



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

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Coast Rails 2014

April 30 to May 4, 2014

By Terry N Taylor, Convention Treasurer



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San Luis Obispo in the springtime is a nice time for a family vacation. From Hearst Castle a few miles to the north to the local beaches in an area that is heavy with railroad history, we have something in our small college town atmosphere that should appeal to every member of your family. Dorothy Deis (at cr2014nonrail@pcrnmra.org) is making sure that there will be plenty for both your significant other and the rest of your family to enjoy whether it is sight seeing, playing golf, shopping, enjoying the many local wineries in some very picturesque surroundings, going to one our beaches, or just sitting back and enjoying the company of others in our hospitality room. You just may want to go on some of the activities yourself. For sure you will want to take in the farmers market on Thursday night. Since this is a college town and

Iron Horse Express Has Left the Station

by Dennis Stokely, Chairman,
PCR 2013 Convention

The Iron Horse Express, train IHX 2013, pulled into Dublin, California on April third with 250 passengers aboard. The passenger list included, 48 first time riders, 2 minors and 26 spouses, or as



the market is on the main streets of downtown San Luis Obispo, it is not your ordinary every day farmers' market.

Those of you who were here for our last convention in 2001 will probably remember the great time you had then. Well, our town is still the same with that same easy-going laid-back viewpoint. The same people who put on that 2001 convention have been again 'volunteered' to put on another where we will try to make you feel as happy, relaxed and comfortable



sometimes called non-rails. The rest were just good ole boy regulars. Before departing on April 7th the group indulged themselves in a

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Iron Horse Express (Cont.)

variety of local activities.

Some went back in time to ride a steam train on the nearby Niles Canyon Railway, while others went futuristic with a tour of the Lawrence Livermore Lab's Particle Accelerator and other space age toys. Other side trips included visits to Tao House (Eugene O'Neil's former residence), rides on speeders, a hop of quilt shops and visits to one or more of over 40 home or club model railroads.

In addition to the off-site layouts there were five on site in the station, also known as the Holiday Inn. Although, in the interest of full disclosure we must admit one of the layouts was actually OUTSIDE of the station in the back parking lot. The stationmaster/hotel manager objected to pulling a garden railroad on a trailer inside. Also available at the Holiday Inn Station, were 65 clinics, an awards banquet, a model contest, the time-saver and a swap meet.

Three of the aforementioned clinics were hands-on workshops covering photography, scenery construction and building a track turnout. Many clinic presentations were on the LD-Ops Sig track discussing various aspects of how to design and operate a layout. Others covered Decoders, Logging, Lighting, Rail-fanning, how to identify Hazardous Materials markings, and a host of other topics. There were even talks about the history of local railroads.

The awards banquet honored not only the Contest winners but also the recipients of the John Allen Award, the PCR President's Award and the Division Superintendent's awards. In

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Coast Rails 2014 (Cont.)

as you were last time. We have lined up more layouts, more activities, and more chances to get together with both old friends and new ones while keeping the prices as low as we can.

Registration will start at 9 AM Wednesday 30 April with the first of many clinics (that are being scheduled by Bruce Morden & John H o u l i h a n a t cr2014clinics@pcrnra.org) starting at 10:30. This time, in addition to the normal type convention clinics, we will be offering six Modeling with the Masters Clinics. Special note here: ***These clinics are not open clinics. You must have a ticket and pay a materials fee to attend. You may do so when you register for the***



Paul Deis's Garden Ry (he also has an indoor HO layout of Southern Pacific on the central Coast)

convention or, if already registered, on the "Company Store" page. Attendance is limited to 18 participants for each clinic so be warned as we expect them to fill up before the convention.

Each session lasts 2½ to 5 hours and starts with a workshop, followed by a hands-on session where you will actually build a model aided by Master Model Railroader Clark Kooning. He will assist you, answer your questions and share his modeling expertise,

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Iron Horse Express (Cont.)

addition to the awards presentations, and comments by the NMRA President, local historian and curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Beverly Lane, entertained us with tales of the building of railroads in the Valley before the arrival of BART.

There were two notable breakfasts during IHX 2013's stay in Dublin. In addition to the breakfast that was held in conjunction with the PCR's Annual Meeting, a group calling themselves Hobos ran off to the local IHOP on Saturday morning. The Hobos are an exclusive group. All are members that have attended a convention outside of the PCR, but being the outgoing bunch that they are, they'll let anybody crash their party as an invited guest. If you have never joined them you may want to do so next year. You may also want to consider the PCR meeting and breakfast.

Speaking of next year, the Iron Horse Express has already left the station using the Coast Rails to Hadley Junction. It is only 257 miles from Dublin to San Luis Obispo and with 388 days to cover it, you should be able to catch up to a train that isn't even to Santa Cruz as of this writing. So go online now and register. 🚂

For additional IHX 2013 stories see Banquet Awards on page 13 and Contest Report on page 15.

Coast Rails 2014 (Cont.)

skills and techniques. When the session is finished, you will be able to take your project home. Another note: Tools are the participant's responsibility. Materials, paints, and adhesives are included in the cost of the clinics and will be provided.



Jeff Parker of Central Valley Works Northern Pacific (Northern Pacific layout "Logan, Montana" built by the late Jack Parker and being carried on with construction of "Livingston, Montana" by; Jeff & Heather Parker, Dave Coster, & Tim Runnels)

Tool lists will be available about six months before the convention.



The Bitter Creek & Western outdoor layout

These special clinics are "Building a Laser Structure Kit" in N or HO scale; "Scratch Building in Styrene" in N, HO, S & O scales; "learning to Build a Dpm Kit Properly" in N or HO scale; "Building a Turnout Using Fast Tracks" (24 spaces in this class) and having the opportunity to have it looked over for the NMRA Achievement Program; "Scratch Building a Cattle Ramp" in HO scale only; and "Scratch

Building a Puddle Jumper Bridge" in HO Scale only.

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Coast Rails 2014 (Cont.)

During that afternoon, there will be a tour from San Luis Obispo to Paso Robles via the Cuesta Grade (side note here - those who understand a bit of Spanish will realize this is repetitive as Cuesta means grade) via Amtrak Coast Starlight and return by bus. This railroad right of way was the final connection between Los Angeles and San Francisco for the Southern Pacific and it has several features worth your time to see. Karl Hovinitz (our Outside Activities Chair at cr2014outside@pcrnmra.org) is putting together a list of many different tours to attract your interest.



The Southern Pacific Depot at Oceano

That evening you will have a choice of more clinics and/or viewing the first three of the scheduled layout tours. Robert Chaparro (at chiefbobbb@verizon.net) is setting up the layout tours and Rick Anderson (who is also putting together the timetable at cr2014layouts@pcrnmra.org) will again make sure that you have the proper maps to find them.

There will be operating sessions at several of these layouts. All registrants, layout tour hosts, ops session hosts and crews for the Coast Rails 2014 Convention are eligible to participate in these ops sessions, with the



Andrew Merriam's Southern Pacific in San Luis Obispo area

intention that many who normally do not participate in these structured operating events will take advantage of this open enrollment to try it. No previous experience is necessary, just a desire to run a model railroad as if it were a real transportation system. Again, this is open to all. All layout tours and operating sessions are self-guided, with carpooling encouraged.

Of course there will also be contests. Matt Hoffman (at cr2014contests@pcrnmra.org) is looking for volunteers to help judge and provide security for the contest entries. Speaking of volunteers, Karen Keifer (our Volunteer coordinator at cr2014volcoord@pcrnmra.org) is looking for some people to help us in the following areas: Registration Desk, Clinic Hosts, Contest Room, Contest Judges, Switching Contest, Swap Meet & Non-Rails Hospitality Room.

One change that you should be aware of: Saturday will not be at the Santa Margarita Ranch as the facility can not promise to have its outdoor steam layout in full operation for our convention. Instead we will have the Hobo Breakfast headed up by Rod Smith our Hobo-In-Charge (at cr2014hobos@pcrnmra.org), a swap meet, more clinics and tours including not only a bus tour of the Pacific Coast Railway but you can also visit the

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President's Message

By Pat LaTorres, President, PCR/NMRA

Well, the Editor's deadline is again staring me in the face and I seem to be playing catch up to beat the clock. I'm hoping to hit on a few different subjects in this column, so please be patient if it seems like I'm sort of bouncing around. It's been a pretty busy few months since the convention, so I'm still trying to get things in some sort of order. The weekend after the convention, the California Central Coast On30 modular group once again



invited the Yosemite Short Line group to join them for an On30 extravaganza, setting up in the main hall at Roaring Camp for three days (Fri.- Sun.), to help open Roaring Camp's summer season. Like last year, there was a pretty good crowd of public attendees, so we had lots of opportunity to spread the model railroad gospel. It was kind of fun talking with the Roaring Camp engine crews and they spent quite a bit of time enjoying our railroads. As a bonus, they grabbed a couple of the On30 modelers and "forced" them to ride in the cab up the mountain and

back – the sacrifices some have to make for our hobby! The week after that I had yet another opportunity to operate on Rick Fortin's wonderful railroad. A great operating session with some true and good friends. For the last weekend, Ronnie and I decided (at the last minute) to take off for Yosemite, so I could try and get some "moonbow" (a rainbow by moonlight in the mist at the base of the falls) photos at Yosemite falls. Something that I've been trying to get since 1973. This also happened to be my first time back in the park in over 21 years. I got the photos! As an added bonus, we got to visit some areas along the route of the actual Yosemite Short Line on the way in and then on the way out, we got to follow along the right of way of the Yosemite Valley Railroad between El Portal and Mariposa. We also slipped in a couple more operating sessions in early May. As I write this, at the very end of May, we're just back from a day of railfanning along the S.P.'s "Overland" Route on the last day of the month and then started off June with the last official operating session on Kent Williams' OWNRY. This N Scale railroad, which was the only solar powered model railroad that I've ever operated, will be coming down the weekend of the 7th & 8th of June, in preparation of his move back up to the Portland area. Hopefully, there will be an article about this weekend somewhere else in this issue of the Branch Line. Kent, please know that we in the PCR will miss having you around and we thank you for the many times that you opened your house to random groups of operators.

For those of you that may not be aware, there is a LOT of on-line communication going on between members regarding where folks feel the NMRA should be going as we move forward. This includes thoughts such as: "How can we attract new members?"; "How can we best serve our members?"; "Does anyone even want what we have to give?"; "What is the NMRA's purpose in the 21st century modeling world?"; and a host of other questions. These on-line discussions go on a number of forums and discussion groups, both formal and very informal. The reason that I bring this

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President (Continued)

up is that these discussions may have a major impact on where the NMRA will be going – on both the local (divisional and regional) and national level. If you are happy with the way things are going today, please keep in mind that they may change come tomorrow. So, if you want to have some input on what changes may be coming down the pike, you may want to subscribe to some of the NMRA related Yahoo! Groups (PCR/NMRA, Regions and Divisions, some of the various SIG related groups, the many other NMRA national groups), or get involved with the operating side of the region or you specific division. The best way you can influence the future of the organization is to work from the inside. There are many jobs, some quite easy, that need to be done to keep our divisions and the PCR working smoothly and any help is always appreciated. If you want more information on this, just contact your division superintendent or director, take a look at the call board listed in this issue of the Branch Line, or get in touch with Ed Merrin or myself and we can help give you some direction. We don't know all of the answers, but with some input from the membership we will have a much better feel for what might or might not work.

One other thing which has been working on my thoughts in the same vein is, how and why are we involved with the NMRA? One acquaintance of mine mentioned that he was no longer involved in the NMRA, "because of all the politics." Speaking with a fellow member (who shall remain nameless, to protect the guilty) the other day, we were discussing the motives of many that have moved into the administrative side of the organization, on both the local and the national levels. There are some (and these folks will be in any organization) that seem to find some sort of ego gratification from being an officer on either level. Perhaps this makes some feel some greater importance and if so, whatever works. But, what I have found, especially on the regional and divisional level, is that most folks get involved to try and make the NMRA better and more effective for all of our friends. If in the process they help things work better for themselves, they get a bonus. I sometimes hear complaints that this member or that is just focused on promoting himself. Well in most cases, they are actually just focused on getting their job done completely and (in their view) correctly. I can honestly say, I don't know of any of the officials from the PCR (and that even includes Charlie – said with a BIG grin) that has put their interests ahead of the NMRA's. Everyone of them has taken up their job, to try and make the NMRA better for all of us, in the best way that they know how.

Yes, there are some people who seem to have a need to play political games, but overall I don't feel that this is the case. I know that I ran for Vice President only because Bill Kaufman asked me to. If he hadn't laid the trap, I probably would never have considered running for any office on the board. I would have just continued working in the background doing whatever needed doing. When you hear some of us asking you to get involved on some level, please keep in mind that we aren't asking you to give up your whole life (or even all of your modeling time) to the NMRA, we're just asking for what help you feel comfortable giving. On the other hand, when I hear folks complaining about all of the things that "the NMRA is doing wrong" my first response is, "what are you doing to correct things?" So I ask you to consider this same question the next time you feel that we (the elected divisional or regional officials) could be doing things better. When folks say, "what do I

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President (Continued)

get from my NMRA membership?" please keep in mind that the NMRA is us. So it comes back to what are we doing for us? Please take some time and look through the Call Board for the region, or your division and see if there is some area where you could help, then talk to your division or regional officers and offer to help chip in a little bit.

As a wrap up, I'll leave with a non-sequitur paragraph, touching on a bunch of unrelated items. First off is this coming August, the last week of which will be the National Narrow Gauge Convention, down in Pasadena, California. If you have ANY interest in narrow gauge or short line operations, this is an event that you won't want to miss. Even if your primary focus isn't on narrow gauge railways, the clinics at this event cover such a wide range of modeling, it would be well worth your time to attend. I'll encourage all of you that have not already signed up, please register for the 2014 PCR convention, in San Luis Obispo. 2015 will be a double bonus year, the PCR convention will be back in the Bay Area (tentatively Fremont) and the NMRA national convention will be just up the road in the PNR, in Portland, Oregon. This is an opportunity for those in the PCR to attend a NMRA national outside the PCR, but still close to home. This will also get you a chance to join the fraternal order of "Hobos" (PCR members that have attended a NMRA national convention outside of their home region), a fine group of folks if ever there was. Of course, there are all of the other benefits to be found at one of our national conventions, LOTS of interesting clinics, a wide range of model railroad and prototype tours, the contest room, and operating session around the Portland area. Plus, there are all kinds of railfan opportunities and activities for the entire family (like a trip out to the Tillamook area on the Oregon coast). There is so much on the horizon for those of us in the hobby, that one has no reason to complain about nothing to do.

Take some time to see the railroad activities around us and then get out and enjoy our hobby by getting out in the world. 🚂

From the Fireman's Seat

by Ed Merrin, Vice-President, PCR/NMRA

Well, it's time for another column. And of course the topic will be on membership, aging, and the future of the NMRA. Of course.



First, a few words about some activities that I have been aware of and/or participated in that represent at least baby steps towards confronting the issues. Then I'm going to present the results of going back to the data to see how we've been doing in PCR since I last looked at numbers.

A number of people in my neck of the woods, that is the RED and Coast Divisions, have picked up on all this in a constructive way. I'm sure folks in other divisions are thinking about this also. Not that anybody's solved any problems or made exciting advances or decisions. But at least it's a beginning.

Bill Kaufman, our former NMRA VP for Special Projects (hope I got the title correct) has been keeping the Regions and Divisions Yahoo group

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PCR Membership Gauge

May 31, 2012—1,140
June 30, 2012—1,134
July 31, 2012—1,118
August 31, 2012—1,118
September 30, 2012—1,095
November 30, 2012—1,100
December 31, 2013—1,082
January 31, 2013—1,093
February 28, 2013—1,087
March 31, 2013—1,082
April 30, 2013—1,082
May 31, 2013—1,081

Vice-President (Continued)

focused on how membership can be improved as well as the more specific issue of how to attract younger generations. This dialog spans the continent and, if I may take the liberty of summarizing and oversimplifying, has largely focused on how to make meets and conventions more appealing. There have even been polls conducted on what these activities should include.

Bill also started a small informal email discussion with North Bay and Bay Area folks as well. Part of Bill's idea, if I hopefully understand it right, is that younger (say under 55) modelers are more focused on events that are structured around moving trains or hands on things to do and less on sitting through clinics or competing at contests. They are more impressed by what happens at gatherings of modular clubs, including but not limited to Free-mo and other innovative concepts that foster creative and high quality modeling, and prototype modeling meets. I also had my eyes open at the meeting of the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society one recent year when I saw that the contests were very informal, short on rules, and had everything decided by popular vote rather than judges.

So here we have a little bit of a dilemma. On the one hand, we would like to make our meets more attractive to younger modelers. On the other hand, they go somewhere else so they really aren't with us to find out about the wonderful new things we are trying to do to appeal to them. Bill, I think, is unique in this in that he has actually tried to find out from these hard to capture folks what they find interesting rather than to guess what they want or just ask the current membership what they like.

The current thread seems to be to try to figure out how to have more hybrid or joint events and try to find some chemistry that way. Finding the venues for this is challenging. For example, you might have a modular meet and some clinics running at the same time but in different rooms. A little of this has been happening at PCR conventions but more could be done in this area. And having it happen at the division level might be more difficult.

Another step in this direction is the popular vote judging at recent PCR conventions. Could it be expanded?

Of course, I've noticed that it is becoming increasingly difficult to schedule a divisional meet that doesn't conflict with numerous other railroad oriented events in the Greater Bay Area. And many of these events are grass roots operating sessions. In fact, there are so many fine railroads open for operation now that they compete with each other!

The message here is that the love of model trains is not going away, but there are changes in how people go about indulging in it. That is the train the NMRA needs to hop on.

Meanwhile, great thanks to those courageous folks redesigning websites to give us a chance to be relevant. Gus Campagna and Dave Grenier are two locals that come to my mind, and I'm sure that there are others.

On another front, Russ Clover has initiated a small work group to design a brochure for beginners on the hobby and what might be in it for them. This would supplement a recent brochure developed on behalf of the PCR BOD that has more of an NMRA recruitment theme.

Finally, some numbers. Remember back in 2011 when I included pretty pictures in my column showing how old we were and how young we had been when we joined? Well, I decided it was time to take another look at the numbers almost two years later to see how they compare. Remember, one

Continued on Page 10

Calendar

July 13, 2013 - All Day Op Sessions on the WP and Sierra layouts of Steve Hayes and John Zach, one session on each layout. Contact John Zach for more information: jzach@hrblock.com

July 14 - 20, 2013 - Peachtree Express 2013 NMRA National Convention and National Train Show, Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, GA

July 20-21, 2013 - EuroWest at the Hiller Aviation Museum (www.hiller.org) 601 Skyway Rd. San Carlos, CA 94070. 10-5 Sat. and 10-4 Sun. Admission price includes the aviation museum; \$12 adults, \$8 65+ and 5-17 years old. Free Parking. For show and vendor information contact Jens Ullmann euowest2013@dreileiter.de or visit www.ete.org.

July 26, 2013 - 8:00 to 10:00 pm, Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

August 15 to 19, 2013 - [Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus](#) Red Train in Oakland, CA.

August 17, 2013 - Garden Railroad open house and tour, South Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz areas. Details on page 31.

August 22 to 26, 2013 - [Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus](#) Red Train in

Continued on Page 11

Vice-President (Continued)

question we had was whether we shouldn't be expecting younger people to join because they were too busy with life until they reached retirement age and the family was grown up and gone. If that were true then, we would expect that the average age of the membership should stay about the same because "new" older people would be coming in to fill in departing members.

The source of this information is an excel roster sheet provided by the National to each region as a quarterly roster report. I had noted last time that there are some problems with this spreadsheet. A lot of members listed don't have birthdays provided, which makes it impossible to use them. And some of the dates were kind of garbled so that others had to be dropped from the analysis. As a result, although there were 1373 total listings, I could only use 660 of them. Similarly, this time there were 1082 total listings (I don't know why the drop, unless some categories weren't included. I didn't have the time available to pour over the spreadsheet that carefully) but I only had birthdates for 602. Too bad we don't have more. I have to be honest and tell you that I didn't spend as much time pouring over the numbers looking for suspicious numbers as I did last time, but at least I didn't find anybody that joined before they were born, which wasn't an uncommon listing in 2011.

Anyway, here are the results:

August 2011: Mean age 61.9 (sd 11.9); mean age joined 44.0 (sd 13.8)

May 2013: Mean age 66.8 (sd 12.4); mean age joined 43.6 (sd 15.7)

From the looks of it, there are not enough members coming in at any age to sustain us.

The average membership age has gone up more than expected. Perhaps there has been a rash of older new members, but that isn't reflected in the average age of joining up, which has stayed amazingly steady. The median values (67 for age and 44 for age at joining) are identical to the means, which indicates we have nice bell shaped curves here.

Just for fun, the range of ages went from 5 to 94. We have two family memberships, father and son stuff, with a five and a ten year-old, and we have five members 90 or older!

So think about this stuff a bit. If there is interest I can present pretty bar graph pictures like I did last time in my next column. See you all around at op sessions, meets, and hopefully in San Luis Obispo. 🚂

Achievement Program

Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department



This month, we'll take a breather from Achievement Program certificates to discuss the Golden Spike Program. For some modelers, the requirements of the AP can seem too intimidating and/or too much work. The Golden Spike Program is much easier and requires demonstration of modeling skills in only three areas. The Golden Spike Program is thus a good way to get your "feet wet" with the Achievement Program and get some recognition for your modeling skills at the same time.

The first category is "rolling stock". This category requires

Continued on Page 11

Calendar (Cont.)

San Jose, CA.

August 24 & 25, 2013 - 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Swap Meet and Open House, Santa Susana RR Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. Swap Meet 7:00 to 10:00 AM on Saturday only. Open House 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday; 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Sunday. Admission \$2.00 for adults. Vendor table info: events@santasusanadepot.org or David Putnam, (661) 753-6006.

August 28 - 31, 2013 - 33rd National Narrow Gauge Convention, Hilton Hotel, Pasadena, CA

August 29 to September 2, 2013 - [Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus](#) Red Train in San Francisco, CA.

August 30, 2013 - 8:00 to 10:00 pm, Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

September 13 to 16, 2013 - [Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus](#) Red Train in Sacramento, CA.

September 14, 2013 - [Redwood Empire Division](#) Summer Picnic, [Sturgeon's Mill](#), 2150 Green Hill Road, Sebastopol, CA. Live steam operating redwood mill, also open Sunday. Contact Steve Skold at sandeskold@att.net for more information.

Continued on Page 12

Achievement (Cont.)

completion of six (6) models (motive power or cars) which can be scratchbuilt, craftsman kits, or detailed commercial kits. While buying a ready-to-run Kadee PS-1 boxcar or adding trucks to an Athearn flatcar won't meet this requirement, building a resin kit or even an Tichy freight car kit with some weathering would meet the requirements.

The next category is "setting" and can be satisfied with a minimum of eight (8) square feet of layout with scenery. Note that eight square feet is a scene only 4' wide by 2' deep! There must be at least five (5) structures on the layout, which must be scratchbuilt, craftsman, or detailed commercial kits. If there are less than five structures, additional ones separate from the scene can be used to fulfill the requirement. Remember that bridges are also structures.

Finally, the last category is "engineering" (civil and electrical). It requires the completion of three (3) types of trackage (turnout, crossing, etc.). Even track on a grade is considered a type of trackage. The three examples of trackage do not need to be different; a passing track and spur will include three turnouts which will satisfy this requirement. All of the examples must be properly ballasted and installed on a proper roadbed which can be cork roadbed if desired. While hand-laid track can be used, commercial trackage is perfectly acceptable. All of the installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously by using a double-track main, a single-track main with sidings, block control, or command control. Note that this requirement can even be met by having selective power to a spur so that one engine can be run into a siding, the power cut, and a second engine run over the main. Finally, one additional electrical feature must also be provided. This can be a powered turnout, a track signal, a turnout indication, a lighted building or campfire, etc.

Many modelers will discover they have already completed these requirements with their layout (even if it is still under construction) and need only to complete an application in order to receive a Golden Spike Award. The verification on the application can be by any other NMRA member in good standing. **Attach a photocopy of your NMRA membership card** and the application is complete! Once you have this Award "under your belt", you can use this same work, with either some refinement or additional effort, as the start of your efforts for several Achievement Awards if desired.

The following members received Merit Awards at Iron Horse Express PCR Convention in Dublin in March (Merit Awards are presented for entires receiving 87.5 points or more in the model contests):

Giuseppe Aymar (2 Merit Awards); Jack Burgess; Vittore Cavalli; David Croshere; Karen Keifer; Thomas Knapp; Pat LaTorres; Frank Markovich (3 Merit Awards); Robert Schott (2 Merit Awards); and David Yadock (2 Merit Awards)

I am pleased to announce the following Certificate of Achievement awards since the last issue of the *Branchline*:

Joseph Aymar - Master Builder - Prototype Models

Chuck Harmon - Master Builder - Cars

Andrew Merriam - Master Builder - Structures; Master Builder - Cars
Congratulations to all of you!

If you are interested in the AP Program or Golden Spike Program, contact me for more details. My phone number, address, and e-mail address are listed in the Call Board on Page 2. 🚂

Calendar (Cont.)

September 14 & 15, 2013 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

September 20 - 22, 2013, Op to Drop Weekend, hosted by Steve Hayes and John Zach, featuring three days of non-stop operations on their world famous Western Pacific and Sierra Railroad model railroads, located in the beautiful California foothills towns of Soulsbyville and Twain Harte. If you are riding with someone, you must ask that you be assigned to the same railroad as them.

Day 1, Friday, starts at 7:00 pm for an operating session on John Zach's Sierra Railroad. If enough people come up Friday evening, we could have sessions on both railroads.

Day 2, Saturday, 10:00 am to 9:30 pm in two sessions. Catch a late breakfast or a very early lunch on the way up. The morning session starts at 10:00 am, with the crew divided between the two railroads, and finishes by 3:00 pm. Then it's off to a local restaurant for an early leisurely no-host dinner. After dinner, the crews will swap railroads for the evening sessions, running from 4:30 to 9:30 pm. This will get the folks that need to go home (the wimps and old folks) out at a reasonable time for the trip home.

Day 3, Sunday morning starts with a no-host breakfast and then it's back to the Western Pacific for the Sunday session at 9:00 am, ending about 2:00 pm

Continued on Page 13

The Answers Are Out There: Fall Creek Branch

By Robert Pethoud, Daylight Division Member Aid Chairman



Those new to the hobby of model railroading often build their first layout on a 4x8 sheet of plywood. If they work in HO scale, that usually means 18- to 22-inch radius curves and it doesn't take the newbies long to discover the limitations of a layout this size. An oval of track plus a few turnouts doesn't usually promote countless hours of engrossing railroad operation, so you may question my sanity when I built the 15 inch by 144 inch HO layout illustrated above. I named the portable pike the Fall Creek Branch, and at 15 square feet it has just under half the area of that 4x8 piece of plywood. Of course, it lacks any capability of continuous running. Nevertheless, I offer this as an example of a complete layout which, if done right, does indeed provide those countless hours of operating pleasure.

What the railroad has are a short section of main track, which represents the end of a branch line, a runaround, and four spurs, including a switchback. Each spur has multiple freight car spots serving industries. So far, the design is very much like the "Switcheroo," an 8-foot long portable switching layout I built decades ago. Many children and adults were introduced to the intricacies of peddler freight operation on that layout, and we now know firsthand how much fun that can be. This, then, is an enlarged and updated version of that layout, just 4 inches wider and 50% longer, and with several improvements to enhance the operating experience:

- A backdrop with painted sky and tree line provides the illusion of depth.
- Scenery covers the entire layout and includes textured lightweight terrain, numerous rock castings, an epoxy resin creek, and scores of scratch-built trees.
- By placing the main track toward the back of this wider layout, I was able to put building flats against the backdrop and full structures at the front.
- By locating all turnouts in the center section of the 3-segment layout, either end of the main line can represent the track leading toward a distant junction, thus resulting in more flexible operation.
- DCC brings the experience into the 21st century.
- Turnouts are thrown by pushing or pulling drawer knobs on the front fascia, which are connected by Du-Bro push rods to Blue Point mechanisms under the track.
- The layout can be extended. Here's where you can get involved. After I provide you the precise dimensions and track and wiring standards to which I built, you can construct a similar railroad and we could connect them at meets and conventions. Two or three of these together would create a busy switching district which would require hours for a train crew to work.

Like its predecessor, the Fall Creek Branch has no legs, resting instead on a couple of the ubiquitous folding tables found at every convention center, social hall, hotel meeting room, and other display venue. The limited

Continued on Page 13

Calendar (Cont.)

for the trip home. If enough people stay over Saturday night, we could operate on both railroads Sunday morning. We are shooting for 26 to 28 operators for Saturday. If you can join us, please respond to Steve at hayeswp@hotmail.com or John at jzach@hrblock.com for directions and maps.

When responding, indicate if you'll be there Friday evening and/or Sunday morning, as well as all day Saturday, for planning purposes. If you are riding with someone, you must ask that you be assigned to the same railroad as them.

September 20 to 22, 2013 - [Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus](#) Red Train in Stockton, CA.

September 25 to 29, 2013, Gateway to Cajon Pass, Pacific Southwest Region Convention, Hilton Hotel, 285 E. Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, CA.

September 27, 2013 - 8:00 to 10:00 pm, Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

October 2 - 5, 2013 - Annual Conference, Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society, Fresno, CA.

October 25, 2013 - 8:00 to 10:00 pm, Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

Continued on Page 14

Answers (Cont.)

height of these tables (about 30 inches) makes the layout accessible to children and to folks in wheelchairs, which has proven to be a real boon. I have built leg extensions for the folding tables out of PVC pipe, and these raise the layout for more realistic viewing by those who are not vertically challenged.

I see this portable railroad as a great way to introduce newcomers to the whole gamut of model railroading activities and to demonstrate serious operation to hobbyists who thought building models is all there is to do. It also provides a small platform on which to test different techniques of making scenery, painting backdrops, building structures, and weathering. Next time I will provide dimensions and standards so you can join me in this adventure. Until then, contact me at pethoud@comcast.net. 🚂

PCR Award Presentations at the IHX Saturday Night Banquet

Photos by Tom Crawford

Pat LaTorres presents President's award to Seth Neumann and Jim Providenza.



Past John Allen award recipients present John Allen Award to Richard Hendrickson.

Continued on Page 14

Calendar (Cont.)

October 26 & 27, 2013 - 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Swap Meet and Open House, Santa Susana RR Historical Society, Santa Susana Park Pavilion. 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley, CA. Swap Meet 7:00 to 10:00 AM on Saturday only. Open House 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday; 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Sunday. Admission \$2.00 for adults. Vendor table info: events@santasusanadepot.org or David Putnam, (661) 753-6006.

November 2 & 3, 2013 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Fall Train Show and Open House, [South Bay Historical Railroad Society](#), Santa Clara [Caltrain](#) Station, 1005 Railroad Ave., Santa Clara, CA. (408) 243-3969.

November 22, 2013 - 8:00 to 10:00 pm, Annual Holiday Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

November 23 & 24, 2013 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Annual Holiday Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

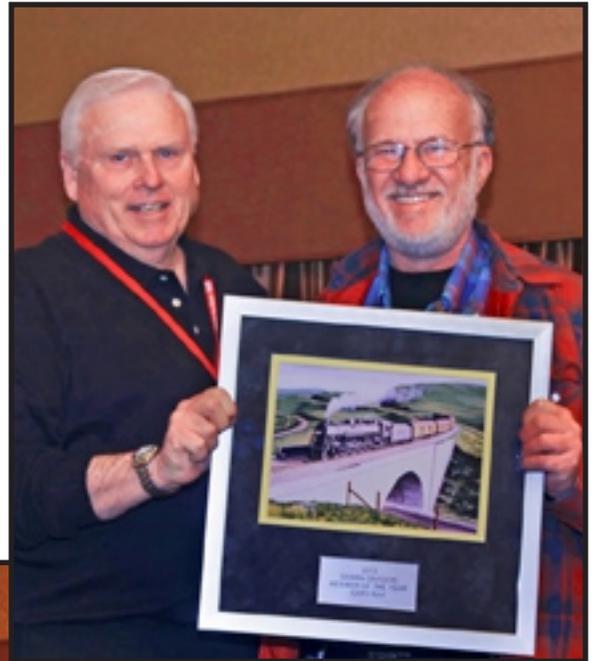
November 29, 2013 - 2:00 to 10:00 pm, Annual Holiday Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

November 30, 2013 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Annual Holiday Show, Walnut Creek Model

Continued on Page 15

Banquet Awards (Cont.)

Sierra Division Director
Mel Jones awarding
Member of the Year award
to Gary Ray.



Coast Director Mark
Schutzer holding award for
Coast Division member of
the Year Dave Parks (Dave
was not there).

Daylight Division
Superintendent Dave Grenier
holding award for Daylight
Division Member of the Year
Bruce Morden (Bruce was
not there, and Director Paul
Deis was not there).



Redwood Director Dave
Croshere awarding RED
Member of the Year to
Gus Campagna.



Calendar (Cont.)

Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

December 1, 2013 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Annual Holiday Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

December 25-27, 2013 - 8:00 to 10:00 pm, Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA.

2014 and Beyond Events

April 30 - May 4, 2014 - [Coast Rails 2014](#) "Rails to Hadley Jct." PCR Convention, Sands Inn & Suites, 1930 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA.

July 13 - 20, 2014 - NMRA 2014 National Convention and National Train Show, Cleveland, OH

July 22 - 27, 2014 - 34th Annual Convention 2014 - [Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society](#), Radisson Hotel, 2233 Ventura St, Fresno, CA. Info: Gene Rutledge, e-mail: ATSGENE@aol.com

September 3 -6, 2014 - 34th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Kansas City, MO

2015 - 35th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Houston, TX

August 23 - 30, 2015 NMRA 2015 National Convention and

Continued on Page 16

Iron Horse Express 2013 Contest report

By Giuseppe Aymar, PCR Contest manager

The Contest is alive! Long live the Contest!

IHX 2013 was testimony to the enthusiastic reception of Contest within our PCR. The numbers were outstanding. A total of 115 entries filled the tables and photo racks in the Contest room in Dublin, Ca. This number does not include the non-judged/display entries. By contrast, we had a total of 120 entries for the joint PNR/PCR Convention in Medford, OR last year. The Contest room was buzzing with enthusiasm. Many positive comments were the norm throughout the duration of the Convention, so much so that repeat visitors were a common occurrence exemplifying the positive attraction the varied items displayed have had on all of us. We are, after all, model railroaders and are very intrigued by the



offerings displayed in the Contest room, otherwise not typically available for our viewing. Unique stuff, that's what it is!!!

Many of the models were jewels of craftsmanship as it was evident by the numbers of Merit Awards granted. We had 15 Merit Awards which is a whopping 34% of the total model entries. Most of these Merit Awards were achieved with scores in the high 90's and 100's which, in itself, is a reflection of the tremendous abilities of PCR modelers. What is important here is that all nine available categories to enter models were used with multiple entries in each category, showing the depth of the field (pun intended for you photographers) that assures a competitive nature to Contest.

The photo racks were brimming with unusual and technically very good photographs. Here too we see the virtuosity of our PCR photo amateurs who made the work of our judges not an easy task. All the categories were represented making a strong statement to the many talents and varied interests that dwell in PCR. A large number of the photographs submitted were by new entrants, indicating a high level of enthusiasm and support for this medium.

Arts & Crafts reflects imagination and discipline in carrying out projects that leave mouths wide open with admiration. Well executed needlework, patchwork, paintings and shadowboxes graced the tables at this Convention. This is a medium that I would encourage all of us to participate in. It allows creativity, especially in the Railroadiana category. One can tell a story or resurrect important artifacts or memories of years gone by. **Steve Wesolowski, Pat La Torres** and **Tom Swearingen** have all participated in Arts & Crafts making a statement that yes, males, can participate. It is not a Non Rail only Contest. We need a paradigm shift, thus I encourage more of you to give it a try and partake in this fun, yet still arcane for many, aspect of Contest.

At the entrance of the Contest room one could find non-judged displays by two nationally well known authors and modelers. The displays featured exacting replicas of train consists: car by car with correct numbers, details and weathering. **Richard Hendrickson**, expert in Santa Fe car

Continued on Page 16

Calendar (Cont.)

National Train Show, Portland, OR

July 3 - 10, 2016 - [Highball to Indy](#), NMRA 2016 National Convention and National Train Show, Indianapolis, IN

2016 - 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Augusta, ME 🚂

Contest (Cont.)

rosters, displayed three accurate Santa Fe consists powered by steam locomotives. **Tony Thompson**, expert in Southern Pacific rosters had put together a typical SP freight manifest. This high level of authenticity creates for us a time capsule and reminds us that this Hobby of ours can be a portal to recreate past history and, may I say, almost let us live and breath that moment in time.

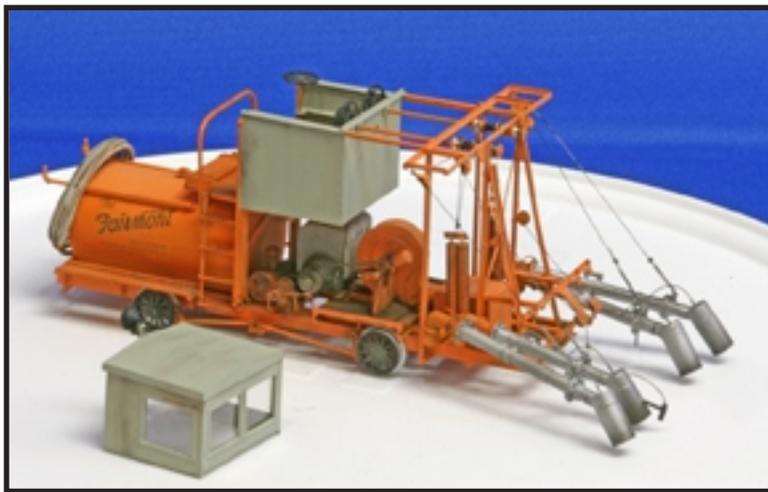
Another unusual non-judged display in the corner of the room was a European themed switching layout, proud possession of **Peter Barnes**. We do not see much of European railroads so that this novelty was well received by all. I hope this opens the doors for more participation from non North-American modelers.

Another activity sponsored by Contest just outside of the Contest room was the famous Time Saver switching layout manned by **Eric Moe**.

Originally devised by the late **John Allen**, it is a test of logic and savvy rewarding the operator who can solve the switching puzzle in the least amount of time. I would encourage more participation in this friendly bragging rights competition. After all the Convention should be fun and a little competition between friends will also make us participants.

For now let's enjoy the pictures of the winners which will be shown throughout the Branchline. [All photos by Giuseppe Aymar, unless noted.]

Make it your priority to bring a model or a photograph or an item for Arts & Crafts (better yet one or more of each) to the next Regional Convention in San Luis Obispo. Let's make it a Grand Affair for the ages. 🚂



Best of Show - model - Jack Burgess - Fairmont W44-A-1 weed burner



Best of Show - Arts & Crafts - Nancy Stokely - Pillowcase with organza inserts & machine embroidery



Best of Show - Photograph - Bob Zeigler - Climax loco Durbin Rocket

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 3, 2013 Board Meeting

Highlights

by Tom Crawford, PCR Secretary

The PCR Board of Directors met on April 3, 2013 at 1:00 PM at the Holiday Inn in Dublin, CA.

We are financially healthy, although we have a slightly negative cash flow. The big issue is that the Branch Line costs exceed the price people pay for it. We have formed a committee to address this issue. The 2013 Budget was approved with a \$4010 deficit.

Daylight Division is seeing modest growth in meeting attendance.

Coast Division has gone to an all electronic Dispatcher with post card mailings for meeting notices.

The PCR brochure has been created and copies sent to the Divisions.

The 2013 convention has 46 first timers as of convention start.

The Board authorized the creation of a restricted fund for purposes of administering the 21st Century Limited Assets (subject to some contingencies).

Charlie Getz noted that the laws have been changed so that each Division can have its own non profit status under the umbrella of the NMRA's status. NMRA is working on making this happen. Also NMRA working with companies like Lowes and Home Depot to develop a discount program.

We changed the convention sequence to be Coast/Daylight/Coast/Sierra/Coast/Redwood Empire.

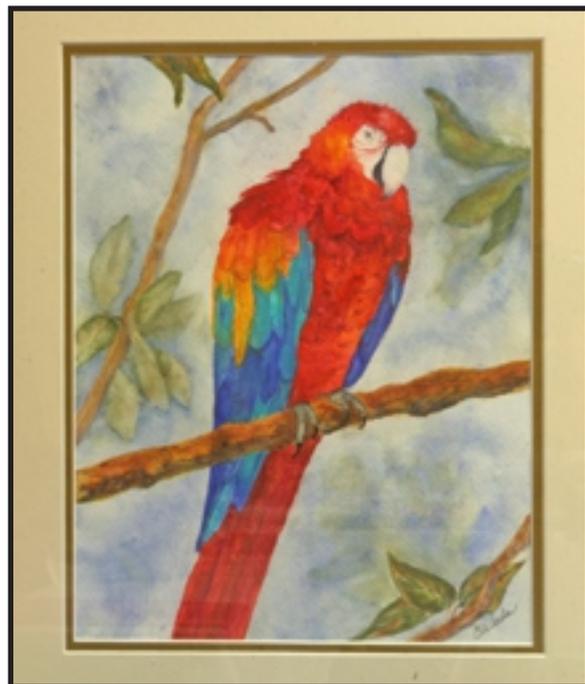
The next Board Meeting will be Saturday October 12, 2013 at 1 PM in San Luis Obispo, CA. 🚂



Arts & Crafts - needlework original - 1st place
Diane Crawford - Butterfly garden quilt



Arts & Crafts - Railroadiana original - 1st place
- Ronnie LaTorres - Railroads labor ribbons



Arts & Crafts - general original - 1st place
Carolyn Weber - Watercolor scarlet beauty

IHX 2013 Contest Results

by Giuseppe Aymar, PCR Contest Department Manager

In Memoriam

Jim Long, Cameron, CA
Member since 2/18/1994

Manuel Noriega, Oakland, CA
Member since 1/1/1976

Dave Ginsburg, Hayward, CA
Member since 12/29/1992

Alan Havens, Palo Alto, CA
Member since 1/1/1971

Chuck Mitchell, Pleasanton, CA
Member since 1/1/1974

Roy Schupferling, Lompoc, CA
Member since 1/1/1973

Arts & Crafts - Popular Vote - 1st place - Carolyn Weber - Passing through Fullerton

Photographs - Popular Vote - 1st place - Ed Merrin - On the CRAP Model - Popular Vote - 1st place- Dave Croshere- Roberts & Shaefer 300 ton coal & sand tower

Arts & Crafts - general original - 1st place- Carolyn Weber - Watercolor scarlet beauty

Arts & Crafts - needlework original - 1st place Diane Crawford - Butterfly garden quilt

Arts & Crafts - Railroadiana original - 1st place - Ronnie LaTorres - Railroads labor ribbons

Photograph - working on the Railroad - 1st place - Bob Zeigler - on time V&T RR

Photograph - model B&W - 1st place - Frank Markovich - The shack

Photograph - Model color - 1st place- Ed Merrin - on the CRAP

Photograph - prototype B&W - 1st place - Eugene Brichacek - exhaust fills the air UP near Big Hole

Photograph - Trains in action - 1st place - Kenneth Martin - UP 7088

Photograph - Tracks & structures - 1st place- Eugene Brichacek- sring switch ready for install

Photograph - general subject - 1st place - Carol Skold - Another weathering job

Model - steam locomotive open - 1st place - Steve Wesolowski - Nn3 0-6-0T #23

Model - diesel kit - 1st place - Pat LaTorres - Steel body gas mechanical box car

Model - diesel open - 1st place - Giuseppe Aymar - UPSD90MAC-H

Model - freight car kit - 1st place - Frank Markovich - Westside flatcar

Model - freight car open - 1st place - Vittore Cavalli - SP narrow gauge stock car

Model - passenger car kit - 1st place - Bill Dwyer - SP Cascade

Model - caboose kit - 1st place - Frank Markovich - Hon3 Westside lumber caboose

Model - caboose open - 1st place - Steve Wesolowski - Nn3 logging caboose

Model - MOW kit - 1st place - Kenneth Martin - RGS outfit 2102

Model - MOW open - 1st place - Frank Markovich - Westside snowplow

Model - structure novice - 1st place - Neil Fernbaugh - Skid row #1 Bukowski liquor

Model - structure kit - 1st place - Ronnie LaTorres - 0n3 wood king post bridge

Model - structure open - 1st place - Dave Croshere - Roberts & Shaeffer 300 Ton coal & sand house

Model - traction open - 1st place - Thomas Knapp - 1915 Jeffrey storage battery mining locomotive

Model - display open - 1st place - Karen Keifer - Abandoned Sierra gold

Continued on Page 19



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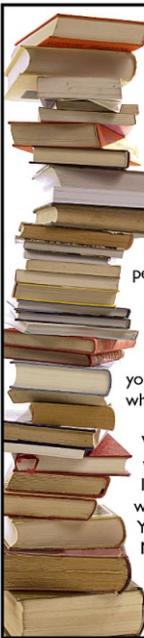
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Contest Results (Cont.)

mine camp

Best of Show - Arts & Crafts - Nancy Stokely - Pillowcase with organza inserts & machine embroidery

Best of Show - Photograph - Bob Zeigler - Climax loco Durbin Rocket

Best of Show - model - Jack Burgess - Fairmont W44-A-1 weed burner 

Pacific Coast Region SIG Report for Second Quarter 2013

by Seth Neumann

It's been a very busy Spring for the SIGs in the PCR!

Back in March, while not strictly a SIG event, most of the usual suspects organized and hosted BayRails V, the fifth installment of the Bay Area's (as well as some Sacramento, Foot Hills and Monterey area

layouts) invitational operations meet, aimed at out of town operators. We had 70 visitors from all over North America and the meet was very successful with many locals pitching to assist. We'll be hosting BayRails VI, March 19-21 2015.



As predicted, Iron Horse Express was a major SIG event with almost non-stop SIG clinics and meetings and an active program of Op Sessions. At least half of the convention attendees participated in some SIG events. In an especially nice touch your

reporter (Seth Neumann) and Jim Providenza were honored with Presidents' awards for our activities in promoting operations and introducing members to operations (thanks, Pat!). Also David Parks was honored for his efforts in organizing the Op Sessions and layout tours over the years. To me, this is just the latest example of PCR and Layout Design and Operations cooperating to strengthen the model railroading community in the region.

Several local operators traveled to the East Coast in April for an operating meet in New Jersey and were treated to operations on a selection of excellent railroads in Northern NJ and Eastern Pennsylvania, along with a few bonus railroads in the Washington DC area. If you're interested opportunities like this, see below.

Locally we were sad to see Kent Williams dismantle his OWNRY in Nevada City after a 10 year run. Kent is moving back to Oregon and we hope he'll start rebuilding soon. Jim Providenza is shutting down his Santa Cruz Northern for a few months to take advantage of new right of way acquired by relocating a water heater.

The Operations SIG published its first book, "19 East, Copy 3" which is an excellent book on Time Table and Train Order Operations (what it is, how the railroads did it and how you can model it) written by former dispatchers Steve King and David Sprau. The Train Shop in Santa Clara stocks it.

Membership By Divisions

As of May 31, 2013
Number in parenthesis is
figures from last quarter's
report

Daylight—144
Coast—495
Sierra—290
Redwood—139
Hawaiian—13

PEACHTREE EXPRESS

78TH ANNUAL

**NMRA NATIONAL
CONVENTION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

July 14 - 20, 2013

For information
and registration:
nmra2013.org



Continued on Page 20

SIG Report (Cont.)

Looking ahead:

NMRA Peachtree Express in Atlanta, July 14-20, The usual comprehensive SIG program with clinics, tours, consulting, op sessions and SIG Banquet at the Trackside Grill in Kennesaw, GA followed by a special program at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History.

Fall is always a busy season for visiting operations meets and if you're interested please let me know as I act as local coordinator for a number of events. I'm always interested in introducing new people to visiting ops community. This is a great way to see a lot of interesting country as well as run on some fantastic layouts.

The La Mesa Club in the San Diego Model Railroad Museum has expanded its Time Table and Train Order Operating meets and runs about every other month. Again, please contact me if you're interested in participating in one of these.

Of course, take your camera and look for trains wherever you go this summer, observing the prototype is a great source of inspiration and energy for your modeling efforts!

[You can contact Seth by e-mail at sneumann@pacbell.net - Ed.] 🚂

Thousands of negatives still need



your positive support.

So do the thousands of plans, photos, and slides from our Kalmbach Memorial Library that we're working to digitize so that members can access them from their own computer. The good news is that the scanning is well underway. The better news is that our image library is even larger than we thought!

Which is why we still need your help. The more funds we receive, the more images we can make available.

If you haven't contributed to the Diamond Club, do it now:

Silver Level - Contribute \$75 and receive a silver 75th Anniversary commemorative pin and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.



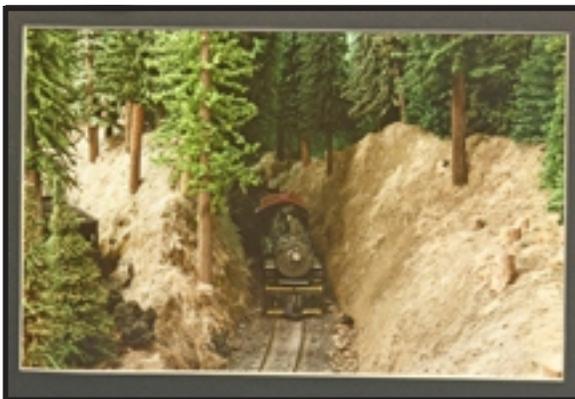
Gold Level - Contribute \$750 and receive a gold 75th Anniversary pin, a golf shirt with the Anniversary logo, and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.

Diamond Level - Contribute \$7,500 and receive a diamond-and-gold Anniversary pin, a golf shirt and sweater with the Anniversary logo and your embroidered name, a print of the NMRA's 75th Anniversary commemorative painting, and have your name and photo printed in *NMRA Magazine*.

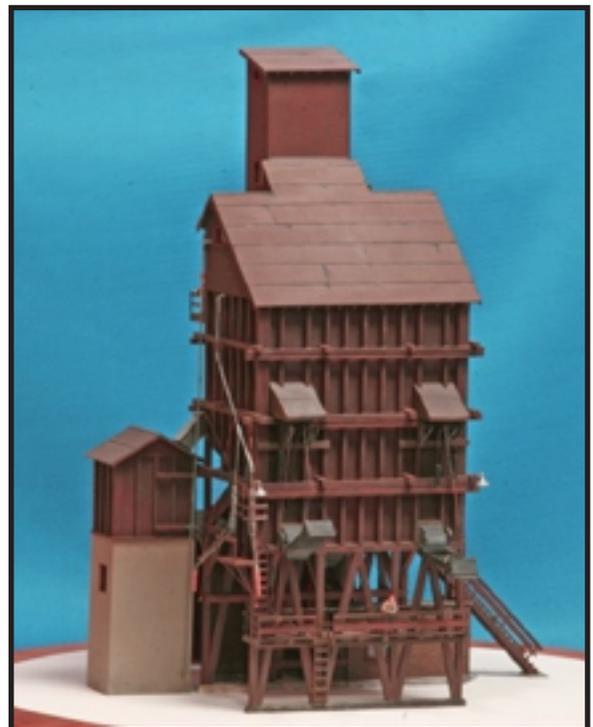
Make a contribution that will make a difference for decades. Visit www.nmra.org/diamondclub or call HQ at 423-892-2846 to contribute.



Arts & Crafts - Popular Vote - 1st place - Carolyn Weber - Passing through Fullerton



Photographs - Popular Vote - 1st place - Ed Merrin - On the CRAP. Also Photograph - Model color - 1st place



Model - Popular Vote - 1st place- Dave Croshere- Roberts & Shaefer 300 ton coal & sand tower. Also Model - Structure open - 1st place

Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

The Bull Switch

By Jim Providenza

First, an apology to our editor, who likes to have photos to go with these occasional tales. The bull switch just isn't very interesting to look at.

After all it is just a switch. One of the first handlaid switches on the SCN, it sits at the throat of Mac St. Yard, at the midpoint of what was originally the passing track at Mac Street. It controls access to Mac St. Yard's ladder, the "back track" and engine leads. I've always thought of it as the "gate switch," as in "the gate leading into the yard," but more on that later.

When I designed the yard at Mac St. I put the ladder at the front edge of the layout for easy access to the groundthrows for the classification tracks. The upper deck curves inward above the lead at Mac St. Yard and switches are positioned so they are no more than about 6 to 18 inches from the YM. All this allows good access to the ground throws for the ladder switches and those for the middle crossover, the engine leads, the back track and an industry. Decent access that is, to every switch except the bull switch.

The bull switch, being the most critical switch in the yard, is of course located in the most inaccessible spot. It sits about 30' away from the yardmaster, with the turntable and scale house in the way. The upper level hasn't started to swing inward yet...

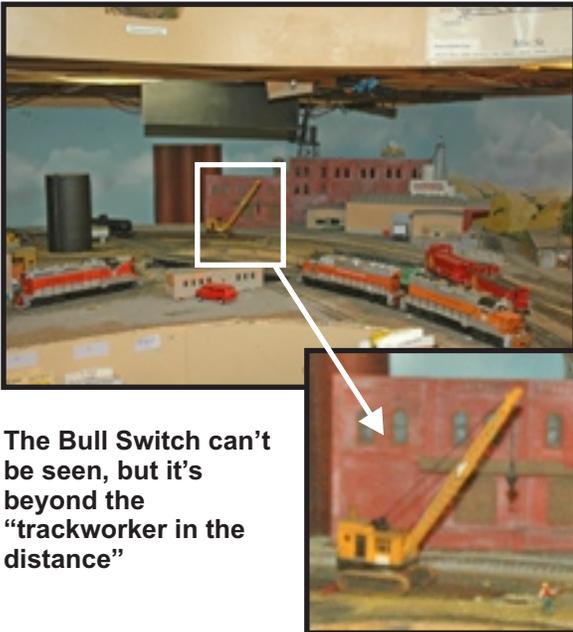
The routine goes something like this: stand up, duck down, lean in and reaching across your body with your right hand throw the Caboose Industries High Level switch stand that SCN management has decided is appropriate for such an important switch. Ease yourself out if you are done for the moment, or remain in that position ready to re-line the switch after your yard goat with a couple of cars or a local or (gasp) the E/B Drag pulls by and is ready for its reverse move.

This happy state of affairs has been going on since about 1989 when the upper level went in above Mac St. The one concession to operational reliability, a Radio Shack lever switch to control polarity to the switch frog and the point and closure rails, went in sometime in the mid 1990's. It is buried in a hole in the ground (Homasote), covered with .020 plastic and scenery and works off the back end of the switchstand throwbar.

Several years ago I finally decided that I really did need to improve things and so started looking around for a mechanical system to control the switch. An automotive choke cable, attached to? Some sort of bell crank, something like that? Just the ticket. This pious idea, falling under the heading of 'good intentions', languished for months, maybe even years. September of 2011 found me trolling through several hobby shops in the Vancouver, BC area while attending the VanRails operating weekend. At one shop I picked up a Rix Rax rack; at another I found Proto Power West / Aline's Flex Link cable. Hauled them back to the Bay Area with me.

So I installed the new linkage as soon as I got back home, right? Of course, NOT!

The parts sat for over a year and a half, in the way, waiting. But we had conventions to hold, operating weekends to host or attend, why even some



The Bull Switch can't be seen, but it's beyond the "trackworker in the distance"

Photo by Jim Providenza (after dire threats by the Branch Line Editor)

Continued on Page 22

In Memorium Chuck Mitchell

Posted on the PCR Group by
Dave Connery

Yesterday, June 13th, PCR member Chuck Mitchell passed away after struggling with Pulmonary Fibrosis. Although very ill, Chuck managed to attend the Coast Division Meet this past Sunday, June 9th.

Chuck was a long time member of the NMRA, having been involved in the hobby most of his life and was a member of the Pasadena Model Railroad Club before relocating back to Northern California several decades ago. Chuck worked on a number of PCR conventions and was Chairman of the 2004 National Narrow Gauge Convention held in Santa Clara. He was a long time member of the Coast Auction Committee and served the Division as Youth Activities Chair.

In addition to NMRA activities, Chuck was an active member of the Great Northern Railway Historical Society, whose conventions he regularly attended and Chuck was an avid GN modeler. Chuck was also very interested in Narrow Gauge and Logging and actively modeled in HO, HO_{n3} and On3.

When arrangements are set for any memorial service I will post the information to this list.

[Editor's note: Chuck's service was held on June 20th in Hayward, CA.]

Tales of SCN (Cont.)

things happening outside of model railroading! And, the real reason? I didn't fancy crawling under Mac St. and installing the linkage and rod.

Come February of this year and I was getting ready to host op sessions for the bi-annual BayRails operating weekend. I had left myself plenty of prep time, and I told myself I really needed to finally get around to the work on the switch. I must have told myself that half a dozen times! And didn't do it.

You do know what happened, right? Yeap, right in the middle of the second BayRail session, the switch starts to malfunction. Every time the yardmaster throws it for the normal route it shorts out. This not only kills all the power in the power district around Mac St. Yard but cripples the yard itself. This shuts down the most critical portion of the railroad immediately and eventually will cause the whole thing to grind to a halt.

Dave Clune, a retired SP engineer, was one of the guest operators that day. Dave looked over the situation as I gathered up my MofW tools and said, "Ah! You lost the bull switch, huh?" I didn't even have to ask Dave what he meant, the word association was clear.

I tore off the scenicked plastic cover over the lever switch and found that after almost 20 years of faithful service some crud had gotten down into the hole and jammed the lever in one position. I cleaned it out and with the lever working again the short was fixed. Is this the end of the problem? Nah, of course not! My experience is that a Caboose Industries 204S high switch stand has about a 10 year life expectancy. Eventually the vertical shaft engineering plastic will fail. Yeap, right then.

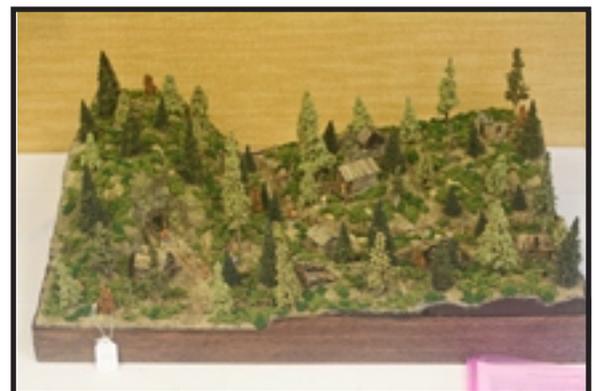
Now I keep spares of critical parts, and always have several 204S stands on hand. Setting up the new switchstand added another 10-15 minutes to the project and another notation on the Dispatcher's Train Sheet for delays to operations.

The Sunday morning after BayRails, as I was doing a final 'after action' walk through of the SCN I looked over at the bull switch. Went to my tool box. Got a small screwdriver. Removed the new switchstand. Put it back in the storage cabinet.

The next meeting of our Round Robin group found Scott Kew spending a solid two hours on his back wedged in a narrow crawl space under Mac St. Bill Kaufman and I provided 'assistance' up on top. The bull switch now has its new controls in place.

Did I get what I deserved? Yeah. Have I learned my lesson? Hmmmm... ..

With a special thanks to Scott. 🚂



Model - display open - 1st
place - Karen Keifer -
Abandoned Sierra gold
mine camp

Newest PCR Members

(As Of June 1, 2013)

Daylight Division

Tom Van Horn, Atwater
Emy Mizuno, Reedley
Charley Warren, Porterville
Josh Copeland, Lemoore

Coast Division

Stephen Vickers, Hayward
Jim Rhemer, San Francisco
Reed Knight, Mountain View
John Kibre, San Francisco
Doug Wallach, Millbrae
Raphael Tam, San Francisco
Patrick Stratton, San Leandro
Loren Stolle, San Francisco
Jerry Smith, Antioch
Curtis Rigor, Fremont
James Piccetti, San Francisco
Kenneth Peterson, Morgan Hill
Alvin Deal, Fremont
Scott Brenner, San Jose
James Zingheim, Capitola
Barry Reik, San Ramon
David Reeves, San Mateo
Seth Abrahams, Livermore
Kevin Nagel, Walnut Creek
Phyllis Cleveland, Carmel

Sierra Division

Mike Vilhauer, W. Sacramento
James Trantham, Lodi
R.J. Myers, Reno, NV
Fred Delevati, Woodland
Gary Gober, Groveland
Dale Jones, Manteca
David Jackson, Tracy
Bryan Darnell, Groveland

Redwood Empire

Bob Siemsen, Mill Valley
Ronald Fritzsche, Arcata
Tonio Skweir, McKinleyville
Dud Peters, Rohnert Park

Hawaiian Division

Neil Erickson, Hilo, HI



InfoNet-News For March, 2013

by Tom Draper, Director, Support Services

NMRA Museum Gallery Exhibit Donation - The WISE Division in Wisconsin recently voted to donate \$5,000 to the NMRA Museum Gallery Exhibit with an immediate payment of \$2,500 and a second payment of the same amount later in the year or early next year.

NMRA BOD appoints new At Large North American Director - The NMRA Board of Directors has appointed Mike Yurgec the new At Large North American Director, a position vacated by Miles Hale, MMR. Mike resides in Sherman, Ill., and is a Director of North America Railroad Products for a large hydraulics company. He was recently elected Vice President of the Midwest Region, and prior to that was District 5 Trainmaster for the Illinois Valley Division. Mike also served as Chairman of the "Railsplitter 2012" Midwest Region Convention Committee.

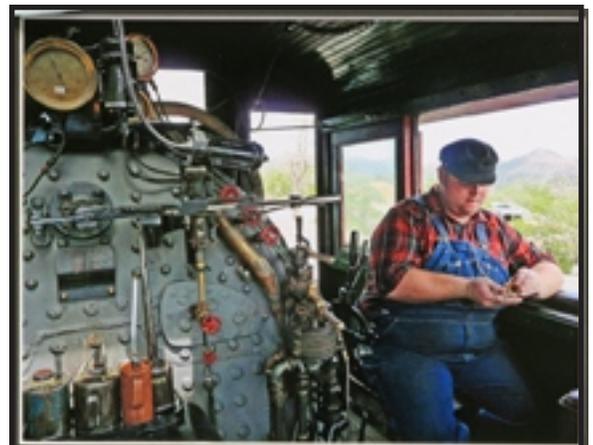
NMRA BOD appoints new Vice President, Special Projects - The Board has also confirmed the appointment of Gerry Leone, MMR, Vice President-Special Projects. Gerry served as NMRA Communications Director for five years, and, prior to that, was Deputy Chair of the NMRA's Member Services Department. He also served on the boards and edited the newsletters of the Thousand Lakes Region and Twin Cities Division. Gerry received the NMRA President's Award in 2010, and the Meritorious Service Award in 2012. Gerry replaces Bill Kaufman, who resigned in mid-February.

E-mail addresses for the NMRA eBulletin - If any of your members did not receive the first issue of the NMRA eBulletin, which was mailed out on March 5, it means either their SPAM filter is preventing it from getting through, or their email address on file with NMRA Headquarters isn't current. Please have them visit <http://www.nmra.org/member/content/member-info-update> to update email information. Also let them know that it may take a little bit of time for the update to take effect, since this is currently being done manually by HQ staff.

New Email address for Division Business Car Column - Jim Zinser has announced a new email address for his Division Business Car Column. The new email address is divbizcar@outlook.com.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in the NMRA Magazine. 🚂

Photograph - working on the Railroad - 1st place - Bob Zeigler - on time V&T RR



Branch Line Deadlines for 2013 & 2014

OCT-NOV-DEC 2013 Issue
Articles due by
September 10, 2013

JAN-FEB-MAR 2014 Issue
Articles due by
December 10, 2013

APR-MAY-JUN 2014 Issue
Articles due by
March 10, 2014

JUL-AUG-SEP 2014 Issue
Articles due by
June 10, 2014

If there are any questions
contact the Branch Line
Editor, Chuck Harmon at
harmonsta@yahoo.com or
phone (559) 299-4385.



HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. Each is available for NMRA members to borrow for the cost of processing and postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit www.nmra.org and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.



We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org

Then, get that popcorn ready.

InfoNet-News For May, 2013

by Tom Draper, Director, Support Services

Latest Update from the Peachtree Express 2013 NMRA Convention from Joe Gelmini – Peachtree Express Convention Chairman

The Atlanta Convention Committee has been hard at work for the last several years preparing a great schedule of events for your enjoyment and education. There is truly something for everyone.

For the rail-oriented group

You can choose from over 200 clinics covering a wide array of topics and including sessions covering basic to advanced topics, even "Modeling with the Masters" clinics.

Over 60 outstanding layouts in all scales will open their doors for your touring pleasure. The silent auction will be filled with bargains in all scales as well as books and railroadians.

The model celebration and contest is shaping up to be one of the best, so bring what you've been working on to just show it off, or have it evaluated for AP points.

A Company Store will feature our unique HO and N scale convention cars, numerous items of logo apparel, and many other rail-related goodies.

The convention banquet will feature professional family-friendly entertainment in the side-splitting "Lucy and Desi tribute show" along with Door Prizes.

The National Train Show is shaping up to be one of the best. All the major manufacturers and vendors will be there, plus modular layouts in all scales.

Atlanta is rich in railroad heritage and we plan to highlight many local attractions.

Prototype tours include:

Visits to CSX Tilford and Hulseley yards and CSX railfanning (Sold Out).

The unique operations of short line Georgia Northeastern NS intermodal operations and railfanning (Sold Out)

A ride over the famed L&N "Hook & Eye" route on our very own charter train

A look into the future of transportation takes you to American Maglev's test facility and a ride on their prototype maglev train.

Airplane buffs will not want to miss the tour to the Delta Museum, which is now planned to include a look at the Delta World Ops Center and training simulators.

Opportunities to visit one of Atlanta's premier rail museums - Southeastern Railway Museum.

Atlanta is a great family fun location, so bring the family. General Interest Tours include:

An extensive array of non-rail clinics, a special ladies luncheon, an "open early-close late" hospitality suite, continuation of the Project Linus quilting activities, evening movie events featuring "Gone With the Wind" and other southern-flavor classics.

A special evening at Stone Mountain Park to enjoy all the attractions

Continued on page 25



Photograph - model B&W - 1st place - Frank Markovich - The shack



Photograph - prototype B&W - 1st place - Eugene Brichacek - exhaust fills the air UP near Big Hole



Photograph - Trains in action - 1st place - Kenneth Martin - UP 7088

InfoNet - May (Cont.)

and culminating in the fabulous Laser & Fireworks Spectacular.

Tours to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta Cyclorama, Carter Library, Martin Luther King birthplace and others.

Our convention venue is convenient and affordable

Located outside of downtown Atlanta, The Renaissance Waverly is the convention hotel. Your \$139.00 convention rate includes FREE parking and the hotel is directly connected to the Galleria Centre, site of the rail clinics and tour departures.

You'll enjoy air-conditioned comfort throughout the entire Waverly/Galleria complex.

The complex also features a covered walkway to Cumberland Mall, home to 140 stores and numerous restaurants.

For additional convention details, visit: www.nmra2013.org.

Considerations When Inviting Speakers To Your Convention A message from Tony Koester, At Large Director, Worldwide (2005-2013)

I've been asked to give clinics and after-dinner talks at venues literally around the world since 1969. I very much appreciate the honor, as do others who receive similar invitations.

There are several considerations that we should all be aware of, however, that will help to avoid anyone being in an embarrassing or financially untenable situation. Based on decades of presenting talks and on discussions with others who are often asked to do this, I have prepared a list of expectations and customs.

Speakers asked to give a talk in their home Region or Division do not usually expect to have any expenses covered. It's just part of being an active and participating member of a Region or Division.

When I was elected At-large Director, Worldwide, one of my first proposals was to compensate those who are asked to give clinics at National Conventions. When the officers and directors worked through the numbers, however, it quickly became apparent that any significant compensation such as free lodging or even registration would cause the basic registration fee to grow significantly. That said, in my view clinicians who attend the National only for the day they present their clinic should, at a minimum, be allowed to register at a one-day rate. Even though it is a distinct honor to be asked to give a clinic at a National Convention and counts toward an Achievement Program certificate, perhaps some means of offsetting expenses for National clinicians will one day be worked out by the leadership team and convention hosts.

Those who are invited to give clinics or after-dinner talks at Regions other than their home Region cannot be expected to cover their own major expenses, including transportation, lodging, and banquet costs. They should expect to cover their own non-banquet meals, tours, and other extra-fare costs. But it is simply unfair to expect popular speakers to spend significant hobby funds to "entertain your troops," as they are often invited to numerous conventions each year. The costs quickly become prohibitive. The model railroad publications do have budgets for staff travel, but

Continued on page 26

InfoNet - May (Cont.)

such budgets are usually very limited.

Many travel schedules and budgets are set up at least a year out; my own travel schedule tends to fill up two or three years in advance. So as soon as you have a date set for your event and a person delegated to round up a slate of clinicians and the after-dinner speaker, immediately reach out to those you hope can help you make your convention a resounding success.



Photograph - Tracks & structures - 1st place - Eugene Brichacek - sring switch ready for install



Photograph - general subject - 1st place - Carol Skold - Another weathering job



Model - steam locomotive open - 1st place - Steve Wesolowski - Nn3 0-6-0T #23
Photo by Steve Wesolowski

NMRA Election Results Announced

NMRA Secretary John Stevens announced the results of the voting which took place earlier in the year for three NMRA Board of Director positions. The results aren't considered official until the Board of Directors meets this July in Atlanta and accepts the report of the Ballot Committee.

At-Large Worldwide Director

Mike Brestel (446)
Larry Smith (295)
Stan Ames (291)
Leslie Eaton (56)

Atlantic District Director

Kathy Millatt (74)
Alain Kap (17)

Western District Director

Jack Hamilton (263)
Larry Alfred (155)

Home Depot / Holiday Project / National Model Railroad Month

This concept is for the design and implementation of a multi-city holiday campaign titled BUILD A MEMORY.

This project would be the building of a Holiday Train that families can create together to have a lasting holiday memory. The concept is simple: the NMRA designs a build packet that includes all specs (lumber, wiring, track layout, suggested scenery, etc.) that local Home Depot patron can watch being built as part of their Saturday Build Workshop series. The patron would then take plans home and build themselves. (We are in discussion with National retailers and publication for sponsorship.) We would like the Divisions to build a set of in progress layouts (like a cooking show) so the patrons do not have to be at Home Depot for more than an hour. We would also recruit local hobby shops to partake.

The NMRA Marketing department would contact the local regions and divisions to man the selected Home Depot stores and also work with a local market hobby shop to help with awareness of hobby materials.

We need Divisions from the following areas to partake in this campaign. (SE states, NE states, Upper Mid states, Lower Mid States, SW states, Pacific Northwest) These events will be filmed for local news. If interested, please contact Page Martin at marketing@hq.nmra.org 🚂

InfoNet-News For June, 2013

by Tom Draper, Director, Support Services

A message from Stephen Priest, MMR - NMRA RAC Director

As I near the end of my term as Regional Advisory Council Director, I wish to share with the NMRA membership some of my experiences. This position, often referred to as "the RAC," is responsible for providing a conduit between the NMRA Board of Directors and the Regions. That is to say, this board position was set up to provide the Regions with a contact person who will work to establish and maintain an open door to the concerns, issues, and ideas of the Regions. I have enjoyed meeting many Region presidents and talking to them personally at conventions and meets. I have also enjoyed talking with them on the phone and through e-mails.

What has surprised me the most is the great divide, a polarization if you will, between different presidents and Regions. Some Region presidents enjoy getting involved in the NMRA at a National level, and some really want to be simply left alone. In a nutshell, a "one approach fits all" methodology really does not work. There are Regions out there that wish to carry out activities without any involvement from National; others desire to be actively engaged at the National level. My challenge has been to provide good representation for the Regions, bringing their concerns and questions to the board, during board meetings and between meetings when appropriate. I will not pretend that I understand all issues and concerns -- there is no single consensus on approach or any issue. What I have tried to do is be approachable -- my work with the NMRA Magazine makes me easy to find. Several Region presidents have called and voiced concerns; I have taken those concerns to the board and we have worked toward solutions. Disappointingly, most presidents have been silent.

While serving on the board, I have attempted to represent the membership by making sound decisions that effect how the NMRA allocates its resources, time, and efforts. I am not of the mindset that all we can do is "hold out" for as long as we can. On the contrary, I see a great future for the NMRA and model railroading in general. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve. It has truly been a pleasure.

An Announcement from the Testor Corporation

Pactra, Floquil, PollyScale and ColorArtz brands are being discontinued. Decisions such as these are never easy. Trends in model railroading have changed over time. Creating product for weathering and scenery has been more of the focus as train cars have moved to pre-decorated. The good news is that the same great products for weathering and scenery can be found in Testor's CreateFX line that is available now. Please check your local hobby shop or <http://www.testors.com/category/667494/CreateFX> for information regarding this product line.

We've made the decision to exit the following businesses



Model - diesel kit - 1st place - Pat LaTorres - Steel body gas mechanical box car



Model - diesel open - 1st place - Giuseppe Aymar - UPSD90MAC-H



Model - freight car kit - 1st place - Frank Markovich - Westside flatcar



Model - freight car open - 1st place - Vittore Cavalli - SP narrow gauge stock car

Continued on Page 28

InfoNet - June (Cont.)

within the Testor ® Brand family - Pactra®, Floquil®, PollyScale®, and ColorArtz®. This will enable The Testor Corporation to return to our foundation of success – providing premium, innovative product that inspire creativity. We will continue to accept orders and ship product for a limited time based on available quantities.



Model - passenger car kit - 1st place - Bill Dwyer - SP Cascade

Going forward, the following brands will be critical to our success and development - Testor®, Model Master®, and Aztek®. These brands will be infused with marketing support, innovation and operational efficiencies.

We appreciate your passion for our business. We look forward to introducing you to this exciting new product line that is great for today's modeler as well as future generations.

Best Regards, The Testor Corporation, Consumer Affairs Department

Atlanta National Train Show Update

by Tom Draper, Chairman, National Train Show

The Atlanta National Train Show (NTS) has to date already sold more booths than either of the last two train shows in Grand Rapids and Sacramento. 283 booths (96.9% of available booths) have been sold so far for the Atlanta NTS.

The Atlanta NTS is being held in all four halls (A, B, C and D) of the Cobb Galleria Centre in 144,000 square feet of space.

There is 40,665 square feet of the hall area devoted to modular layouts with 23 different modular layout groups participating in the show Scales represented are HO, N, S, O, On30, Z, G, TT, 7.5" and LEGO.

The Train Show dates and times are as follows:

Friday, 07-19-13 – 9 am – Noon – Convention Attendees and Trade only.

Noon – 6 pm – General Public

Saturday, 07-20-13 – 10 am to 6 pm – General Public

Sunday, 07-21-13 – 10 am to 5 pm – General Public

Ticket prices are: Adult - \$12.00, Senior (65 and over) - \$11.00, Child (6 – 12) - \$6.00, Under 6 – Free, 2 Day Adult - \$22.00

Peachtree Express Convention 2013 Tour Update

by Joe Gelmini, Chairman, Peachtree Express 2013

Due to insufficient pre-convention interest, the following tours have been canceled:

Layout tours:

L411 Birmingham

L623 Mountain Tour

L624 Hummingbird

Prototype tours:

P454 Great Loco Chase (Wednesday) Monday tour still available

P558 Marta



Model - caboose kit - 1st place - Frank Markovich - Hon3 Westside lumber caboose



Model - caboose open - 1st place - Steve Wesolowski - Nn3 logging caboose
Photo by Steve Wesolowski

Continued on Page 29

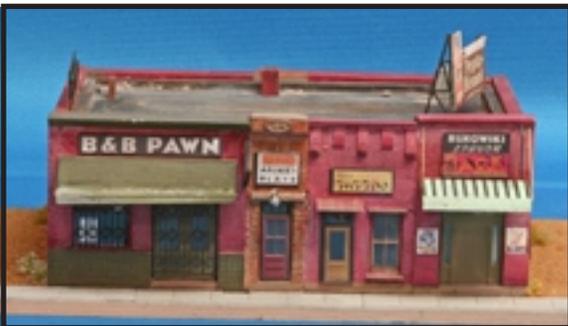
InfoNet - June (Cont.)



Model - MOW kit - 1st place - Kenneth Martin - RGS outfit 2102



Model - MOW open - 1st place - Frank Markovich - Westside snowplow



Model - structure novice - 1st place - Neil Fernbaugh - Skid row #1 Bukowski liquor



Model - traction open - 1st place - Thomas Knapp - 1915 Jeffrey storage battery mining locomotive

P659 Southeastern Railway Museum (Friday)
Saturday tour still available
P762 Southern Museum & Kennesaw

General Interest tours

G237 Historic Roswell (G543 "Buckhead the Beautiful" is very similar and includes a tour of the Governor's Mansion)
G340 CNN Studios & Cyclorama
G442 World of Coke & Aquarium
G544 Atlanta's Heroes
G747 Sugarloaf Mills & Mall

The Following tours are sold out:

L205 Georgian
L520 Dixie Flager
P253 NS Intermodal & Railfan
P355 CSX Railfan

We regret any inconvenience or disappointment this may cause. But there are many other great tours still available. Please contact NMRA Headquarters to arrange to change to another tour or get a refund.

NMRA Peachtree Express 2013 Convention Update

Clinics - Convention registrants can attend over 200 clinics on modeling, prototype, technical, and historical topics. You can see Tony Koester explain creative kitbashing. Paul Locher, MMR will cover hand-laying trackwork. Many local clinicians will also give clinics on unique topics.

If you want hands on training, the Modeling with the Masters clinics are great for an extra fare.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Atlanta this summer for the Peachtree Express 2013 NMRA National Convention. 🚂



Model - structure kit - 1st place - Ronnie LaTorres - 0n3 wood king post bridge

Travelin' Around

by John Sing

Attend a convention near you (as in your local PCR convention coming up in April 2014).

Although I've permanently moved to Sarasota, Florida (as of Sept 2012), my heart will always be in the PCR. Speaking of conventions, one good thing about being over here in Florida is that the famous Railroad Prototype Modelers Cocoa Beach Meet, held every January, is within 3 hours drive. This is sometimes called "The Winter Nationals", because a truly all-star model railroading cast of speakers and attendees always comes - this year it included Tony Thompson, Tony Koester, Andy Sperandeo, Stephen and Cynthia Priest, Jared Harper.... you get the picture. You can see the meet's website here:

<http://www.prototype Rails.com/>, and if you ever want to be in warm Florida weather in January, I'd recommend you come by.

Here's some photos of the meet, enjoy.

By the way, I've joined the following club in Bradenton, Florida: <http://realrail.org/> If you're ever in Sarasota, we have an absolutely great model railroad shop: <http://www.gcmrr.com/> I saw Ed Liesse there just last week! (he was in Sarasota for a wedding). 🚂



Bill Schaumberg of RMC was on the job making sure he had good photos for the magazine.



Lots of models were on display



Flat car loads come in all sizes



This operating bridge is on an Ntrak module



Sample of models - all scales represented

Garden Railroad Open House

by Dale Canalley

As in past summers, the garden railroaders in the South Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz areas are opening their homes to their neighbors and friends to collect food for the hungry in our communities. This event is open to the public. We hope you and your family can join us. We plan to feed a lot of hungry kids. We ask that our visitors bring a donation of non perishable food when they pick up a guide book Cash, checks, gift cards for Nob Hill or Safeway also work. This food is donated to the St Josephs Family Center & the Community Pantry to feed the hungry in our communities. Our biggest need every year is publicity. If you can help us in that area, we would appreciate it. I have attached a flyer. If you could post it at your place of business and forward it to any folks that might be interested, it would be a great help. We will have 12 families who have agreed to open their homes for you enjoyment that day. If you have any questions, please email dalemcannally@verizon.net or call me 408-683-4537 (days - tell my secretary is about railroads) or 408-848-1440 (home). We will be open on Saturday, August 17th, from 9AM to 4 PM. Please visit us if you can. 🚂

BAY AREA GARDEN RAILROAD SOCIETY AND SOUTH COUNTY RAILROADERS INVITE YOU TO THE 19TH ANNUAL

GARDEN RAILROAD TOUR

To Benefit The St Joseph's Center and Community Pantry



Visit ten (10) stunning railways running through some of the most spectacular backyard gardens in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Hollister, Salinas and Santa Cruz.

Please help those in need by bringing a non-perishable food item (canned good, pasta, cereal, etc.) to donate to any of the layouts. Cash or check to the "St Joseph's Family Center" or "The Community Pantry" are also gratefully accepted.

SATURDAY AUGUST 17, 2013 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

You can pick up a Tour Book/Guide after August 11th at these fine retail outlets.
Garden Accents, 11155 Lena Ave, Gilroy
(Off Highway 101, near the Masten exit)
BookSmart, 80 East 2nd Avenue, Morgan Hill
(near Depot Street at the RR tracks)

For more information contact Dale @ (408) 848-1440, dalemcannally@verizon.net or Dave at (408) 842-1843

Coast Division Report

By Darlene Ferguson Chief Clerk



Changing of the guard took place at the March Meet with the election of Frank Markovich now the Superintendent. Darlene Ferguson now the Chief Clerk and Bob Ferguson is the Paymaster. With that said, this is Darlene's first report via the Branchline (thanks for the patience.)

With the May meeting being held on June 9th at the Boy Scout building at 1001 Davis Street in San Leandro, the attendance had a total of 86 members. Coast Division with 80 members along with Redwood Empire with 4 followed by Sierra with 2.

Clinics were given by Mark Schutzer on Model Photography. Dave Connery gave a clinic on Adhesives. Howard McKinney led the Modeler's Roundtable. If anyone has a clinic that they would like to give for future meets contact Frank Markovich at frank@frankmarkovich.com. Frank is also checking on a survey regarding having clinics being held in between meets. Contact Frank also regarding interest.

As far as the contests (to the best of my quick notes, I'm still learning on this) Structure went to Edward Gregory. Photo contest was 1st place to Seth

Continued on Page 32



Coast (Cont.)

Neumann. A tie for 2nd to Pat Latorres and Ronnie Latorres (keeping it in the family) with 3rd place to Ken Martin.

The meeting started with a report from Charlie Getz on the National Convention in Atlanta in July. If anyone has any concerns or interest that need to be brought up at the Board of Directors meeting, email Charlie at pres@hq.nmra.org. The gallery exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento is on course. The bids are going out with the completion by Mid 2014.

Rod Smith wants everyone on July 2nd to honor John Allen's 100th birthday by having a breakfast of pancakes and jam (John preferred Strawberry) (JAM for John Allen Memorial.)

The Bay Area Garden Railroad Society is having tours August 17 helping St Joseph Food Bank. Pat La Torres is the one to contact for the tours at duhnerd@pacbell.net.

Now that Mark is the Coast Division Director, he informed that at the PCR Convention in Dublin this year the Member of the Year is David Parks. Congratulations David for all your work with ops and tours!

During the auction Frank Markovich had and will continue to have a room playing railroad videos.

The auction this time still included a portion of the Albert McFarlane estate with over 600 items.

The presence of Chuck Mitchell was great to have at the June meet with Chuck bidding on items as always. It is with sad news that Chuck passed away on June 13th. Chuck, you will always be with us. Prayers and thoughts go out to family and friends. As soon as services are arranged, information will be posted on the PCR-NMRA Yahoo Group.

The first report in Branchline is done, (yeah). Improvements will follow.

Til next time, have a safe summer! 🚂

Daylight Division Report

by Mike O'Brien

Photos by Mike O'Brien



GEHAMS HO Scale layout fills an entire upstairs room in a Downtown Bakersfield building. Another floor holds the N-Scale layout.

Well, with installment no. 2 of this year's 4 scheduled meetings in the bag, it has been bestowed upon me to give a report concerning the May 11th 2013 meeting. We all met this time at the Coco's Family Restaurant, 955 Oak St, in Bakersfield. There was a breakfast available for those who wished to indulge which started at 8:30.

Once everyone finished the great breakfast from Coco's the pre-meeting started a bit delayed at about 9:40. Doug Wagner presented a video about Southern Pacific in California during 1940 & 1950's. Once we woke up from the informative video showing scenes about SP steam power rolling thru various scenic areas of California, and due to the busy day planned for members because of National Train Day, we proceeded to get on with the meeting.

The call to order was gavelled in by Dave Grenier at 11:30 where there was 17 voting members and 2 guests present. The normal agenda was presented. The bills paid and reports presented.

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Daylight (Cont.)

The AP report announcing that two members - Chuck Harmon & Andrew Merriam - are in the process at NMRA HQ to complete 6 of 7 items to receive Master Model Railroader AP Certificates. Good Luck guys.

Also it was announced that Suzie Paff requested to withdraw from the upcoming nominations and to resign from her duties as Chief Clerk/Paymaster and bottle washer. It was stated that she will be duly missed. Bob Sexton had volunteered to take over the duties of Chief Clerk/Paymaster. His name will appear on the upcoming ballot.

Members also discussed the Daylight Observation conversion to all digital format. Discussions included how to make the publication available to all members including those who do not have electronics communications. Gary Saxton volunteered to print out a hard copy of the Observation for those members who could not get the Observation from the Internet. Discussions will be continued.

The meeting continued on to concerning the Daylight Division getting a 501 c3 tax status. Dave Grenier reported that NMRA is trying to get permission to include Regional and Divisional organizations under the same 501c3 wing so they can utilize 501 (c3) tax advantages. Mike O'Brien, Division Industry Liaison, reiterated that this could be a useful tool to help generate more positive feedback in asking for donations for the Division in the future. Discussions will continue on this, also.

Continuing on, future meets were presented for consideration:

August 17, 2013, Selma, CA. Meeting will be held at the Spike n' Rail Steakhouse. Tours include a visit to the Hillcrest 15" gauge railroad, with rides and tour available.

Contests for Selma Meet:

Models: Structures & Photo, Maintenance of Way

November, 2013, to be determined. Meet may be held on Saturday, October 12, in conjunction with the Central Coast Railroad Festival, in San Luis Obispo.

February, 2014, to be determined.

April 30, 2014, San Luis Obispo, at the PCR Convention (Business meeting only).

Before adjourning, the Contest winners were announced by Contest Chairman Steve Biggs:

Favorite Model: Rick Fulkerson's roundhouse

Logging: Mike O'Brien's logging train

The door prize winner was John Houlihan. The winners of the world famous red ticket raffle were the announced by the Division Liaison Mike O'Brien and Doug Wagner closed out the mourning with the world famous white elephant auction where there was some major bids being offered.

Once the auction concluded everyone was off to finish the day out at their choice of venues. Members were offered to visit Bakersfield's Amtrak station to see some of the local train action and to view two layouts celebrating National Train Day. They also got to visit GEHAMS (Bakersfield's hidden little gem) to view their two layouts. Everyone had plenty of opportunities to take many



Larry Sawslaw's modular layout was set up at the Amtrak Depot to commemorate National Train Day



Kevin Birbeck's home N-scale layout is a freelance layout representing the Northwestern US during the 1950's. This is a really nice layout and the members say thanks to Kevin for the opportunity to visit his layout.

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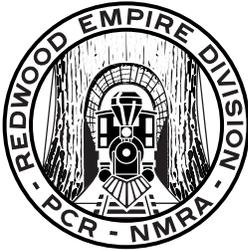


Daylight (Cont.)

photos of central California's largest model railroad layouts.

Also included in the afternoon venue was Kevin Birbeck's home N-scale layout. This is a freelance type layout based that represents the Northwestern US during the 1950's. The layout is consists of diesel and steam power, scratched built buildings, a fiddle yard. This is a really nice layout and the members say thanks to Kevin for the opportunity to visit his layout.

The eventful day came to an end where we all drove off into the sunset to wait with great expectations for our next meeting August 17, 2013, Selma, CA. 🚂



RED Report 6/12/13

Verne Alexander, Chief Clerk

Our Spring meeting was held May 22. The election returns named Dick Foster our new Superintendent, and retained me as Chief Clerk and Paymaster. The members applauded outgoing Superintendent Stew Benson for his service.

The meeting featured yet another strong "show and tell" session, with several members bringing models and projects which they talked about with the group. Carol Alexander brought the small N scale layout that has come into RED possession, and talked about completing it with bridges, structures and scenery and using it to draw the public's interest at various shows and exhibitions. Carol envisions this to be a group construction project, and several member brought materials toward this end. Nothing was actually begun at this meeting, as the "pot luck" approach to contributions failed to yield some key elements. The next appeal will be more specific about what is needed.

Our big raffle prize was a Bachman DCC train set donated by Clark Stewart of W&W Hobbies. The winning ticket was held by Steve Lewis, and therein lies a tale. Steve has a grandson with an interest in trains, and Steve was actively looking for something with which to get him started. And he wins it in the RED raffle! Sometimes things work out.

Plans are not quite finalized, but it is fairly certain that our summer picnic meeting will be held on the grounds of the Sturgeon steam powered sawmill in Graton in mid-September. The meeting will feature a tour of the facility. NMRA members from outside the RED are most welcome to join us. 🚂



Sierra Division Report

By Gary Ray

The May 11th **Sierra Division Meet** in Sacramento was mainly an organizational meet to discuss ideas to increase participation in meets and to recruit and retain members. Twenty members were present. Dates were set for the next three meets with the first one being our annual picnic on August 24th in Reno. **Dennis Drury** and **James Petro** are doing the planning for this family oriented event. The division is looking for hosts to arrange future meets and a Program Chair to arrange clinics. The Sierra Division would be happy to pay for gas and provide lunch for clinicians from other divisions. Clinicians can receive AP credit for their presentation. We would like to have

Continued on Page 35



Sierra (Cont.)

a list of layouts that are available for visitation and/or operations. We are planning a future clinic on "Operations" for those who have never operated on a layout to make them feel at ease. We hope future meets are in locations that can be used from 9 to 5 and will include 2 clinics and possibly a layout visit. Contact **Scott McAllister** [scooter923@att.net] (916) 351-9885 if you can help with any of these needs. Future meets will be held on October 12th in Cameron Park and on February 8, 2014.

It was decided that the division would have a fall meet even though it falls close to our fund raiser, The International Railfair, in November. The Sierra Division tentatively decided to drop paying for volunteers to attend the Railfair banquet because of costs to the division, but volunteers do get free admittance to Railfair and may also purchase tickets to the banquet if they desire to attend. If you have an objection to deleting the banquet, let Scott McAllister know by as soon as possible or at the August meet so a final decision can be made.

Some of the changes that are being made in our division will include meet dates in February, May, August, and October. A swap meet once a year in May, a picnic in August, and a business meeting would be part of the October meet starting in 2014. Members voted on changing the election of directors to even years.

One new member, **Jim Collins**, has volunteered to be our Membership Chair. He has already written a welcoming letter to new members and given them a phone call. When new members come to their first meeting, they will receive a NMRA track gauge and a name tag will be ordered to distribution at the next meeting they attend. In order to help facilitate ride sharing in our huge geographic division, **Gary Ray** [gerber1926@gmail.com] (530) 873-0626] will try to put members in contact with others in their area.

Door prizes will be handed out at our meets. I was the lucky recipient of a beautiful Bar Mills kit, Bud Smiley's Gas Stop. Altogether nine prizes were awarded for door prizes and our flat car loads contest. Winners of the flatcar loads contest were **Dick Witzens, Jim Collins, Bill Eversult, and Jim Dieckman**. Our August 24th contest is for scratch built or modified stock cars, scratch built, resin kit, weathered, realistic load. In addition, the division is going to have a quarterly photo contest. For our first contest, any railroad subject can be included. Each print must be at least 5"x7" and not exceed 8"x12". Photos need not be mounted. No more than three entries per person. A new model building contest similar to the Northeastern Scale Models Yard Office is in the planning stages. The Sierra Division is excited about the new ideas that we are implementing and is looking forward to seeing you on August 24th.

Happy contest and door prize winners at Sierra Division April 11th Meet.

Left to right: Jim Dieckman, Mary Moore-Campagna, Dick Witzens, Bill Eversult, Larry Champlin, Mell Jones, Al Rowe, Front row: Jim Collins, Gary Ray

Photo by Jim Collins



Contest Chair Karen Keifer presents Dick Witzens with prizes from flatcar loads contest

Photo by Gary Ray





NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.

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PCR Convention
April 30 - May 4, 2014
Sands Inn & Suites
1930 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA**

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Coast Rails 2014
c/o Doug Wagner
14008 Tierra Blanca Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93314
E-mail: CoastRails2014@pcrnma.org
Website: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2014
Visit the website to pay by credit card

Please Print

Registration Form

Hosted by: Daylight Division, PCR / NMRA

Last Name		First Name		First Name (for Name Badge)	
Address			City		State Zip Code
Home Phone		E-mail Address			NMRA # (Membership Required)
Registration Type (Please check one) Model Railroader on Ra Nil o Y uth				NMRA Region (if other than PCR)	
Available to Volunteer on Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Times: _____					
I can help more. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me					
Primary Scales and Interests		HO N Z S O G Narrow Gauge Other: _____			
Will you attend the Hobo Breakfast at the Apple Farm? Yes, How many Hobos? _____ No					
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form for more than 1)					
Last Name		First Name		First Name (for Name Badge)	
Registration Type (Please check one) Modeler Non-Rail Youth		E-Mail (if Different)			NMRA #
Available to Volunteer on Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Times: _____					
I can help more. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me					
Primary Scales and Interests		HO N Z S O G Narrow Gauge Other: _____			

*All Fares include Clinics (except MWTM Clinics), Layout Tours, and Saturday Night Awards Banquet Ticket.
Day Fares do NOT include Saturday Night Awards Banquet.*

FARES: <i>Please fill in QTY and Total</i>	QTY	Unit Cost	Total
Early Bird Registration (through January 31, 2014) (Full Fare is \$89.00)		79.00	
First Timer – PCR Members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions.		69.00	
Non-Rail or Spouse Registration (spouse can be modeler)		69.00	
Youth Registration (12-18 years old or student)		50.00	
Additional Saturday Night Awards Banquet Ticket (Included in all Registrations except Day Fares) (For non-attending spouses/SOs coming to nothing else and not otherwise registered)		20.00	
Day Fare Wed Thurs Fri Sat		35.00	
Non-NMRA member must join the NMRA to register. *Student is any person 18 years and under or student 19-25 years old.	6 month Rail Pass (allowed one time only)	9.95	
	NMRA membership with NMRA magazine	66.00	
	NMRA membership without NMRA magazine	44.00	
	* Student membership with NMRA magazine	32.00	
	PCR Branch Line newsletter subscription	6.00	
Swap Meet Half Table		5.00	
Swap Meet Full Table		10.00	
MODELING WITH THE MASTERS Clinics			
Building a Laser Structure Kit	Wednesday, April 30, 4:00 PM	N/HO	50.00
Scratch Building in Styrene	Thursday, May 1, 7:00 AM	N/HO	50.00
Scratch Building in Styrene	Thursday, May 1, 7:00 AM	S / O	65.00
Learning to Build a DPM Kit Properly	Thursday, May 1, 1:00 PM	N/HO	50.00
Building a Turnout using Fast Tracks	Friday, May 2, 7:00 AM	TBD	60.00
Scratch Build a Cattle Ramp	Friday, May 2, 1:00 PM	HO	25.00
Scratch Build a Puddle-Jumper Bridge	Friday, May 2, 4:00 PM	HO	25.00
Payment by Check** Cash (Use website for credit card)		TOTAL	

** Make Checks Payable to: "Coast Rails 2014" **No Refunds After April 9, 2014**

Club Info

ALAMEDA COUNTY CENTRAL RAILROAD SOCIETY

ACCRS is located at the Alameda Co. Fair Grounds, Pleasanton. A 30 by 100 foot room has O and HO layouts. Open to the public every Friday, 6 to 10 PM, they operate continuously during county fairs and special events. Annual dues: \$24, \$15 initiation fee; Jr membership for ages 12 to 18 (with sponsor), free. Contact: Gary Lewis 925-455-8135 E-mail: glslewis@comcast.net Web: www.pleasantonmodelrr.org/index.html

ANTIOCH MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The Black Diamond Lines is an HO Club located at 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch. BDL has been in continuous operation since 1981. We meet Tues. & Fri., 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Formal Operating Session on the 3rd Friday of the Month, but visitors can always find trains running every club night. For more information, e-mail info@blackdiamondlines.com or visit us on the web at www.blackdiamondlines.com and we can be found on Facebook and YouTube.

BAY AREA NTRAK MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

BANTrak MRC invites N scale modelers to visit us at the Wells Fargo Express Room, Southern Pacific Railroad depot, 902 Loring Ave., Crockett, on Wed. and Sat., 10 AM to 3 PM. Contact: Bob Lewis, 925-283-6838 E-mail: BobLewis1@sbcglobal.net.

BAY AREA Z MODULE COOPERATIVE

BAZ is a group in the SF Bay Area interested in developing and displaying Z scale modules. Members are building them to the "ZBend Track" Module miniModuleZ specs Anyone in Northern California interested in Z Scale railroading is welcome to join us. We meet Sundays 10 AM to 5 PM at members' houses. Contact: Robert Ray pray59@sbcglobal.net Yahoo group: groups.yahoo.com/group/BAZ_modules.

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL MODEL RR CLUB

The CCMRC is located in the old Agnew depot (Santa Clara) of the Southern Pacific (4185 Bassett St.) directly across from the Lafayette St. gate of Agnew State Hospital. The theme of the 15' x 50' HO club is western railroading running from the Bay Area to Southern Oregon. We meet Fri., 7:30 to 11 PM. Operating sessions the 1st and last Fri. of the month. Contact: 408-988-4449 (operating nights), or Wayne Cohen, 408- 779-0707.

CARQUINEZ MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY

HO Model Railroading on a Grand Scale! Can you imagine taking one real time hour to run an SP (or your favorite name) DCC train round trip from Oakland, through the Sierras to Sparks and back? Don't imagine, join us! Friday nights 7-10 (by appointment) at 645 Loring Dr, 2nd Floor, Crockett CA Call Weds 7-10 510-787-6703 or e-mail anytime loggingrr@aol.com, bob@bob2sell.com or lambert5522@att.net

COASTAL VALLEY LINES

The CVL is an informal association of novice to advanced model railroaders who live in Sonoma County. We meet at 7:00 PM the 1st Thu. of the month. We operate our HO modular railroad at local public shows. Contact: Blain Hendrix (707) 528-8655 or Steve Lewis (707) 527-0396. Web: <http://cvl.hobby-site.com>.

EEL RIVER VALLEY MODEL RAILROADERS

The Eel River Valley is an HO club with a NWP-layout series of modules under construction. We meet Fri., 7:30 PM at the Humboldt County Fair Grounds Commercial Building NW corner, Ferndale. Contact: Ron Plies, 707-725-9063 Mail: P.O. Box 950, Fortuna, CA 95540

ELSIE

The Left Coast (Elsie) HOn30 group invites anyone interested to join us. We use existing standards for module construction but are not merely a modular group. Contact: Al Sandrini in Bakersfield, 661-664-8614 or Ken Lunders in Cupertino, 408-777-9572.

EMPIRE BUILDERS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Starting over after a warehouse fire destroyed our layout, we are a small friendly group now constructing an HO layout of no specific origin based in the early 50's era. The mountain division is laid and operating, we also have a reasonable size yard operationally working well. Work days are Saturday and during summer on Wednesdays. Our retired members also show up on occasional weekdays. The club site is located at 3318 School St Oakland, Ca Call Charles at 510-917-5790 or Ted at 510-749-7099 for an invite to see/chat/join. Please visit our website <http://www.ebmrc.org>.

EUROPEAN TRAIN ENTHUSIASTS

ETE (www.ete.org) serves modelers, railway fans, related organizations, and the community through public venues, operating layouts, the annual convention EuroWest, the chapter newsletter, and the quarterly national journal, the *ETE Express*. ETE is open to all who have an interest in European railways, whether full size or scale model. The SF Bay Area Chapter meets the second Saturday of the month from 1-5pm in various locations around the bay. Contact Bill Keane (650) 355-7231 or billkeaney@comcast.net.

GOLDEN EMPIRE HISTORICAL & MODELING SOCIETY

Bakersfield GEHAMS, founded in 1987 and in their current location since March '94, is dual-scale with a 30' x 100' HO, and a 18' x 80' N based on SP's route from Bakersfield to Mojave with Tehachapi Loop. Though under construction, mainlines are in with monthly operations. Contact: Doug Wagner, 661-589-0391 email: carldw@aol.com GEHAMS web: www.gehams.com

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM -- EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900-A Dornan Drive in Miller-Knox Regional Park at Point Richmond. Weekly public hours are on our website. To meet members, inquire about membership and behind the scenes tours come Friday evenings between 7:30 and 10 PM (first Fridays are meetings); behind the scenes tours also available most Wednesdays 11 AM to 3 PM. New members are welcomed in all Scales – O, HO and N, including narrow gauge and traction. For general information check the website or call (510) 234-4884 (recording); for membership inquiries call (510) 236-1913 (to 8 PM). For other information or to schedule special events, email PR Director and Museum Secretary John Edginton: publicity@gsmrm.org. Website: www.gsmrm.org.

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Clubs (Cont.)

HUMBOLDT BAY & EUREKA MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The HB&EMRC meets at their clubhouse and layout at 10 West 7th St., Suite #C in Eureka, on Sat., 7:00 PM. Visitors are always welcome. Business meetings the 1st Sat of the month, 7:30 PM. Contact: David Berriman P.O. Box 915, Arcata, CA 95518 707-825-7689.

LAKE COUNTY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

HO layout. Meets Wednesday at 7:00PM in the old National Guard Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds on Martin Street, Lakeport. Call Mike Ernst at (707) 263-4949

MOTHER LODGE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The MMRC meets every Mon., 11:00 AM in the old historic primary school building in Sutter Creek. Additional open houses are normally held the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM. We are a fully DCC operating HO club with a large layout. Contact: Robert Piety, 209-296-3587.

NAPA VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Located at The Napa Valley Expo, (fairgrounds), 575 Third St., Napa, our railroad runs from Napa to Ukiah with off line connections to Stockton and Portland, has 700 feet of main line, and large classification yards at each end. The layout is never finished, as we are always rebuilding and improving! Era is 1940 to present. Member-owned rolling stock stresses reliability and realism. We meet Fri. 7:30 PM to 12, with formal runs the 2nd Fri. of the month. Info: John Rodgers 707-226-2985 E-mail: NapaJohn@napanet.net Web: www.nvmrc.org

Nn3 ALLIANCE

Our 700 members in nine countries model narrow gauge in "smaller scales". Nn3 describes 3', 3'6", and meter gauges, modeled in N or 2MM Scales. Our local portable exhibition layouts and modules regularly appear at conventions and shows. The Nn3 Handbook, 140 pages with 400 illustrations, covering all aspects of small scale narrow gauge, is available through the address on the website. Official mailing address: The Nn3 Alliance, PO Box 6652, Chesterfield, MO 63006 Web: www.Nn3.org <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nn3/>

SACRAMENTO MODEL RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established in 1948, the SMRHS is located at 1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento. Modeled as the Sierra Central RR, both HO and HO_{n3} layouts. HO layout is being rebuilt to depict SP/WP prototype. Open Tues. and Fri. nights, 7:30 PM. Contact: 916-927-3618 Email: d.megeath@comcast.net Web: www.smrhs.com

SACRAMENTO MODULAR RAILROADERS

Most of our events are operating sessions, where we make up trains in our large switch yard, and send road crews out to switch cars into and out of industries at the towns along the main line. The club owns a large main yard, the corner modules, some special modules, and some rolling stock. Members own their own modules and rolling stock. Contact: Dick Witzens, 916-684-1987 Web: <http://saccentral.railfan.net/>

SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAM RAILROAD MUSEUM (SVLSRM)

The SVLS was founded in 1968 and is located in Hagen Community Park, Rancho Cordova, CA. Our initial 1500 feet of track has expanded to over 6300 feet of mainline and sidings. Approximately 1500 feet is dual gauge 4 3/4" and 7 1/2". We can accommodate equipment ranging in size from 1 inch scale (standard gauge) to 5 inch scale (2 foot narrow gauge), the most common scale being 1 1/2". Public run days are on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month during our operating season.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY

The SJVGRS was founded in July of 1995 to promote the joy of building and operating Garden Railways. We have grown to over 70 families in the Central Valley, meeting monthly at members' homes to spend the afternoon sharing our hobby, weather permitting. Dues: \$25 a year for a family. Contact info: Richard Emerson 559-439-7173 E-mail: emerson.r@worldnet.att.net Web: <http://home.att.net/~sjvgrs/train/>

SAN LEANDRO HISTORICAL RAILWAY SOCIETY

The SLHRS models the SP from Oakland/San Leandro to just east of Norden using the tri-level Donner Pass plan featured in the March '98 Model Railroader. It's housed in the former S.P., San Leandro depot, located at 1302 Orchard Ave., San Leandro (just off Davis St.). Work sessions Sat. 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM and Tues. 7:30 - 9:30 PM, business meetings the 1st Fri. at 7:30 PM. Contact: Pat LaTorres, 510-276-3121 email: duhnerd@pacbell.net

SAN LUIS OBISPO MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION (SLOMRA)

The SLOMRA is a multi-scale modular group with active N, HO, and On30 layouts. The goal of our non-profit association is railroad education and local history through public display of our modules. Our shows usually include G-gauge, tinplate, and even LEGO trains. The monthly meetings include model and prototype activities, videos, and discussions. A separate business meeting handles show planning and club management. The SLOMRA is open to new members who have a love of trains. The general meeting is the third Monday of every month at 7:00pm at the Oceano Depot. For more information visit www.slomra.org or email info@slomra.org or phone Dennis Pearson at (805) 929-3062.

SILICON VALLEY LINES

The SVL is located at 148 E. Virginia St., San Jose. We meet Fri. 7:30 to 11:30 PM, with business meetings the 1st Fri. and operating sessions the last Fri. of the month. Our HO layout utilizing DCC for realistic operations, computer-generated train orders and radio-based dispatching. E-mail: svl@siliconvalleylines.com Web: www.siliconvalleylines.com

SOUTH BAY HISTORICAL RAILROAD SOCIETY

SBHRS invites interested modelers to visit us in the historic Santa Clara CalTrain Depot, 1005 Railroad Ave., Santa Clara, Tues. 7:00 to 10:00 PM or Sat. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Contact: 408-243-3969.

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BRANCH LINE
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Clubs (Cont.)

SOUTH COAST SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

The club consists of enthusiasts of all scales and prototypes living in the Santa Barbara area, and has a collection of railroad books and videos for loan to members. The club has no layout but activities include weekly operations and work sessions at member layouts, as well as occasional club field trips. We meet every 3rd Tues. at 7:30 PM, at Woodglen Hall, 3010 Foothill Road, Santa Barbara. Junior members welcome. Contact: Secretary Art Sylvester, email: sylvester@geol.ucsb.edu. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=163470062239>

SISKIYOU MODEL RAILROAD CLUB,

Siskiyou MRC will be meeting at members' homes through March. As the weather warms up will return to meeting at the YW depot. Thursdays--7 pm. Call for information. Tom Brass 530-842-4921 , Glenn Joesten 530-340-2537. "12-inch scale live steam division" (the Yreka Western Blue Goose) is planned to operate at least on weekends this year. The 19 is being prepared for the annual FRA boiler inspection and volunteers are preparing for the Rules Training and Exam.

TIDEWATER SOUTHERN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Manteca, formerly the Manteca Model RR Club

(org '73), TSRHS reorganized and incorporated in 1990. Located at the San Joaquin Fairgrounds, Building 1, (corner of Airport and Charter Ways (Hw 4), Stockton), a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove houses a large HO layout depicting the Tidewater Southern, several Valley towns, and museum display cases. We meet 6 - 8:30 PM Thursdays. Contact: Ben Cantu, 209-825-7215 Mail: PO Box 882, Manteca, CA 95336 E-mail: bcantu@SQ50.com

TRI-CITY SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

The TCSME is located at 37592 Niles Blvd. Fremont CA 94536 in the Niles Plaza. We are currently building two new layouts. The N Scale layout is in the restored Niles Depot and the HO layout is in the restored Niles Freight Building. Both layouts focus on Fremont, Newark, Union City and surrounding areas. We are looking for new members interested in building and running on the new layouts. We meet Fridays 7:30-9:30 PM and Sundays 10:00-4:00. Call 510-797-4449 for info. Please visit our web site at <http://www.nilesdepot.org>.

WALNUT CREEK MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY

The WCMRS, located at 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, is open the last Fri. of the month from 8 to 10 PM for operations. Fares are \$2 for 6-12 and seniors over 60 and \$3 for adults. Membership is always open to interested HO modelers. Contact: 925-937-1888 (recorder) Web: www.wcmrs.org. "Like Us" on Facebook, www.facebook.com/WCMRS. 2013 week-end schedule: Mar 16-17, May 18-19, Sept 14-15. Holiday Open House schedule: Nov. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, Dec. 1.

WEST BAY MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Meets at the former baggage building near the Menlo Park Railroad Station. The address is 1090 Merrill Street next to the tracks. The club meets every Wednesday from 7-10pm. Business meetings are on the second Wednesdays of the month and operating sessions, open to the public, are on the fourth Wednesdays. There are O, S, and HO Scales on a large layout. Admission is free. Donations are greatly appreciated. Contact: West Bay Model RR Association 650-322-0685 and visit our web site at : home.earthlink.net/~pesce/westbay.htm.