical Documents

Secretary Crawford reported that the California Corporation Code allowed corporate records to be stored electronically. He reported that section 1500 of the California Corporate Code specifically allowed electronic storage as long as the documents could be converted to tangible form and admissible to the same extent as the original.

This business item is now closed.

J.4. Hawaiian Division

Still open.

J.5. Bylaws Conflict.

Secretary Crawford reported on his effort to determine if our Manual of Operations (approved by the BOD) contained things that should be in the Bylaws (approved by the membership). he found out that section 211-212 of the California Corporate Code does not require the by-laws to be approved by the membership, so that the question from a code point of view is moot.

This business item is closed.

J.6. Membership Brochure.

As noted in the publications Department report, 500 copies of a brochure are in the process of being distributed. They have spent roughly 60% of the \$500 given to them for this purpose, so they still have money left for the second brochure.

K. New Business

K.1. Director Deis moved that we authorize the treasurer to open 2 checking accounts to be used for alternating conventions. The motion was withdrawn.

K.2. Director Deis asked about a convention handbook. Secretary Crawford reported that Dennis Stokely was going to set up a meeting with previous convention chairs to work on updating the existing obsolete handbook.

K.3. President LaTorres moved that we change the convention sequence to be:

Coast/Daylight/Coast/Sierra/Coast/Redwood Empire. The motion was approved.

K.4. Director Schutzer asked about electronic meetings after the last failed meeting. We agreed that we would have our discussions online before starting the meeting, and after we agreed on what to do, we then start the on-line meeting, propose the motion, and then have the vote directly. This was the original intent and will resolve point of order issues.

L. Budget

Treasurer Altbaum provided a proposed budget (part of the Treasurer's Report).

Director Jones moved that the budget be approved. The motion was seconded. It was approved by a voice vote.

M. Announcements

M.1. Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be Saturday October 12, 2013, at a location to be determined in San Luis Obispo, CA at 1 PM unless otherwise advised.

M.2. Other Announcements

NMRA President Charlie Getz said that he would have a get together at 4 PM on Friday. Check the clinic schedule for details.

He also stated that the laws have changed and now Regions and Divisions can be considered 501.c.3 and have their own EINs under the umbrella of the parent NMRA 501.c.3 status. The NMRA is now working to make this happen. When it does PCR will delete its own 501.c.7 status to fall under this umbrella.

He also stated that the NMRA is working on creating a discount program with companies like Home Depot and Lowes.

Finally, he noted that every NMRA member will be a member of the CSRM Library when CSRM takes over the Kalmbach Library.

Ray deBlieck stated that he is working on a 2019 National Convention. The bid must be made 5 years out.

Mary Moore Campagna reported that they have a 80 year old first timer from RED at this convention.

N. Adjournment

It was moved by Director Deis that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and it was approved by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Crawford
PCR Secretary
4/3/2013

**Attachments
Listed by Agenda Item**

B	Agenda
	2013-04-03 PCR Board of Directors Meeting Agenda.pdf*
E	Approval of the Minutes
	2012-10-20 PCR Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Complete.pdf*
F	BOD Reports
F.1	2013-04-03 PCR President's Report.pdf
F.2	2013-04-03 PCR Vice President's Report.pdf
F.3	2013-04-03 PCR Treasurer's Report.pdf
G	Director's Reports
G.2	2013-04-03 Coast Director's Report.pdf
G.3	2013-04-03 Sierra Director's Report.pdf
G.4	2013-04-03 Redwood Directors Report.pdf
H	Other Reports
H.1	2013-04-03 Ballot Chairman Report.pdf
H.3	2013-04-03-Webmaster Report.pdf
H.4	(holding for report)
H.5	2013-04-03 Contest Chairman's Report.pdf
J	Unfinished Business
	2013-04-03 Unfinished Business.pdf

* Not included in final minutes distribution

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
APRIL 3, 2013, ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

We're now at the end of my first term as President of the Pacific Coast Region. That means that there are two years behind me and only two more years until I'm free again. What I'm going to start with is a brief look back at what the region has managed over the past two years.

What I feel is the most significant event of that time period was X2011 West, the 2011 NMRA national convention, in Sacramento. While this event was officially promoted by 21st Century Limited, Inc., it was for all intents and purposes presented by the PCR, with help from members of all four of the mainland division. I mention this to stress that anything that happens in this region impacts all of us in one manner or another. Some people seem to focus on the divisive nature of things, while we really need to look at what it is that we share as a common thread. In that vein, I'll mention a little bit about the relationship between 21st Century Ltd and the PCR. 21st Century was created back in the late 1990s, to provide a level of legal insulation between the PCR and the group promoting the 2000 NMRA national. The actual relationship between the two organizations was developed on a "hand-shake" basis, based on the personal relationships of the principals of the two groups and verbal agreements. Unfortunately, this became a, perhaps the major point of contention after the fact, when some folks felt that all of the proceeds from that convention should have been folded into the PCR treasury. With 20/20 hindsight, perhaps the relationship should have been more formalized, but only because, for some, money takes on a greater importance than personal relationships and one's word. While this has become less of an issue, it is still something which we are working on. My goal at this point is to work with 21st Century, to develop a process to use the proceeds from these two conventions, and any more in the future, to promote the hobby of model railroading, especially within the PCR. For this purpose, I'm hoping to put together a group of four members, two from the PCR and two from 21st Century, to act as a Grant Committee. Their purpose will be to review and develop programs that will meet this need. I would like to have this committee together and working, with some proposals by the 2013 mid-year meeting, if not before.

The next significant event from the last two years was the 2012 joint PNR/PCR regional convention. Again, this event has opened some doors for us to utilize going forward, if we choose to do so. I see an opportunity to do this, at least on an informal level with the 2014 PCR convention in San Luis Obispo. My hope is that the committee for this event does some serious promotional work within the PSR, since we will be just up the road from the dividing boarder between the two regions. From what I've heard from that committee, this is something that they are already working on and I would hope that the region will provide any assistance that is needed in this process. This may even be something which 21st Century Ltd. might be able to help with, but that will be for those two parties to work out. I should stress at this point that both of these two regional conventions were initiated under the guidance of my predecessor, Ron Plies, but I would hope that the concept is a seed which will grow in the future and I will do all that I can to nurture and encourage this during the next to years. That being said, the next time the PCR regional convention is currently scheduled back in Daylight Division looks to be something like 2019. So, will we want to look at, or consider options regarding an "official"

PCR/PSR joint regional convention at some point prior to the regularly scheduled rotation?

I'm still interested in the concept of conducting meetings of the regional Bod using on-line options. But, we need to work out some procedure to work around Robert's Rules of Orders. In checking the Regional Operating rules, I didn't see anything preventing the regional board from taking action outside of a regular meeting and that may be the course that we will need to investigate. Between now and the mid-year meeting, I would like to look at this process more closely. More on this to come. As I mentioned in my report at the last mid-year meeting, I feel that it may be time to require that all members of the regional board of directors have access to "electronic communications", which would include regular and reliable email access. This would go so far as to prohibit the election of a member that did not have such access and be considered reasonable cause for removal of a member of the board if they chose to not maintain such communication ability during their term in office.

To repeat something from my report of last October, there are two other items that I'm still wrestling with, finding qualified people to step into two administrative positions for the region. The big key here will be finding people that I feel comfortable working with and that I will feel comfortable leaving for my successor when I finally escape from my bondage. These two positions are Treasurer and Convention department Manager. I've had a couple of folks for each position, but things haven't worked out quite yet. If anyone has suggestions, I'd ask that they get together with me AFTER the meeting, so that we can consider them a bit more in depth.

There has been no progress from the publication department regarding developing a revenue stream for the Branch Line. As mentioned before, this is something which needs attention and pretty soon. Right now, the Branch Line is the largest single expense for the region and there is no reason that I can see why it shouldn't also be a revenue source. While I am personally opposed to a fully digital regional publication, I cannot accept taking this concept off of the table if we can't come up with some other means of covering at least some of the expense. Though as long as we can keep the expense at a low level, I feel that we should continue as we are.

The last item that I'll address right now is the new membership brochures. To start with, THANK YOU to the committee that put this brochure together. Admittedly, I did hear some complaints from a few members about the form, but they were nowhere to be found when we were asking for folks to work on tis project, so I considered these complaints in that light. I only came up with one real gripe, which the committee members agreed with – they forgot to put the region's web URL anywhere on the brochure, much less in a prominent location (such as the front page), something which is pretty easily corrected on the next printing. If this is the worst that I can find, I would say they did pretty well.

That pretty much covers what little bit of mind power I've been able to bring to the fore.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat LaTorres, President, PCR/NMRA



PACIFIC COAST REGION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Vice President's Report
March 18, 2013

To the Board of Directors:

When I started my term in office I was asked by President LaTorres to focus on membership issues. During these two years I have made efforts to outline and publicize the dangers of an aging membership and the need to retool and modify what we do and how to present ourselves differently. The goal is to recruit from a wider demographic of potential members and, ultimately, to retain them after they join.

We have taken some initial steps towards the first goal. At our last meeting the Board appointed RED Director Dave Croshere to form a committee for the purpose of designing a brochure for attracting prospective members. Combining and modifying elements from an NMRA brochure and one designed within PCR several years ago to orient newcomers has produced results. Thanks to efforts by the committee and members Dick Foster, who did the desktop publishing work, and Gus Campagna, who researched and implemented its printing, we have a real life in hand booklet to hand to possible members.

But this isn't the end of the story. Most of what needs to happen occurs at the Division level. This kind of tool works best when handed to members of the public during a face-to-face encounter. Filling up racks in stores and what not really won't do it. The committee envisioned the brochures being handed out at public events where model trains are on display, with PCR/Division representatives there to discuss the hobby and what joining the NMRA can bring to the experience.

Similarly, anything to make the activities of the NMRA/PCR more attractive to a broader group has to come from local, Divisional efforts. Our role at the Regional level should be to provide tools and a forum for Divisional leaders to exchange ideas and feedback on the success of any efforts.

Some early ideas have included taking a close look at our websites, to consider the perspective of catching the interest of outsiders rather than being the face of a closed club. Some of these early efforts are very encouraging, including discussing ways of providing a way for the public to contact us for answers to questions without intruding into the privacy of Divisional and Regional officials. Other ideas focus on the nature and content of our meets and other organized functions.

We should also be carefully considering the best way to monitor our efforts to determine whether we are having any success. I propose that the best way to obtain “outcome data” involves using our membership data reports. We should be looking not only at gross numbers of new members, but at what demographic groups they come from. Hopefully, National efforts to improve that resource will bear fruit.

Finally, one last suggestion. We need to take a look at the photographs we publish, on-line and otherwise, of our members “at work” with their hobby. A few less grey hairs and a few extra younger folks might give us a better chance of broadening our appeal. Hopefully, we can do this without resorting to hiring models.

Respectfully,

Ed Merrin
Vice-President, PCR

PACIFIC COAST REGION
of the
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

March 30, 2013

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. Last year, we benefited from the sale of estate items belonging to the Region. This year, there was no income from the sale of merchandise. In total, including the Convention excess we realized, we experienced a loss exceeding \$1,650 this year, and a projected loss of over \$4,000 (not counting any convention returns). That said, in spite of my firm conviction that operating costs should be covered each year by current year income, I believe we should continue on our present financial path with one important modification.

It is essential to recognize that the cost of supporting our member BranchLine subscriptions continues to exceed the income derived. And, the cost of producing and distributing the BranchLine continues to climb. Our subscription related income for the past year (including the interest from the Life Savings account) was \$3,410, while the cost to produce and distribute the BranchLine exceeded \$7,500. Even including the rebate from National retained by the Region, the publication was still over \$3,000 underfunded for 2012. A return to reasonable returns from our investable assets will help to improve this issue, but not enough. I submit it's time to raise the subscription rate to \$7.00, the first increase beyond my ability to recall. This will not solve the entire problem, but it is a \$550 plus start.

In summary, the finances of the Region are decreasing, and though we have more than sufficient reserves to weather the current financial climate, we should take action to help stem the outflow.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on April 3. Should you have any questions or comments, please email me at emerbaum@msn.com or call me on my cell, (510) 912-1076, prior to the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Altbaum

Larry Altbaum

Treasurer

Pacific Coast Region - NMRA Budget

	Adopted 2012 Bud.	Actual 2012	Variance	Initial 2013	Revised 2013
Operating Income					
Life Interest	40.00	51.92	11.92	70.00	50.00
BL Subscriptions	3,200.00	3409.98	209.98	3,200.00	3,250.00
From Nat'l	2,100.00	2089.00	(11.00)	2,250.00	2,100.00
Other	400.00	0.00	(400.00)	400.00	400.00
Bank Interest	100.00	66.14	(33.86)	75.00	65.00
Total Income	5,840.00	5617.04	(222.96)	5,995.00	5,865.00
Operating Expense					
Operations					
Member Services	50.00	0.00	(50.00)	50.00	50.00
Member Promo.	150.00	299.49	149.49	150.00	150.00
Achievement	150.00	211.56	61.56	150.00	225.00
Supplies	100.00	45.00	(55.00)	100.00	100.00
Bank Charges	10.00	0.00	(10.00)	10.00	10.00
Fees & Taxes	0.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00
Accounting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Branchline					
Printing	5,200.00	5068.99	(131.01)	5,200.00	5,200.00
Postage	1,400.00	1656.35	256.35	1,500.00	1,700.00
Other	100.00	785.15	685.15	100.00	800.00
Division Support	1,200.00	1031.00	(169.00)	1,300.00	1,050.00
Projects		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Web Page	240.00	239.40	(0.60)	250.00	240.00
Awards	250.00	346.86	96.86	250.00	250.00
Misc.	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	100.00	100.00
Total Expense	8,950.00	9703.80	753.80	9,180.00	9,875.00
Operating Excess/Deficit	(3,110.00)	(4086.76)	(976.76)	(3,185.00)	(4,010.00)
Convention Income					
Conv. Exc.	0.00	2428.00	2428.00		
Total Income	0.00	2428.00	2428.00		0.00
Convention Expense					
Total Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Convention Exc/Def	0.00	2428.00	2428.00		0.00
Total Excess/Deficit	(3,110.00)	(1658.76)	---	(3,185.00)	(4,010.00)

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

30-Mar-13

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Income Statement**

	12 Months Ended Mar/13	12 Months Ended Mar/12	Variance Fav/<Unf>	% Var
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Income				
PCR NMRA Rebate	2,089.00	2,431.00	(342.00)	-14.1%
PCR BL Subscriptions	3,409.98	3,423.00	(13.02)	-0.4%
Equipment Proceeds	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	-100.0%
Convention Proceeds	2,428.00	494.93	1,933.07	390.6%
Merchandise Sales	0.00	959.92	(959.92)	-100.0%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Income	7,926.98	7,458.85	468.13	6.3%
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Expenses				
Supplies - Achiev. Prog.	162.00	104.00	(58.00)	-274.7%
Postage - Operations	45.00	0.00	(45.00)	
Postage - Branchline	1,656.35	1,280.31	(376.04)	-29.4%
Postage - Achiev. Prog.	49.56	74.27	24.71	33.3%
Printing - Branchline	5,068.99	5,207.89	138.90	2.7%
Printing - Member Promo.	299.49	0.00	(299.49)	
Awards - Operations	346.86	0.00	(346.86)	
Awards - President	0.00	199.07	199.07	100.0%
NMRA Division Rebates	1,031.00	1,203.00	172.00	14.3%
Taxes, Fees, Licenses	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.0%
Use Tax - Branchline	189.28	0.00	(189.28)	
Web Services	239.40	239.40	0.00	0.0%
Bank Service Charges	0.00	(42.00)	(42.00)	-100.0%
Misc. Expenses - Branchline	595.87	0.00	(595.87)	
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Expenses	9,703.80	8,285.94	(1,417.86)	-17.1%
	-----	-----	-----	
OPERATING PROFIT	(1,776.82)	(827.09)	(949.73)	-114.8%
	-----	-----	-----	
Other Income & Expenses				
Life Interest	51.92	267.33	(215.41)	-80.6%
Convention Interest	66.14	69.13	(2.99)	-4.3%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Other Income & Expenses	118.06	336.46	(218.40)	-64.9%
	-----	-----	-----	
PROFIT BEFORE TAXES	(1,658.76)	(490.63)	(1,168.13)	-238.1%
	-----	-----	-----	
NET PROFIT	(1,658.76)	(490.63)	(1,168.13)	-238.1%
	=====	=====	=====	

30-Mar-13

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Balance Sheet**

	Mar-13 =====	Mar-12 =====	Inc/<Dec> =====Var=====	% ==Var==
ASSETS				
Current Assets:				
Cash				
General Checking	6,969.07	8,745.89	(1,776.82)	-20.30%
Convention Checking	42,281.76	44,215.62	(1,933.86)	-4.40%
Life Savings	29,464.63	29,412.71	51.92	0.20%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Cash	78,715.46	82,374.22	(3,658.76)	-4.40%
	-----	-----	-----	
Convention Adv. Recv.	4,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.00%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Current Assets	82,715.46	84,374.22	(1,658.76)	-2.00%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL ASSETS	82,715.46	84,374.22	(1,658.76)	-2.00%
	=====	=====	=====	
LIABILITIES				
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	-----	-----	-----	
CAPITAL				
Retained Earnings	84,374.22	84,864.85	(490.63)	-0.60%
Year-to-Date Earnings	(1,658.76)	(490.63)	(1,168.13)	238.10%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL CAPITAL	82,715.46	84,374.22	(1,658.76)	-2.00%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	82,715.46	84,374.22	(1,658.76)	-2.00%
	=====	=====	=====	

Coast Division Report
PCR Board Meeting – April 3, 2013
Dublin

The Coast Division held two successful meets in the time between the last Board Meeting. Our December meet was held at Boy Scout headquarters in San Leandro and the March meet was held at Buchser School in Santa Clara.

Finding meeting sites continues to be a concern but we at least have one stable site in the Boy Scout HQ as they have committed to the use of their facility for the June and December meets. The availability of Buchser School is still dependant on the schedule of the multi-year remodeling at the school.

Attendance at the meets is in the range of 80 to 100 people and the Auction has been very successful due to a large estate that is being liquidated. At each of the past two meets the Auction sales have exceeded \$15k, and Coast receives 10% of the proceeds.

Financially this has been a great benefit to Coast. We have however continued to limit expenses assuming that the “new normal” Auction sales will be in the range of \$2500 as soon as the estate items are liquidated. We are continuing electronic distribution of the Dispatcher and meeting announcements are provided via a Post Card mailing. We did spend a small amount of the windfall on replacing one of the broken auction computers with a new notebook computer.

Coast continues an active recruiting effort with Steve Wesolowski and Darrell Dennis leading a team of volunteers manning a table at every Bay Area train show. The last show was the WGH show and we signed up 8 or 9 new members. We need to replace the old clunky banner that we use and have discussed the idea of getting the pull up banner that is being advertised in the NMRA magazine.

At the March meet new officers were elected to two year terms. Frank Markovich was elected as Superintendent, Bob Ferguson was re-elected as Paymaster, and Darleen Ferguson was elected as Chief Clerk. All were elected unopposed. I want to thank all of them for volunteering to serve, and I want to especially thank Bob for continuing to serve as Paymaster.

Mark Schutzer
Coast Division Director

Directors Report
Sierra Division March 20,2013

The Sierra Division has held one Meet since the last BOD meeting in October.

On February 9th we had our Meet in the Sacramento County Library on Marconi Ave. at 10:30 am. This was our first Meet since the October elections and Scott McAllister called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Jim Long's passing in January. We held our business meeting, and it was noted revenues from the annual fundraising event, International Railfair, was down again do to less attendees and venders however vender sales seem to be up.

Klaus Kiel presented a clinic on making containers from cardboard. It was a well done clinic as most could not tell the difference from the plastic ones they also had a very good 3-D look thank you Klaus.

We adjourned for a \$5.00 pizza lunch provided by the Sacramento Module Railroad Historical Society Club and afterwards a two hour Opps was offered to all. Everyone had a great time. Our next Meet will sometime in May in the Sacramento area, time and place to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Jones

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

Within the RED it has been business as usual. We have had good meetings, averaging 30 enthusiastic members per meeting. Show and Tell of models is perhaps the most popular aspect of our meetings. Nearly half those in attendance bring models. Each member has the opportunity to point out the interesting aspects of their creation and answer questions as to how they were accomplished .

We were happy to be invited once again to the Napa Model Railroad Club. They are the perfect host. Not only is their club an ideal place to meet, but operating on their layout is an additional treat.

We look forward to the election of officers. At the same time we are thinking of both new and old ways we might increase our membership.

Dave Croshere
RED Director to PCR

To: PCR President Pat LaTorres
From: Jim Providenza, Ballot Chairman
Date: March 20, 2013
Subject: Results of the PCR 2013 Director's Ballot

Pat:

As stated in the Branchline, ballots were due by Friday March 15, 2013. Today, March 20th I have opened and counted the ballots with the following results:

PCR President
Pat LaTorres: 60 votes

PCR Vice President:
Ed Merrin: 60 votes.

Both candidates ran unopposed for reelection; there were no write in candidates. I certify that Pat LaTorres and Ed Merrin have been reelected to their respective positions.

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

Sincerely,

Jim Providenza

Webmaster Report

April 3, 2013, Annual Board Meeting

I, David Grenier, assumed the role of PCR Webmaster on 1/20/13, from Kevin Hurley.

Since assuming my duties as PCR Webmaster, I have started making changes to enhance the website (IMHO), including:

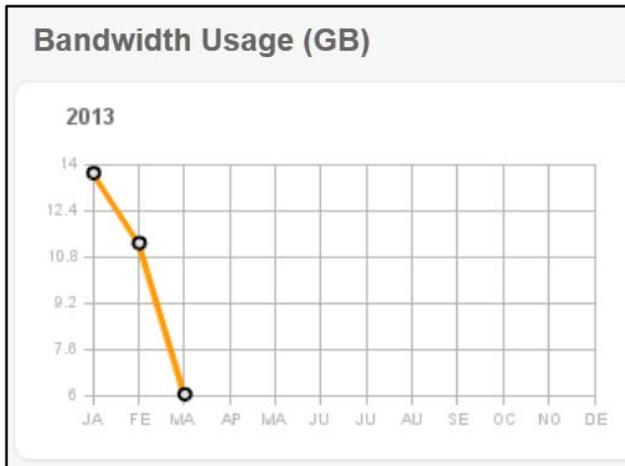
1. Changed fonts to larger 'san serif' fonts instead of 'serif' fonts for improved readability for our aging audience. As has been pointed out several times, we're all getting older! I know my eyes aren't what they used to be.
2. Changed navigation button "Callboard" to "Contact Us", to provide a bit more friendliness. The link still goes to the PCR Callboard PDF file. There is some controversy brewing over personal e-mail addresses appearing on the website.
3. Changed navigation button "Member" to go to new "Welcome" page (<http://www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/membership/members.shtml>) instead of the NMRA website. The new page explains that new NMRA members automatically belong to the division in which they reside. This page also lists the Superintendents of each division with their contact information, including which counties each division encompasses. There is also a link to the PCR Membership Chairman, Doug Wagner, as well as links to the new NMRA membership update form and to the NMRA website membership pages.
4. Added navigation button "Clinics" to go to new "Clinics" page (<http://www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/clinics/clinics.shtml>). This page contains links to some of the clinics presented at the 2013 SIG Meet in San Jose, 01/26/13. (After the Iron Horse Express 2013 convention, some of those clinics will also be added.) There is also a link to the X2011 West website's "Clinic Handouts" page (<http://www.x2011west.org/handouts.html>), which is still averaging about 300 visits per day!
5. Combined "Manual of Operations" and "By-Laws" navigation buttons into one new button, "Documents", to make room for new buttons mentioned above.
6. Re-installed model contest forms files. The previous versions were not "fillable" on some browsers or failed to open on others. All appear to work properly now.
7. Updated the "Branch Line" page with the Branch Line heading graphic and revised the wording on the page, as well as the fonts and alignments.
8. Updated NMRA convention information with the current Peachtree Express information. Updated old NMRA logos to new logo.
9. Revised bottom navigation bar to improve readability by removing brackets around the links, using "bullets" as separators and making the text bigger.

10. Currently updating HTML code throughout website to conform to industry standards and to remove W3C validation errors to ensure an interoperable website over the wide range of browsers.

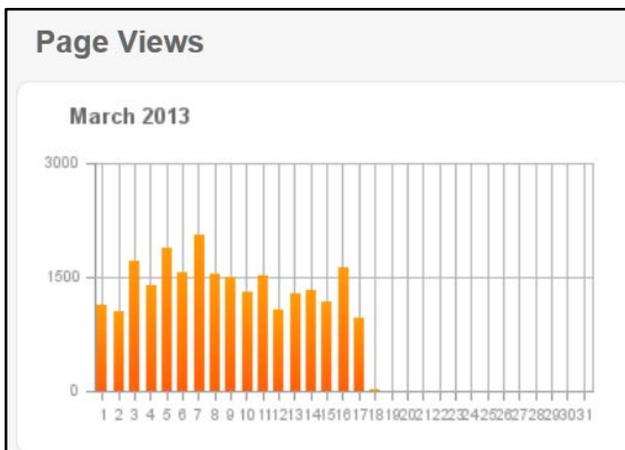
Domain Statistics: (pcnmra.org)

Disk usage: 1.58 GB / Limit 10.00 GB (16.1%)

Bandwidth: 1.14 GB / Limit 20.00 GB (0.6%)



Page views: About 1475 per day average for March 2013



E-mail Statistics

Mailboxes used: 9 of 100
Forwards used: 23 of 100
Mailing Lists used: 1 of 100

Respectfully submitted,
David Grenier, PCR Webmaster

Contest Report

BOD meeting at IHX, Dublin ,Ca. April 3, 2013

By Giuseppe Aymar, PCR Contest manager

1- We are making progress setting up a working " Contest Committee", which is made up of : PCR Contest manager, Convention contact chair and all the Divisions Contest chairmen as the Contest Directory calls for, but not previously fully instituted.

For this Convention we have been able to set up a working relationship where the Division chairmen have been involved in the recruitment of judges from their respective Divisions and working together on dividing responsibilities to run Contest.

2- Six "Ott lights" have been purchased (at a very good price I might add) to be used by the 5 teams during judging . The sixth light is for stand-by in case it is needed.

3- We are also introducing the use of "white cotton gloves" by the captain of each team to handle the models during judging.

4- I am proposing that PCR purchase 5 opti-visors (one per team) to be used by the judges to see finer details (this should help judging of models in the smaller scales like " N " or " Z "). In the past we have relied on individuals to bring their own, and this is very unsatisfactory as we never know how many will be available for use.

5- At the Awards presentation during Banquet, it has been a helpful addition to show the picture of the winning entry on a large screen. In the past Marc Schutzer has been taking the pictures, formatting them in power point and making sure they would be properly displayed when the winners were introduced. Obviously this required a great deal of time and work, negating the ability to taking part of many functions of the Convention. As we no longer have Mark to do this, I will be doing it myself for IHX, I would like to get some suggestions from the Board on how to solve this situation for future Conventions.

6- The Hotel is not really set up to offer a sit down lunch for the judges on Saturday. This situation is being worked on by the Convention Contact person (Dick Foster) and the Convention Committee. As of this writing no new info is available, but the issue will undoubtedly be resolved by the time this BOD convenes . If this becomes a recurrent situation in future Conventions, can I have suggestions, now, on how to reward judges for their time other than a sit down lunch?

7- PCR Contest entry forms do not allow "date" entries. I would ask authorization from the BOD that a line with the "date" be allowed on the form. The reason for this is to make it more official when Contest entry forms are included in the packages for AP as only evidence in lieu of Merit Awards. This was brought up to me by Dave Grenier (AP manager for Daylight Division). He encountered such a situation, and we are trying to fix the oversight for future use.

Thank you for your support and for any possible suggestions to improve what is already a good product PCR offers to its membership.

Joseph Giuseppe Aymar



PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

BOD Meeting
Unfinished Business
As of April 3, 2013

ISSUE: Income Augmentation/Branch Line Costs

Current Issue/Status

The cost of the Branch Line exceeds the \$6 per subscription income we get. We need to identify ways to cover these costs. A committee consisting of Dave Croshere, Mark Schutzer, and Gus Campagna was charged with coming back with a proposed new rate for the Branch Line and the date this new rate will be effective. The rate may not exceed \$12.

History

BOD 2011-05-13 Meeting

Director Alexander asked if we can come up with a way to augment our income. President Plies authorized Pat LaTorres, Carol Alexander and Ray deBlieck to be an ad hoc committee to look into ways to do this.

Tabled Motion re Branch Line Subscription Fees

IT WAS MOVED by Director Houlihan and seconded...

THAT "The subscription fees for the *Branch Line* be raised to \$12/year."

After some discussion it was decided that the previously mentioned ad hoc finance committee should look into this along with other options.

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

THAT the motion be tabled.

THE MOTION PASSED (i.e. the original motion was tabled) by a voice vote.

BOD 2012-05-02 Meeting:

Treasurer Altbaum ... 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.

BOD 2012-10-20 Meeting:

Vice President Merrin will talk to Gus Campagna about coming up with a plan for addressing possible additional income and ways to control expenses.

BOD 2013-04-03 Meeting:

President LaTorres then created a committee consisting of Dave Croshere, Mark Schutzer, and Gus Campagna to come back with a proposal.

Director Deis moved that the above appointed committee determine the new rate for the Branch Line and the date this new rate will be effective. The rate may not exceed \$12. The motion was seconded and passed.

President LaTorres moved to take from the table and reject the tabled motion from the May 13, 2011 meeting that "The subscription fees for the Branch Line be raised to \$12." The motion was approved (i.e. the tabled motion was defeated.)

ISSUE: Hawaiian Division**Current Issue/Status**

We need to decide what to do about the Hawaiian Division. President LaTorres is to write a letter to the members on this.

History**BOD 2012-05-02 Meeting:**

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.

BOD 2013-04-03 Meeting

President LaTorres has been communicating with individual Hawaiian members. There is no resolution at this time.

ISSUE: Membership Brochure**Current Issue/Status**

Dave Croshere, Ed Merrin, and Gus Campagna are a committee to design and produce both recruitment and welcome brochures. They have authorization to spend \$500 to produce them. They have spent roughly 60% of that on the first brochure which is being sent to the divisions.

History**BOD 2010-04-28 Meeting:**

Two brochures were passed around, one in color and one in black and white. Director Houlihan asked the president to investigate options for the brochure with the membership chairman and send a motion to the board for approval.

Director Moore-Campagna stated that she will write some suggestions the board has to Doug and Chuck.

Treasurer Altbaum will also look at other options for printing costs.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Houlihan and seconded...

THAT the Publications Department be authorized to produce a membership brochure in color.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED on a voice vote.

BOD 2012-05-02 Meeting:

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.

BOD 2012-10-20 Meeting:

Director Schutzer moved that we direct the Publications Department to draft one brochure for recruitment and one for welcoming people to PCR. The motion was seconded.

We agreed that Dave Croshere, Ed Merrin and Gus Campagna would be a committee to design the brochures.

Director Schutzer amended his motion to approve \$500 to produce the brochures. The motion was seconded. It was approved unanimously.

BOD 2013-04-03 Meeting:

500 copies of a brochure are in the process of being distributed. They have spent roughly 60% of the \$500 given to them for this purpose, so they still have money left for the second brochure.