



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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 13,
2015 at 1:00 PM DoubleTree by
Hilton
39900 Balentine Drive, Newark, CA**

Minutes

A. QUORUM VERIFICATION / CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM

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 Frank Markovich, proxy for Mark Schutzer

Daylight Division Director Dave Grenier

The following Ex-Officio members were in attendance:

Secretary Lisa Gorrell

Treasurer Larry Altbaum

Others present were:

Publications Chair Gus Campagna

Non-Rail Chair Mary C. Moore-Campagna

Conventions Chair Ray deBlieck

RED member Carol Alexander

NMRA Western Director, Jack Hamilton, MMR

Coast member Bob Ferguson

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

V.P. Ed Merrin moved that the minutes of the October 25, 2014 board meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Mel Jones. The motion passed.

F. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- F.1. President Pat LaTorres submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- F.2. Vice President Ed Merrin submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- F.3. Treasurer Larry Altbaum submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- F.4. The Secretary had no separate report.

G. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- G.1. Daylight Division Director Dave Grenier submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.2. Coast Division Director Mark Schutzer submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.3. Sierra Division Director Mel Jones submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.
- G.4. Redwood Empire Division Director Dave 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
There was no written report.

- Budget. Larry Altbaum has met with Mike Coen, the new prospective treasurer. Dave Croshere moved to accept the Budget. Ed Merrin seconded. Motion carried.
- Bylaws. It was noted that Directors are elected on even years and Officers on odd, yet the bylaws lists both as same. Gus Campagna to work on correction.
- Nominating. Each Director should solicit people to take on their position.
- Honors. No report.
- Storekeeper. This position needs to be filled.
- Audit. Dennis Stokely conducted current audit. No report.

- H.2. Membership Department

Doug Wagner submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

- H.3. Publications Department

Gus Campagna reported that everything is good. Each division has good newsletter editors.

Website – Dave Grenier submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

- H.4. Convention Department – Ray deBlieck reported in person.
2015 – “Club Car”. Made room nights and food/beverage is close.

2016 – Scott McAllister is chair. April 20-24, in Modesto.

2017 – No report. There was some discussion about the rotation and Coast Division’s turn every other year. They would like to be in the even years instead of odd. Also suggestions were made to find clubs, historical societies, etc. to be host. Also, anyone can host a convention in the Coast Division even if the host committee lives outside of the division.

Handbook: Ray and Carol Alexander to work on Convention Manual and can use the NMRA Handbook.

- H.5. Contest Department
Contest Department Manager Giuseppe Aymar submitted a written report which is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

Discussion about his checklist for Contest which he would send to Convention Chairs. This will be discussed in the Handbook Committee.

Discussion around Item #9 in his report where he asked for money for the Contest Expenses. It was felt that the money was already there.

- H.6. Achievement Program Department
There was no report. Dave Connery was announced as a new MMR.

- H.7. Non-Rail
Mary C. Moore-Campagna asked the Division Directors to inquire as to who might be interested in being on the Non-Rail committee. She also reported that Sally Bird was very ill and would not be here this year.

I. OTHER REPORTS

There were no other reports.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- J.1. Convention Manual Revision
Carol Alexander reported that she will start a draft and send out for comments. She would like feedback from previous Chairs. Pat LaTorres would also like to be on the committee.
- J.2. PCR Logo
The committee did not have something to propose yet, but shared some possible examples.
- J.3 Joint PSR/PCR Convention
Ray deBlieck stated the 2019 Convention will be the 75th anniversary of PCR. We could have a Fall Convention jointly with PSR, perhaps in Bakersfield.

K. NEW BUSINESS

K.1. Expenditures

Dave Croshere brought up an idea on how to attract younger members. His thought was to have a pilot program where the new prospective member's membership fee would be picked up by: Division 25%, Region 25%, and NMRA match at 50%. It was suggested he speak with Jack Hamilton and bring back to the board.

K.2. FormSite.com Account

Dave Grenier discussed the FormSite.com account that he is using for online registration for conventions and the LD/OP SIGS regional meets. We are currently using the Pro-1 level with only one user. At the next level, we can have 5 additional users. Other divisions could then use this program. Dave Grenier moved to upgrade FormSite.com from the Pro-1 to Pro-2 service level, paid annually. Dave Croshere seconded. Motion carried.

L. ANNOUNCEMENTS

L.1. Jack Hamilton announced that he wanted to talk to people during the convention about the NMRA.

L.2. Next Board of Directors meeting will be on Saturday, October 10, 2015, at 1:00 PM at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Modesto, California.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Director Dave Croshere moved that we adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa S. Gorrell
PCR Secretary
5/30/15



PACIFIC COAST REGION

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Board of Director's Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 1 p.m.
DoubleTree by Hilton, 9900 Balentine Drive, Newark, CA 94560

REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MAY 13, 2015, ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

After four years, I finally come to my last "President's Report" and I arrive with mixed feelings. On the one hand, it's kind of nice to get a bit of my time back for my personal use – all of those modeling projects that have been put to the side, so I could focus on matters which I felt were important to the NMRA, both on the regional and the national level. On the other side, I find that I will miss some of the hands-on involvement in the day-to-day life of our region – until my wife makes it clear that there is another life to be lived. It has been a wonderful and exciting journey from when I first stepped up as a candidate for the region's Vice President, just over eight years ago, that I would not trade for anything! With this report, I will be taking a look back at both the past six months and the past eight years. So I ask you to exercise some patience as I wander through this.

First on my list is that we have a committee which has been considering and from whom I have heard hints is prepared to present a new PCR logo for the board to consider. From what I've seen, these folks have really put a lot of effort and lots of creative juices into this project and I am very excited to see what they will be bringing us. As Ron Plies said several years ago, "This is not your father's NMRA" and the new logo is but one step in that direction. More on this under Unfinished Business.

The second item on my list is that the PCR has taken yet another step towards becoming an all-inclusive organization. For years there were rumors of a rift between some of the special focus groups within the hobby and the NMRA. Well, this year, with the approval of the region's board, we will be taking one more step towards bridging one of these perceived gaps. Much as the PCR has stepped up as a co-sponsor of the annual LD/OPSIG meet, we now have the potential to step into the same relationship with the Railroad Prototype Modelers. With the board's approval, the PCR will become a cosponsor of the 2015 Bay Area Prototype Modelers (BAPM) Meet. After talking with the meet organizers, I have agreed (again, with the board's approval) to be the primary point of contact between this group and the region and if things go as we're hoping, I will be asking the board to consider making the same sort of open ended commitment that we have with the LD/OPSIG folks going forward. The establishment of this relationship with the RPM group has been one of my strongest wishes since I first got involved with the region's operations.

The next step will be to build stronger and more public relationships between the PCR and the narrow gauge, the N scale and the garden railway communities. Within the PCR, I have always felt that we have had a strong and healthy interaction with all of these groups. But, we need to try and figure out how we can use this local action to move onto the national level. While I have some ideas, I'm pretty sure that I don't have all of the answers and this will be an opportunity for Ed, Carol, the Board of Directors AND the rest of the membership going forward. The key here is that we need to work actively to encourage cooperation between the PCR and these various modeling groups within the region. While we may not be in a position to direct where and how the NMRA on a national level interacts with these groups, we absolutely have control over how the region does and may in that manner influence what happens at national.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Frank Markovich, MMR and Mike Blumensadt for the work they have done with the Building a Memory program at train shows in the Coast Division. When the program was first introduced, Charlie Getz had a grand vision for the program, but there was really no actual process in place for implementing it. Over the past year Frank and Mike have really taken the project and run with it, turning it into something which might be grown into an effective promotional tool, both for the hobby in general and for the local NMRA regions and/or divisions in particular. Other regions have also done some work on this program, so we are in a position to share what does and what does not work. My hope is that through these efforts something with a bit more structure can be put in place across the NMRA and I would ask that the region extend whatever support that might be needed as this moves forward. This might also be something which can be brought to 21st Century Limited for their support, once there is a structured business plan in place.

Which brings me to 21st Century Limited and the region's relationship with that organization. Things have taken a major step in the correct direction from where we were eight years ago. As of right now, I am the current PCR representative on their board of directors and it will be Ed's decision if that status is to remain in place, or if he chooses to assign another PCR representative. There are some projects under development that I will leave for Ray to speak to as appropriate – but I will say that things have not gone dormant.

We have had to take a look at our regional conventions, last year and this year may be highlighting some of these concerns. The point being that we need to take a look at our current convention practices and see where things will be going as we move forward. This will be some sort of evolution, as opposed to a revolutionary change, but change will need to be considered. But this is an opportunity that will need to be reviewed by those taking over the reins of the region.

Over the past eight years, we have updated the PCR's contest rules, we have taken steps to make the PCR a more inclusive organization, we hosted what was arguably one of the best national conventions of the past fourteen years, we worked with one of our neighboring regions to put on a great "super regional" convention, we have taken action as a region that has helped influence action at the national level – in short, we have helped show that what happens at the local level can and should help direct where the national organization goes. While these are early steps in the process, these early steps need to be taken before the regions can drive the national organization – but the early steps have been taken.

Finally, I will speak to one area that still concerns me, the involvement of the general membership in running of the region. While those that are actually involved with our region's administration are dedicated and enthusiastic in their support of the PCR, unfortunately we have a problem that seems fairly common across many organizations – the same folks always seem to be doing everything. This may be the biggest challenge facing the PCR board going forward, getting some new faces involved. It took me almost four years to find a replacement for our Treasurer and that was touch an go for a while. There are so many positions that are vacant in our call board listing, that really need some attention. From the other side, we have members saying that the NMRA is not doing anything or is stuck in the past, but getting these same folks to step up and provide some direction is a study in frustration.

If anyone knows of someone with ideas on how to move us forward, please encourage them to get on board. Then we need to support them and their possibly unconventional ideas to see if they might work. Just because it is “not how I would do it” is not a valid reason to block a concept. If we don't try it, I can guarantee that it won't work! Until we give an idea a fair chance, we won't know how well it will finish. That is a challenge that I leave for the region's board as I step down. This group has proven to be willing to not only look outside the box, but to look on a totally different shelf for “the box”. I firmly believe that we have the people in place to provide the guidance needed to move the region forward, but we need to start brining up those that will be in leadership positions in the future right now. I have faith in the board and now the membership needs to provide some support and faith as well.

I'm sure that there are things that I have missed and we may hit on them later on in this meeting – or not.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat LaTorres, President, PCR/NMRA

Vice President's Report

April 6, 2015

To the Board of Directors:

This is my final report to the Board as PCR Vice-President. Let me begin by stating what a privilege it has been to serve with you all the last four years and watch as your individual talents and know how have kept this fine organization going.

Being PCR VP is a bit like being a VP anywhere, without a clearly defined role other than providing backup and being earmarked for special assignments of one kind or another. It certainly is possible to hide in the woodwork and just attend the required two BOD meetings each year.

My focus throughout has been to grapple with questions about the future of NMRA and PCR, in particular whether there will be enough interest and involvement from the generations behind us to continue on. And if not, exactly how will it all end?

Only a few years ago the subject of our aging membership was not front and center like it is now. You might say there was the hope that there was really nothing to be worried about and that somehow it was going to work out without anything being changed. A variant of this attitude surfaces now again, pretty much blaming the younger generations because they don't like to join, they prefer sitting in front of a computer rather than engaging in social activities, they need to have instant gratification, and so on. So why bother with them?

That kind of stuff, by the way, makes my eyes roll up. It reminds me of my mother telling me how she had to walk x number of miles in the snow to school growing up in Belleville, Illinois. This was to shame us softies who were driven to school in cars. There is nothing wrong with those that are following us but they are not and shouldn't be carbon copies of us. Heaven forbid. Besides, who are we to talk. Isn't there a significant amount of geek type asocial behavior in all of us train nerds?

Fortunately, confronted with actual data the notion that we are an aging group is widely accepted, as is the need to attract "younger" modelers (e.g., under 55 or so) who aren't busy shuttling in and out of orthopedic surgery. In fact, there have been increasing numbers of ideas and constructive suggestions on how to make the NMRA more "relevant" in the 21st Century. Many of these are happening here in the PCR, including partnering with Sig groups, Prototype Modelers, and modular groups without insisting that NMRA membership is required. I understand that the outside modeling community is rife with negative attitudes about NMRA, that it is overloaded with politics, condescending to those with interests other than HO scale (what?), and so on. Hopefully these new efforts will dispel these ideas and make NMRA a more attractive option to more people.

Respectfully,

Ed Merrin

Vice-President, PCR

**PACIFIC COAST REGION of the
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION**

Treasurer's Report

April 26, 2015

The financial trend over the last few years has continued unabated. That is, our expenses continue to exceed our operating income. The change made to the BranchLine subscription rates is being realized (almost a \$1,400 increase over last year), and I expect it to continue upward so long as subscribers renew. On the other hand, the rebate from National continues to decrease, a reflection of a loss in membership. Printing and postage rates do continue to increase. This year the income statement indicates a loss of about \$30 as opposed to a \$1,200-plus loss last year. The proposed revised budget attempts to recognize these factors, and is presented for the Board's approval.

Beyond those comments, our financial position has not really changed. We do have sufficient resources to maintain our programs, and I do not see the need to make significant changes. That said, however, we should do all we can to increase our membership and increase our income.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. In the meantime, should there be any questions or comments, please contact me at 510-912-1076 (Cell) or at emerbaum@msn.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Altbaum

PCR Treasurer

Pacific Coast Region - NMRA Budget

	Adopted 2014 Bud.	Actual 2014	Variance	Initial 2015	Revised 2015
Operating Income					
Life Interest	40.00	29.42	(10.58)	30.00	30.00
BL Subscriptions	3,800.00	5,044.83	1,244.83	4,400.00	4,800.00
From Nat'l	2,000.00	1,913.00	(87.00)	1,850.00	1,875.00
Other	400.00	17.00	(383.00)	400.00	400.00
Bank Interest	50.00	43.37	(6.63)	45.00	45.00
Total Income	6,290.00	7047.62	757.62	6,725.00	7,150.00
Operating Expense					
Operations					
Member Services	50.00	0.00	(50.00)	50.00	50.00
Member Promo.	75.00	0.00	(75.00)	150.00	75.00
Achievement	225.00	198.27	(26.73)	200.00	200.00
Supplies	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	100.00	100.00
Bank Charges	10.00	0.00	(10.00)	10.00	10.00
Fees & Taxes	20.00	0.00	(20.00)	20.00	20.00
Accounting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Branchline					
Printing	5,100.00	5,282.99	182.99	5,400.00	5,400.00
Postage	1,300.00	1,310.14	10.14	1,350.00	1,300.00
Use Tax	400.00	281.71	(118.29)	450.00	400.00
Other	450.00	410.07	(39.93)	250.00	450.00
Division Support	950.00	945.00	(5.00)	950.00	950.00
Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Web Page	240.00	239.40	(0.60)	250.00	240.00
Awards	350.00	0.00	(350.00)	350.00	350.00
Misc.	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	100.00	100.00
Total Expense	9,370.00	8,667.58	8,667.58	9,630.00	9,645.00
Operating Excess/Deficit	(3,080.00)	(1,619.96)	1,460.04	(2,905.00)	(2,495.00)
Convention Income					
Conv. Exc.		1,591.00	1,591.00		
Total Income		1591.00	1591.00		0.00
Convention Expense					
Total Expense		0.00	0.00		0.00
Convention Exc/Def		1,591.00	1,591.00		0.00
<u>Total Excess/Deficit</u>	(3,080.00)	(28.96)	---	(2,905.00)	(2,495.00)

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Income Statement**

	12 Months Ended Mar/15 =====	12 Months Ended Mar/14 =====	Variance Fav/<Unf> =====	% Var =====
Income				
PCR NMRA Rebate	1,913.00	2,001.00	-88.00	-4.40%
PCR BL Subscriptions	5,044.83	3,674.14	1,370.69	37.30%
Convention Proceeds	1,591.00	1,676.03	-85.03	-5.10%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Income	8,548.83	7,351.17	1,197.66	16.30%
	-----	-----	-----	
Expenses				
				100.00
Supplies - Operations	0.00	30.67	30.67	%
Supplies - Achiev. Prog.	198.27	0.00	-198.27	
Postage - Branchline	1,310.14	970.53	-339.61	-35.00%
Printing - Branchline	5,282.99	5,099.37	-183.62	-3.60%
				100.00
Printing - Member Promo.	0.00	118.75	118.75	%
				100.00
Awards - President	0.00	406.07	406.07	%
NMRA Division Rebates	945.00	989.00	44.00	4.40%
Use Tax - Branchline	281.71	199.44	-82.27	-41.30%
Web Services	239.40	219.44	-19.96	-9.10%
Misc. Expenses - Branchline	410.07	645.91	235.84	36.50%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Expenses	8,667.58	8,679.18	11.60	0.10%
	-----	-----	-----	
OPERATING PROFIT	-118.75	-1,328.01	1,209.26	91.10%
	-----	-----	-----	
Other Income & Expenses				
Life Interest	29.42	36.97	-7.55	-20.40%
Convention Interest	43.37	53.03	-9.66	-18.20%
Misc. Income - Operations	17.00	0.00	17.00	
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Other Income & Expenses	89.79	90.00	-0.21	-0.20%
	-----	-----	-----	
PROFIT BEFORE TAXES	-28.96	-1,238.01	1,209.05	97.70%
	-----	-----	-----	
NET PROFIT	-28.96	-1,238.01	1,209.05	97.70%
	=====	=====	=====	=====

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Balance Sheet**

	3/31/2015 =====	3/31/2014 =====	Inc/<Dec> =====Var=====	% ==Var==
ASSETS				
Current Assets:				
Cash				
General Checking	\$5,906.57	\$5,857.26	\$49.31	0.80%
Convention Checking	40,374.58	44,334.79	-3,960.21	-8.90%
Life Savings	29,534.60	29,501.60	33.00	0.10%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Cash	75,815.75	79,693.65	-3,877.90	-4.90%
	-----	-----	-----	
Convention Adv. Recv.	6,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00	200.00%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Current Assets	81,815.75	81,693.65	122.10	0.10%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$81,815.75	\$81,693.65	\$122.10	0.10%
	=====	=====	=====	
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities:				
HOBO Payable	\$367.26	\$216.20	\$151.06	69.90%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL Current Liabilities		216.20	151.06	69.90%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	367.26	216.20	151.06	69.90%
	-----	-----	-----	
CAPITAL				
Retained Earnings	81,477.45	82,715.46	-1,238.01	-1.50%
Year-to-Date Earnings	-28.96	-1,238.01	1,209.05	97.70%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL CAPITAL	81,448.49	81,477.45	-28.96	0.00%
	-----	-----	-----	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	\$81,815.75	\$81,693.65	\$122.10	0.10%
	=====	=====	=====	



The Daylight Division held two meets since the 2014 mid-year Board of Directors meeting. The Fall Meet was held on a cold, foggy Saturday, November 15, at the Exeter Scout Shack, across the street from the San Joaquin Valley Railroad shops. The day started off with a hearty railroad breakfast of French toast, bacon, home-fried red skin potatoes, fresh fruit, coffee, juice, and milk, prepared by our host and Dining Car Chef Brewster Bird. After breakfast, he presented a ballasting workshop, with just about everyone else sharing their own techniques and thoughts on the process. One of our newer members, Bo Hammerling, displayed his module depicting Swedish narrow-gauge railroading. Bo's detail work was exquisite and a departure from the American railroads we usually see at the meets. Several other members brought models for show and tell, but none for contest judging. After the regular meet, Superintendent Neil Fernbaugh held an impromptu meeting to plan next year's meets in advance and to finally revise our outdated by-laws, typed and published in 1983.

The Winter Meet was held Saturday, February 21, at HobbyTown USA in Fresno. MMR Chuck Harmon presented a clinic about operations on his HO scale San Joaquin Central to introduce Daylighters to his car card system and operations in preparation for an afternoon operating session/layout tour. Bob Pethoud then gave us a clinic on building and operating his HO scale Fall Creek Branch portable switching layout. Bob showed us the full gamut of the hobby, from layout design to operations, and everything in between. In addition to Chuck and Bob's layouts, John Houlihan also opened his 36' x 48' O scale layout, modeling the AT&SF yards in Fresno.

On Saturday, December 6th, we held our 7th Annual Holiday Layout Tour in the Fresno/Clovis area. There were 9 layouts, ranging from Z to O scale, open to members of the community, especially families. About 100 people showed up to see the model railroads up close and even run a train. Coordinator Gary Saxton did his usual great job putting it all together. Unfortunately, the 2015 tour is in jeopardy, as Gary is contemplating retirement and leaving the area. He held the last op session on his N scale layout in March and has started dismantling it.

With the convention in mid-May, we decided to move our Spring Meet, usually held mid-May, up to April 25th. After losing two venues due to circumstances beyond our control, we cancelled the meet altogether after two restaurants in Bakersfield closed their doors to us. One of them, Coco's, closed their doors to everyone and went out of business! Despite the valiant efforts of Doug Wagner and Mike O'Brien, a replacement venue could not be located, so the meet was annulled. The next Daylight Division meet will be Saturday, August 1, at the Oceano Depot in San Luis Obispo County.

Contest Chair, Chuck Harmon, MMR, developed a 2-year rotational schedule for our model and photo contest categories through February 2017, based on the PCR Contest Directory and posted on Daylight's "Contests" webpage. No excuse now for not knowing what contest categories are next.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Grenier
Director, PCR Daylight Division

Coast Division Report
PCR Board Meeting – May 13, 2015
Fremont

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 the Elks club in Alameda.

We seem to have resolved the issue of meeting sites in the short term. We now have two stable sites, the BSA HQ and the Alameda Elks club that we can alternate between. Buchser School continues to be unavailable for the next couple of years as the gym building has been torn down and is being rebuilt. While we are always looking for more meeting sites having a couple of stable sites makes things a lot easier

Attendance at the meets is in the range of 80 to 100 people. The Coast Auction has had 400 to 500 items the last couple of meets so it is covering the cost of the meet and making some positive income. Since the change to an electronic dispatcher a couple of years ago the financial situation continues to be in the black as the income from the meets exceeds our expenses. The Coast Division has something in the area of \$24k in the bank account.

Coast Division continues to look for volunteers to man a whole host of positions. One of the biggest challenges continues to find enough volunteers to fill all the positions. In many positions the same folks have been doing the same job for a long time and folks are getting burned out. Frank Markovich has been filling in for a lot of these positions. Frank recently has had some success in filling positions as we have a new clinics chair, a new webmaster, and a new chief clerk.

Coast continues to man a table at all the local train shows and Frank has been demonstrating the “Build a memory layout” at the last few shows. The recruiting efforts are paying off as we had what must be a record of 13 first timers at the March meet.

Mark Schutzer
Coast Division Director



DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Sierra Division - May 13, 2015

I. The Sierra Division has had two meets since the last BOD Meeting held in Newark.

1. First meet of the year was held January 31st in Sacramento. We met at 9 AM at Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society Club for an operating session on their HO layout. We had a lunch break and regrouped at the First Christian Church on Folsom Blvd. for our meeting. Gary Ray resigned as Editor and Chip Meriam agreed to replace him. Previous minutes by Jim Firehock were read and approved. Al Rowe's financial report stated that we are in good financial shape. Scott McAllister reported on Rail Fair and the 2016 Convention in Modesto. A clinic, Modeling Sugar Beet Loads, was given by Scott Inman. It covered the history and evolution of the cars, processing and hauling. Dave Bayless brought some very nice pre-1937 SP box cars for show and tell.

January Contest Results: Weathered Locomotive--Jim Collins, 1st, no other entries. Photo--Phil Simpson, 1st and 2nd, Chip Meriam and Gary Ray tied for 3rd. Contest in Modesto on May 2nd will be Non-Revenue Cars and Black and white photos. The Reno contest on August 1st will be for buildings, kit or scratch built, and black and white or color photos. Meeting was adjourned.

2. On May 2nd we held our second meet *in* Modesto. We gathered at Tom Milaros for a tour and operating on his HO layout at 10 AM. After a lunch break we met at Sovereign Grace Baptist Church for our business meeting at 1 PM. Jim Collins opened the meeting, minutes were read and approved and financial report was given. Scott McAllister and Jim Collins reported on the progress of the 2016 Convention in Modesto. We had a quiz on steam engine name to wheel configuration. There was a clinic by Chip Meriam on scratch building a water pump station. It was well done with handouts. There was another clinic on static grass applicators by a person from Coast Division, but I did not note the name. (Apologies.) The contests were moved to the August 1st meeting in Reno at Sierra Valley Library. Our October meet will be in Chico.

Door prizes were drawn and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Jones

REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

MAY 2015

The RED has had a couple of relatively good quarterly meets. We continue to emphasize Show and Tell as well as operation strategies and both seem to be well received. Attendance has stayed about the same for all meetings

RED is very fortunate to have access to Monroe Hall in Santa Rose. For our meeting needs it is almost perfect. It is always clean with an open space and with sufficient notice is readily available. We can set up one room with tables and benches for simple meetings and or eating. For the eating we have to thank Mary Moore Campagna for making available sandwiches, cookies, coffee and cokes. The other room can be set up with chairs, video equipment, a screen and whatever else is needed. Its only drawback is the location. It is so convenient to the greatest portion of our members that we don't move around the "Empire" as much as we should.

A group of modelers in the Santa Rosa area is splitting off from a DC modular club. They want to be 100% DCC modular. They also are requiring their members be 100% NMRA members. This requirements is so they can satisfy the NMRA insurance stipulation. Their modular HO format is a somewhat new idea for our area and one that should become quite successful as it allows folks without a large room to experience our hobby.

We open this new RED term with a new Superintendent and a new, although past, Chief Clerk. Peter Barnes has agreed to lead the RED as Superintendent and Ed Zakareckis will be Chief Clerk again. We thank them for stepping up to these tasks and wish them well in office.

The RED is also honored to have Ed Merrin to serve as the new PCR President for the upcoming term and to have Carol Alexander to serve as the new Vice President. Both are long term RED members and have served in various capacities over the years. To think they got their start with us. Gosh.

Dave Croshere

Director RED / PCR

PCR Membership Department Report

May 13, 2015

The PCR membership statistics for the past 6 months, September 30, 2014 to March 31, 2015, looks like this:

Membership on September 30, 2014 – 1,005

Membership on March 31, 2015 – 996

Deceased – 3

New Members – 27 (this figure includes 8 Rail Pass)

Did not renew membership – 33

As you can see, we continue to lose more members, but we aren't the only ones as this seems to be occurring throughout the NMRA, except for a few regions and divisions.

But there is some good news. Does Rail Pass work? Apparently it does in the PCR. So, that I could get a full-year snap shot of Rail Pass membership, I took the time-frame of September 30, 2013 to September 13, 2014. We had 26 people sign on under the Rail Pass membership. Out of that 26, we retained 15 as Regular members. I don't know if that means that we might want to push the Rail Pass, but it seems to work whereas regular membership retention programs haven't. But that is My Own Humble Opinion.

It appears that all PCR divisions are doing all that they can to retain and recruit new members, but there is only so much that you can do and as the saying goes, "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make them drink."

Sorry that I don't have better news as far as membership goes. Also sorry, I could not be in attendance, but am enroute to the convention as you read this.

Doug Wagner

Membership Department Manager

Webmaster Report

May 13, 2015, Annual Board Meeting

The PCR website has been maintained as it has been since the last report, with some enhancements and additions. The “Home” page was redesigned to accommodate links to PCR’s new Facebook and Twitter pages. The “boxes” were removed in favor of a cleaner look, with the Branch Line, social media and Master Calendar links above the fold. Links to the PCR and NMRA conventions and website are below the fold.

The PCR Master Calendar page was redesigned to have the same “look and feel” as the rest of the website. The new page uses improved and easier-to-maintain industry-standard XHTML. I had been using Microsoft FrontPage, which generated extremely poor HTML that was difficult to read and understand, making it a nightmare to maintain.

The “PCR Links” page was updated with the new division logos from Russ Clover. In addition, a new “Modeling Links” section was added to handle links to modeling sites. Also added were “QwikLinks” at the top of the page to go directly to the various sections on the page for improved navigation.

The “Modeling Links” section was added in response to an e-mail I received from Kayla Russell of the Children’s Cancer Center of Newark, New Jersey, on behalf of some of the kids at the center. She told me the kids had been using the “PCR Links” page as a resource for modeling projects and found it to be “Awesome!” As a thank you, they sent me a link to the website “Protecting your Model Cars – Trains – and Planes.” She said the kids would be excited if they could see their link on our website. I didn’t really have a place to put it, so I created the new section. She rewarded them with a pizza party for me posting their link on the PCR website. I’ve been working with her for the past two years, adding similar links to the X2011 website. The Compton (California) Community Center also provided me a link on the history of the Transcontinental Railroad for the X2011 website.

Domain Statistics: (pcrnmra.org)



Account Statistics	
	Used/Limit
Disk Usage	3.44 GB / 200.00 GB
FTP Users	3
Bandwidth	16.47 GB / 2.00 TB

E-mail Statistics

Mailboxes used: 6 of 100

Forwards used: 49 of 100

Respectfully submitted,

David Grenier, PCR Webmaster

Contest Report

May 2015 BOD meeting

I would like to propose some changes as to the way we prepare for our annual PCR convention as it affects our preparation for Contest.

It seems that every year I need to hunt to get the names of the Convention Committee. I found the directory for this year's Convention Committee in the Convention Web page. Great! However, the e-mail addresses for the Committee members are not active or the members themselves are not aware of these e-mail addresses.

It also seems that every year the Committee is unaware that they have to fund Contest; namely replacing the awards inventory and paying for the judges' lunch.

I am proposing that the BOD gives careful consideration to have a written and detailed step by step agenda that the Convention Committee has to follow and check off.

Example:

Item 9- Contest

1- Contact the PCR Contest manager (active-mail@XXX) and inform him (her) of the name and e-mail address of the Treasurer so bills can be paid. Not only for awards but also for supplies to restock the registration desk.

2- Inform the PCR Contest Manager who is the Convention Contest chair. Name and e-mail address.

3- Convention budget should include Contest's expenses, usually totaling around \$650.00-

These three steps will undoubtedly make for a smoother working environment and would alleviate last minute budget surprises.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

With gratitude

Joseph Giuseppe Aymar, MMR

PCR Contest Manager