

Jul-Aug-Sep 2023



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



Omega Mine Tramway

**First Place Display - Novice and Square Foot Challenge Winner, 2023 PCR Convention Contest
By Don Burch, Coast Division**

(Read more about the 2023 convention beginning on page 17)

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Inquiries regarding membership application, renewal, or change of address should be directed to the NMRA, P.O. Box 1328 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328.

Branch Line
Deadlines for 2023/24

OCT-NOV-DEC 2023 issue

Articles due by
September 10, 2023

JAN-FEB-MAR 2024 issue

Articles due by
December 10, 2023

APR-MAY-JUN 2024 issue

Articles due by
March 10, 2024

JUL-AUG-SEP 2024 issue

Articles due by
June 10, 2024

Please direct questions to the
 PCR Publications Manager,
 Gus Campagna at
campgus@earthlink.net
 Or phone (707) 664-8466

Contents

Reports

From the President.....	4
From the Vice President.....	4
Contest Room.....	22
Achievement Report.....	55
SIG Report.....	62
Daylight Division Report.....	75
Coast Division Report.....	78
Redwood Empire Division Report.....	79
Sierra Division Report.....	81

Features

Rails By The River - 2023 PCR Convention.....	1, 17
Last Run - John Ameling.....	5
Women In Model Rail Rooding.....	6
Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Convention.....	8
International Rail Fair.....	9
2024 PCR Convention - Tech Line.....	13
Texas Express (National Convention).....	15
Joining NMRA Interchange.....	16
PCR Honors.....	48
Virtual Rails By The River.....	54
The Answers Are Out There.....	56
Life On The Fungus & Mungus.....	58
Eel River Model Railroaders.....	63
Tales Of The Santa Cruz Northern.....	71
Looking Back.....	73

Standard Fare

Call Board.....	2
Statement of Publication.....	3
Welcome New Members.....	10
Membership Tracker.....	11
Membership Gauge.....	11
In Memoriam.....	11
Missing Members.....	12
Time Table.....	84
Club Information.....	92
NMRA Partnership Program.....	97
NMRA Membership Renewal Form.....	98

From The President



By Frank Markovich, MMR
President

Highlights Since The Last Issue:

1. We had a successful convention in Sacramento. Thank you to all who worked on the convention. Part was in person and some attended online.
2. We changed the business meeting minimum to 25 from 35 members. Approved by the member's vote. This was a good thing because we only had 27 sign in for the business meeting in Sacramento.
3. We have several openings on the board including nomination chair, and publicity.
4. Next year's convention is set and will be hosted by the Coast Division. It will be in Milpitas April 24-28, 2024.
5. Some other events happened including West Side Reunion and the Sierra Seminar. I also attended O Scale West on Memorial weekend. I am really enjoying the fellowship at all of these events.
6. The PCR website is being converted to Word Press by Michael Eldridge. I want to thank Dave Grenier for the years of service to the PCR on the website!
7. Hybrid conventions – this was the first in the PCR. Please give feedback on it.
8. We will be trying a zoom Board Meeting for members to see what goes on. We are also adding in two additional board meetings each year (on Zoom). More later.
9. We received a donation from the 21st Century Limited to the PCR. I want to thank them for the donation.



From The Vice President



Chip Meriam, Vice-President and
Branch Line Editor

The second quarter was a busy one for the Pacific Coast Region. The Coast, Daylight, and Redwood Empire Divisions all had successful quarterly meets. In fact, RED enjoyed a “record breaking” turnout for its meet at Monroe Hall. The Sierra Division was hosting the annual PCR convention, but still found time for a short business meeting. Along with all this activity, PCR was able to add thirty seven new members. Did I say we were busy?

There are (at least) two things of note about all of this activity.

First, it demonstrates the overall success of model railroading as an enjoyable hobby. This group wouldn't be nearly as “busy” if no one enjoyed what they were doing. Keep in mind, that this is activity in addition to what we do as individual hobbyists in our own basements, attics, or garages. I think this is an appropriate time to say, **THANK YOU!** to all PCR members who have volunteered their leisure time to make this all happen.

Second, the fact that we can attract thirty seven new members speaks volumes about the future of our hobby and how we are perceived (positively) by the general public. Our job, now, is to make sure we retain these new members. I recently sat in on an NMRA national ZOOM call, One of the primary topics of discussion was ways to enhance new members' experience to insure they would stay with us. I heard lots of truly

good ideas, and I made a note to contact Mike Cummings, our National Secretary, for a list of many of these ideas. Meanwhile, I would love to hear from anyone in the PCR that has thoughts about membership retention. I would especially love to hear from our new members!

As *Branch Line* editor, I have a thought or two about this issue:

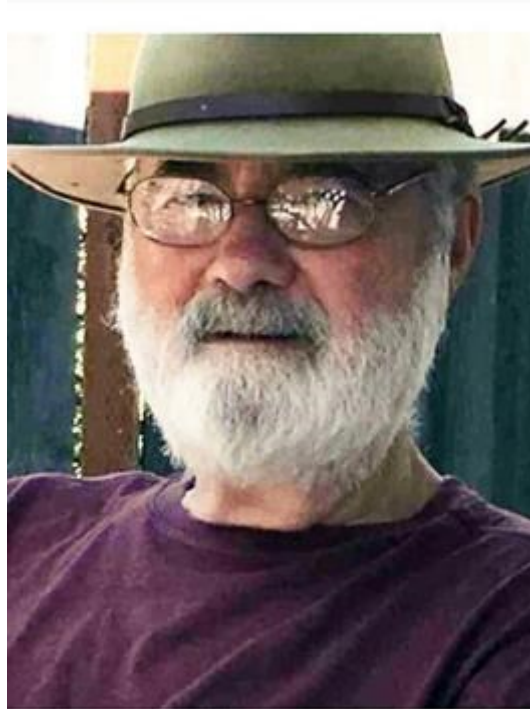
I'm a baseball fan—San Francisco Giants, to be specific. Lately, the Giants have had occasion to score lots of runs in a single game and win by a huge margin, only to loose subsequent games by scores of two to one or one to zero. It makes me wonder why they don't save some of those runs from the blowout games and use them in the “squeakers.”

Well, in much the same way, I wonder about this issue of the *Branch Line*. You see, it has ninety nine pages! The average page number over the past five-and-a-half years has been 48. Maybe it's nothing, but maybe....



LAST RUN

John Ameling



Long-time Coast Division Member, John Ameling, passed away on January 1, 2023. John is probably best remembered as the person who welcomed members to our meets, signed them in, and got them their door prize tickets. Eventually John was forced to relinquish this position as Parkinson's Disease gradually robbed him of the ability to handle this responsibility and ultimately led to his passing. John modeled in HO and had his layout open for visits during several Coast Layout Tours in times before the pandemic. John served in the US Air Force and was a graduate of Purdue University.



WOMEN IN MODEL RAILROADING

We invite you to join Women in Model Railroading in creating a supportive space that encourages more women in the hobby. To join the WIMRR SIG and get links to our Facebook groups please visit our SIG webpage.

<https://www.nmra.org/sigs/women-in-model-railroading>



Women in Model Railroading (WIMRR)

Contact:

wimrr@nmra.org

The **WIMRR** SIG has come out of winter hosting the first few months of our Zoom hangouts. We meet online monthly, share what we are working on, work on modeling projects during the meeting, chat, answer questions, and share knowledge. It has been a lot of fun! We feel very official because we now have official SIG shirts. These are available at Daylight Sales, of course!



We have also participated in our first train show with a presence at the Amherst show in January. We held a Meet & Greet at the NMRA booth and met so many people that support women in the hobby.

Many from our leadership team will be at the Rocky Mountain Train Show in Denver April 1st

where we will host another Meet & Greet at the NMRA booth. We have a lot of fun activities planned for the NMRA national convention in August, too. More info about all that we are doing to promote women in the hobby can be found on our Facebook page and by signing up for the SIG: <https://forms.gle/aKPhcXU1sthKW1MQ8>

<https://www.daylightsales.net/product-category/wimrr-sig/>



STILL AVAILABLE !



Short Sleeve Polo Shirts With "Rails by the River" Logo.

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[https://www.daylightsales.net/
product-category/rails-by-the-river-pcr-
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Contact Chip Meriam - chipmeriam@comcast.net

**2023 Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society Convention
Bakersfield, CA**



Wednesday, October 25 through Saturday, October 28, 2023

**DoubleTree by Hilton
3100 Camino Del Rio Court
Bakersfield, CA**

Additional information will be available after January 1, 2023

If you are interested in being a presenter, please send an email to sphts@sphts.org with your name and “Bakersfield” in the subject line, and your name and idea for a presentation in the body of the email.

Society Website: <https://sphts.org/>



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**Welcome Aboard !
PCR's Newest Members**

Larry Wines	Mojave CA	3/17/2023
Kyle Fogle	Bakersfield CA	3/30/2023
Randy Gallemore	Bakersfield CA	3/30/2023
Kevin Krahn	Reedley CA	3/30/2023
Todd Lopes	Fresno CA	3/30/2023
Dan Mitchell	Taft CA	3/30/2023
Tom Osterdock	Bakersfield CA	3/30/2023
Will Robertson	Dos Pales CA	3/30/2023
Zack Trome	Bakersfield CA	3/30/2023
Bart Van Dyke	Tulare CA	3/30/2023
Stephen Zelen	Bakersfield CA	3/30/2023
Laurence Young	Goleta CA	4/2/2023

Coast

Gary Dwyer	San Jose CA	3/3/2023
Lauren Glickman	Antioch CA	3/3/2023
Susan Lucas	Antioch CA	3/3/2023
Jerry Okendo	Antioch CA	3/3/2023
Kevin Bradfield	Santa Cruz CA	3/31/2023
Michael Loik	Felton CA	4/10/2023
Miles Callan	Berkeley CA	5/8/2023
Steve Huffstetter	Helcules CA	5/11/2023
John Rubin	Alamo CA	5/11/2023
Shawn Teller	Walnut Creek CA	5/11/2023

Sierra

Victor Bagcal	Lodi CA	3/3/2023
Jake Diehl	Citrus Heights CA	3/3/2023
Dave Duncan	Auburn CA	3/3/2023
David Epling	Stockton CA	3/3/2023
Joe Fletcher	Sacramento CA	3/3/2023
Brett Hagel	Sacramento CA	3/3/2023
Robert McCampbell	Antelope CA	3/3/2023
Wayne Nielsen	Sacramento CA	3/3/2023
Chris Ost	Stockton CA	3/3/2023
Sil Reggiardo	Cameron Park CA	3/3/2023
Brett Soldaho	Carmichael CA	3/3/2023
Stephen Swan	Alta CA	3/3/2023
Kenneth Kilby	Roseville CA	3/8/2023
Jim Lazansky	Yuba City CA	4/27/2023
Nora Magan	Sparks NV	4/27/2023

Continued on page 11

PCR Membership Gauge

May 31, 2013—1,140
 May 31, 2022—789
 June 30, 2022—775
 July 31, 2022—779
 August 31, 2022—775
 September 30, 2022—770
 October 31, 2022—770
 November 30, 2022—769
 December 31, 2022—774
 January 31, 2023—771
 February 28, 2023—766
 March 30, 2023—796
 April 30, 2023—796
 May 31, 2023—789

PCR Membership Tracker

<u>Division</u>	<u>#Members</u>
Coast	350
Sierra	238
Redwood Empire	110
Daylight	<u>91</u>
TOTAL	789

In Memoriam

Member	City, State	Date Joined
Coast		
Jon Miller (Lifetime Member)	Fremont CA	1/1/1975
Jack Palmer	Union City CA	2/1/2016
Michael Keaster	Livermore CA	4/14/1998
John Ellis	San Jose CA	5/23/1996
Sierra		
Bob Milton (Lifetime Member)	Stockton CA	1/1/1982
Theodore Kruper	Reno NV	2/1/2021
Redwood Empire		
Carol Alexander	Santa Rosa CA	1/1/1981
Michael Martinez	Sebastopol CA	1/1/2016

Continued on page 12

We Are Looking for Any Information on These Lifetime NMRA Members

We are attempting to locate the following NMRA Lifetime Members. If you happen to have any information, please contact PCR Membership Manager Doug Wagner at carldw@aol.com or by phone at (661) 589-0391. We appreciate any information you may have as it has been an exasperating endeavor to locate these members:

Richard H. Christ, Santa Barbara - Daylight Division
Donald J Dixon, Rosamond - Daylight Division
Darrel C Harbin, Fresno - Daylight Division
Robert Mitchell, Taft - Daylight Division
Charles H Thorpe, Goleta - Daylight Division
LR Christian, San Francisco - Coast Division
Albin Erskine, Redwood City - Coast Division
Peter E Kane, MD, Alameda - Coast Division
Kenneth C Kennedy, Concord - Coast Division
Jon Nagel, Livermore - Coast Division
Joseph Narcisso, San Mateo - Coast Division
AJ Nerelli, South San Francisco - Coast Division
RM Richardson, Los Altos - Coast Division
Anthony Sapienza, Union City - Coast Division
Robert L Semichy, Monte Sereno - Coast Division
Arnold W Siemsen, Kaneohe, HI - Coast Division
David M Vartanoff, Oakland - Coast Division
Alan Williams, Carmel by The Sea - Coast Division
Robert J Woodworth, Sunnyvale - Coast Division
Robert M Breeden, Weaverville - Sierra Division
Luther W Good, Elk Grove - Sierra Division
Charles L Jumps, Sun Valley - Sierra Division
Arden Kwong, DDS, Sacramento - Sierra Division
Kevin C Schindler, Redding Sierra - Division
John D Wagner, Sacramento - Sierra Division
Donald L Yoho, JR, Dayton, NV - Sierra Division
Paul A Zaro, South Lake Tahoe - Sierra Division
Katherine Wells, Santa Rosa - Redwood Empire Division

Please, if you have any information on the above-listed NMRA Lifetime members, contact PCR Membership Manager Doug Wagner at carldw@aol.com or by phone on (661) 331-6695. We appreciate any information on this matter.



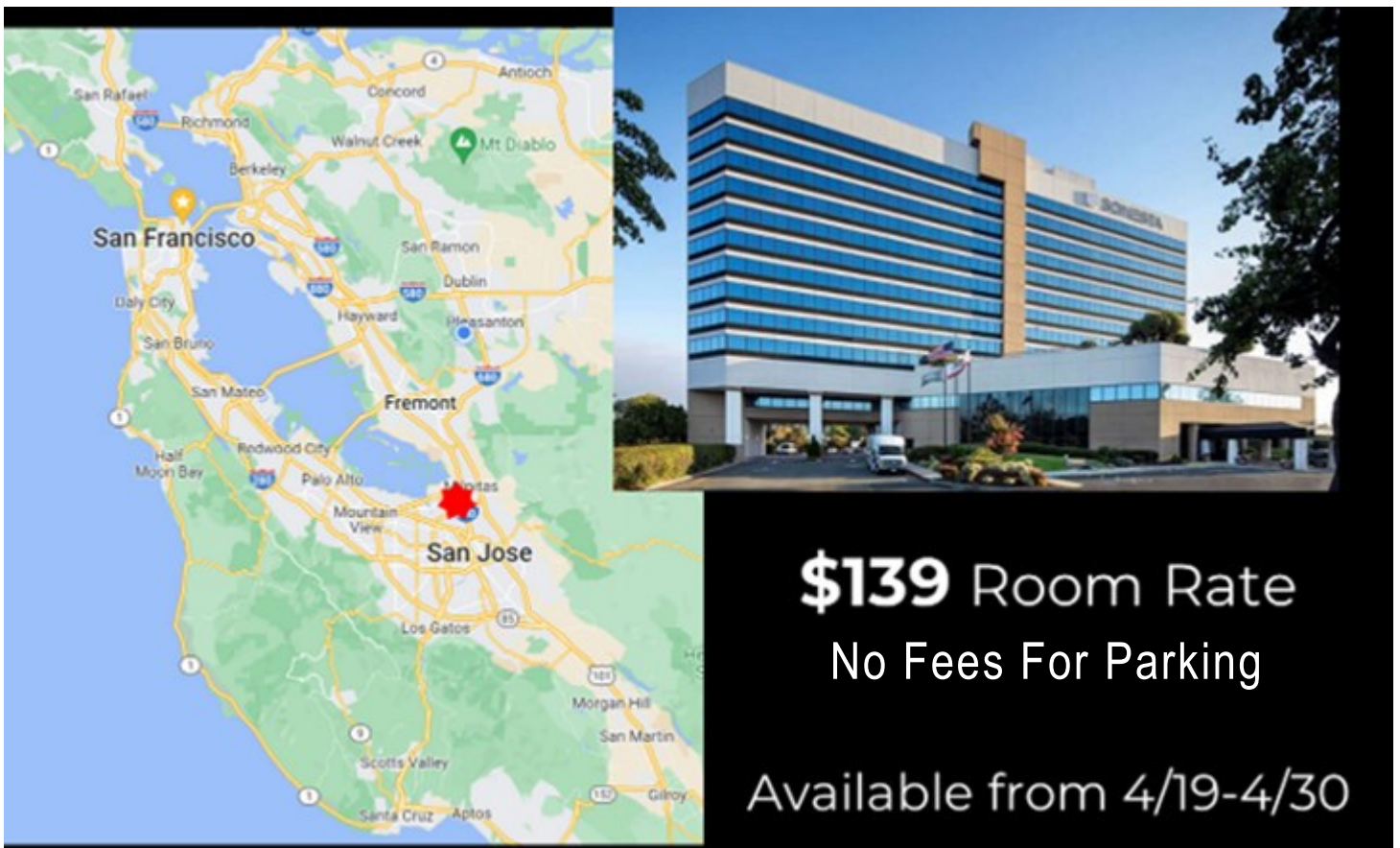
Where the Art of Modeling Meets Technology

THE TECH LINE

PCR Convention 2024 – Silicon Valley, CA

The 2024 PCR Convention will be hosted by the Coast Division at the Sonesta San Jose Hotel from April 24-28, 2024. The Sonesta is ideally located for great layout tours, prototype visits, and other activities. The hotel has great convention facilities, enabling a vendor and swap meet.

AND the **PARKING IS FREE!**



\$139 Room Rate
No Fees For Parking
Available from 4/19-4/30

The layout tours will feature the great layouts of the Bay Area. It has been 8 years since the last NMRA convention in the Bay Area and there are some great improved and new layouts. We are planning on having over 30 layouts open during the convention.

Continued on page 14



The convention will include prototype tours and operating sessions as well as lots of other model railroading activities. Check out the [PC2024 website](#) for more information. Don't miss this opportunity to go to a great local convention. With the great \$139 room rate and all of the great model railroading attractions, this is a convention not to be missed.



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2023TEXASEXPRESS.COM

TEXAS EXPRESS
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Dallas/Fort Worth, TEXAS

Oh, yeah! we've got O scale.

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NMRA National Convention
2023TEXASEXPRESS.COM



Have you joined the NMRA Interchange? It's the newest tool to help you connect with other members, gain knowledge and learn to modeling techniques. The Interchange is hosted on the Discord application which is available for Windows, Apple OS, Android and Apple devices. See instructions below for signing up.

Joining the NMRA Interchange

Speed Muller

IT Manager, NMRA

Have you joined the Interchange yet? If not, follow these steps to get connected!

1. Go to nmra.org/nmra-interchange
2. It will ask you to log in to the NMRA website if you're not already logged in. If you are not registered with the NMRA website yet, now's the time to do it. Click the "Need a username? Register now" button, and get set up. Use the email address on file in the NMRA membership system (probably the one where you got this eBulletin). The system will email you a link to set your password.
3. Now you should be in the [NMRA Interchange](#) page. If not, click this link.
4. Click on [Member Info](#) in the top right corner and scroll down get your exact Member ID. You'll need that later.
5. Read through the page and then follow the "Interchange Server Invite" link at the bottom. This is a special link just for you and will look something like <https://discord.gg/xxxxxxx>
6. You will be taken to Discord (the platform that hosts the NMRA Interchange) where you will be prompted to sign in, if you already have an account there, or prompted to register, if not. If you need instructions for creating an account or logging into Discord they can be found [here](#).
7. Once you accept the NMRA Interchange Invite, and you are logged in, you will land in **#the-lobby** with a message on what to do next.
8. We suggest that you read and agree to the **#rules** first. Just click on **#rules** and then click on "thumbs up". Then click on **#the-lobby** again to do the most important step.
9. Discord and the NMRA need to check with each other, in order to verify that you are a current NMRA member with an email on file. You start the process with the **/onboard** command. Now, this is very sensitive to the type of device you are using, so just type the first few letters **/onb** at the bottom where you see a + sign in a circle. It will complete the command for you in a pop-up just above that. Click on the **/onboard** command. Add your membership number (6 characters followed by a space and then two more characters) just as you noted in step 4. Example: **/onboard input: 123456 0A**
10. Discord and the NMRA computers will have a chat, and then you will receive an email containing a **/clearance** command. That's your entry ticket. Copy and paste the whole line into **#the-lobby** (at the + sign again). Example: **/clearance input: 654321**
11. You're in! You will not have to do any of this again. If anything derails, you'll get a message telling you what to do next, and we also have Moderators in the Interchange standing by to help.
12. If all went well, you'll now see more than 350 channels (those # things). We suggest you start by going to **#introduce-yourself** and then scroll up to **#the-workbench** to see what others have done and shared! Then find your Region and Division and say "hello" there. And then start participating and enjoy!





The 2023 Pacific Coast Region Annual Convention was in Sacramento, CA from April 26 through April 30. This year's convention, Rails By The River, jointly sponsored by PCR-NMRA and Feather River Rail Society, was well attended by one hundred fifty five registrants. The usual array of activities was available with operating sessions, layout tours, special excursions, contests, and over sixty clinics. The event culminated with a Saturday evening banquet with keynote speaker, Steve Miller, retired transportation analyst for the Department of Rail at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). On Sunday morning everyone gathered for a members' breakfast and general business meeting. The following is a brief photo-essay of the festivities, Please, also, see "The Contest Room" for review of the contest results, and "PCR Honors" for announcements of the special awards for 2023.



For early arrivals, there was a "Welcome Reception" on the patio near the hotel pool. Gus Campagna (L) is joining Dave Putnam in a bit of revelry.



There were sixty full-length clinics covering various modeling techniques, operating schemes, electronics, history, and prototype subjects. Additionally, there were four mini-clinics of approximately fifteen minutes each.

The clinics, offered by PCR and FRRS, took place throughout the day on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.



Thursday evening found most of the group enjoying dinner at the hotel. Here, notable PCR members are gathered at the same table. Clockwise, beginning at the lower left, are Bill "Grumpy" Scott, Ed Merrin, Pat La Torres, Walter Mizuno, and Tony Thompson.

Continued on page 18



Seated together are Sierra Division members, (L-R) Chip Meriam, Jim Collins, and Dave Putnam. Sierra was the host division for this convention.



One of the special excursions was a Friday evening visit to the historic Woodland Opera House to see “Young Frankenstein”, a Mel Brooks classic.



Feather River Rail Society had an impressive display in the Contest Room.

Continued on page 19



A convivial group of model railroaders gathered for a libation and some good humor before heading for Saturday evening's banquet.



Lots of familiar faces in the banquet room.



Mary C. Moore-Campagna, know to many as MC-MC, served as the, well, emcee for the banquet.

Continued on page 20



Don Burch (L) receives a plaque from Mike Hamlin, Sierra Division Contest Chair. Don's Square Foot Challenge entry, Omega Mine Tramway, is featured on the front page of this issue.



Earl Girbovan, PCR Contest Manager, prepares to announce the contest winners.



The ladies fared well in the contest room, too. Teri Rosenbauer (far left) had the winning entry in arts and crafts. Lorri Meriam had the winning entry in the photo category, track and structures.

Continued on page 21



Keynote speaker, Steve Miller, provided an entertaining presentation on the history and fate of passenger rail service in California.



Three likely suspects congratulate one another after the banquet. (L-R) are Mary C Moore-Campagna, the emcee for the evening; Lou Anderson, the facilities chairman who arranged the banquet; and Chip Meriam, convention co-chairman.



Everyone was hungry for the Sunday morning breakfast. The attendance was so great that the room quickly became too small.

All in all, everyone enjoyed the four days in Sacramento. The 2023 convention committee thanks each and every one of you who made the trip. Now it's time to turn our attention to the next PCR convention, which will be hosted by the Coast Division in Milpitas, CA. Please see preliminary information about "Tech Line", the 2024 convention, elsewhere in this issue.





**Earl Girbovan, MMR
PCR Contest Manager**

We had a good turnout for the model contest at this year's convention with a total of 54 entries. On the disappointing side, there was only one Arts & Crafts entry, although it was a stellar piece. On the very encouraging side, we had a total of seven scratch-built structures!

The quality of the contest entries was very high, with only 1 point separating the Best of Show model from the other contenders. Photos were also well represented this year, especially for models, both color and black & white. A special thank you to Carol Skold for her long-standing support, to Mike Hamlin, and to the judges that donated their Saturday morning to judge. This year we had several new people sign up for judging. All enjoyed the experience and plan to judge again next year.

Entering a contest for the first time can be somewhat frightening but is also a great learning experience. It was very encouraging that we had a number of people entering the contest for the first time. I look forward to even more entries in the 2024 Convention.



Best of Show & Ingenuity Award

Phil Edholm

Daniel's Express Warehouse

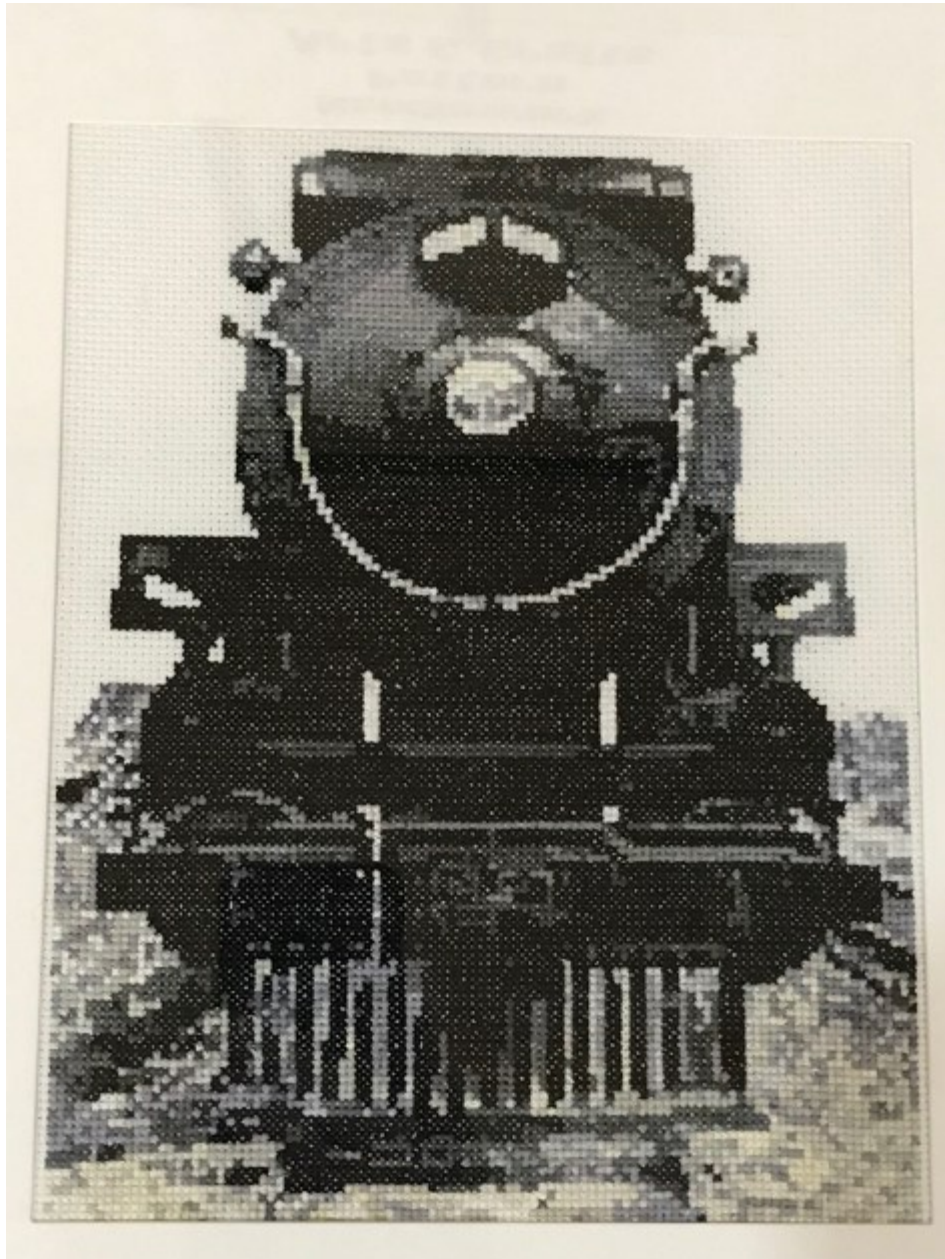
In addition to Best of Show, Phil received the Ingenuity Award for the manner in which both this and his Spreckel's Warehouse were constructed. Both O scale structures are part of a modular layout, meaning they will get moved and banged around. The structures consist of an acrylic core with stripwood glued to both the inside and outside of the walls. All of the framing is 3D printed and weathered to look like wood. A unique construction that serves its purpose well.

Continued on page 23



Best of Show Photo & Popular Vote Photo Earl Girbovan Hotel at Deer Creek

Continued on page 24



Best in Show Arts & Crafts & Popular Vote Arts & Crafts
Terri Rosenbauer Train Locomotive

Continued on page 25



First place, Passenger Car Kit

Vince Vargas

SP Postal Baggage Car

Continued on page 26



First place, Freight Car Kit

Vince Vargas

WP Depressed Center Flat Car

Continued on page 27



First place, Maintenance of Way Kit Vince Vargas SP Wheel Car

Continued on page 28



Second Place Maintenance of Way Kit Vince Vargas Wreck Crane



Third Place Maintenance of Way Kit Vince Vargas SP Water Car

Continued on page 29



First Place Maintenance of Way Novice

Kerry Cochran

WP Bunk Car

Continued on page 30

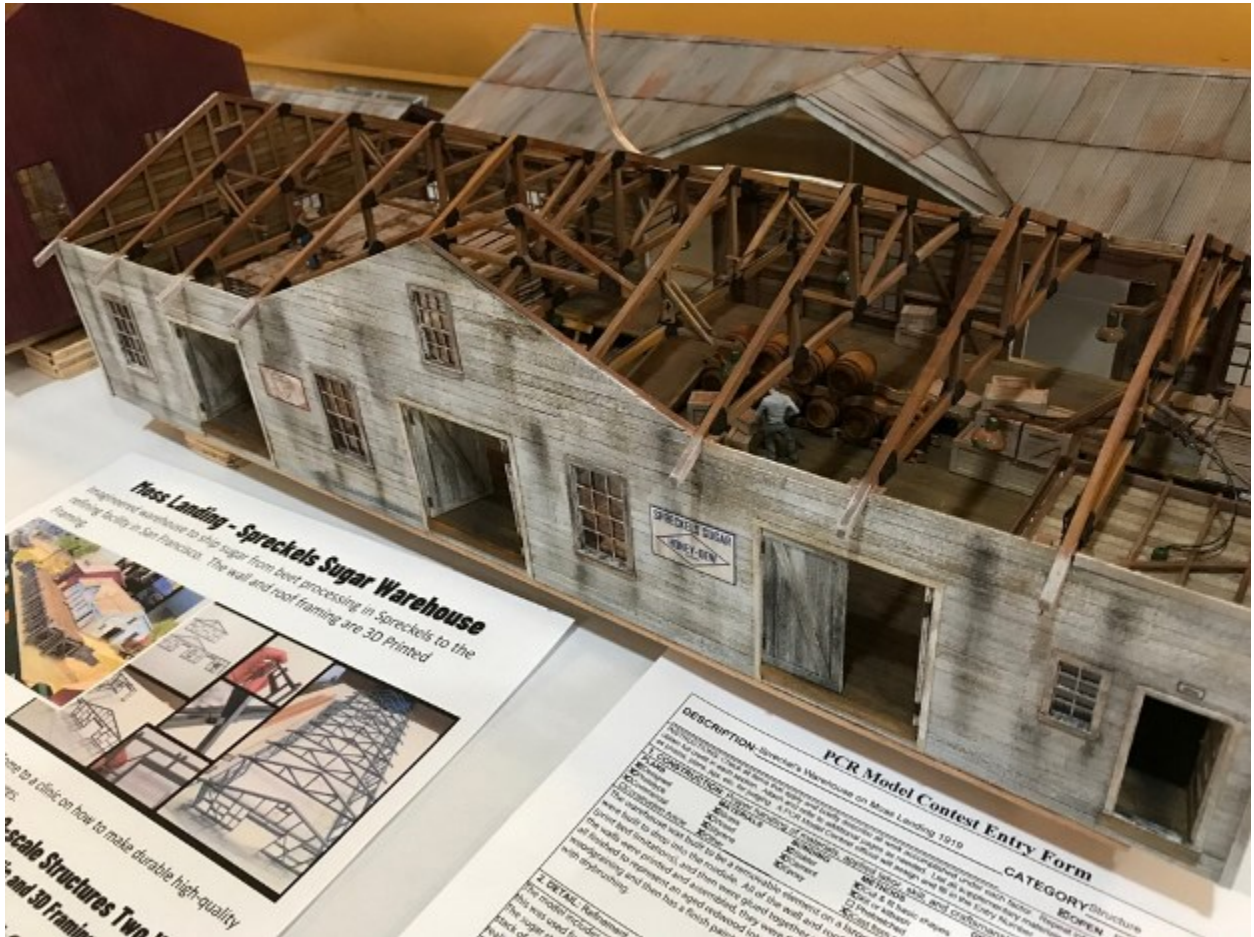


Second Place Maintenance of Way Novice Kerry Cochran WP MOW Boxcar



Third Place Maintenance of Way Novice Kerry Cochran WP MOW Boxcar

Continued on page 31



First Place Structure, Open

Phil Edholm

Spreckel's Warehouse

Continued on page 32



Second Place Structure Open Chip Meriam Sacramento Northern Trestle



Third Place Structure Open Louis Anderson Wooden Tankhouse

Continued on page 33



First Place Structure Kit & Popular Vote Model Earl Girbovan Pile Driver Barge

Continued on page 34



Second Place Structure Kit

Earl Girbovan

Truck Repair Shop

Continued on page 35



First Place Structure, Novice

Tom Blinn

Niles Freight Station

Continued on page 36

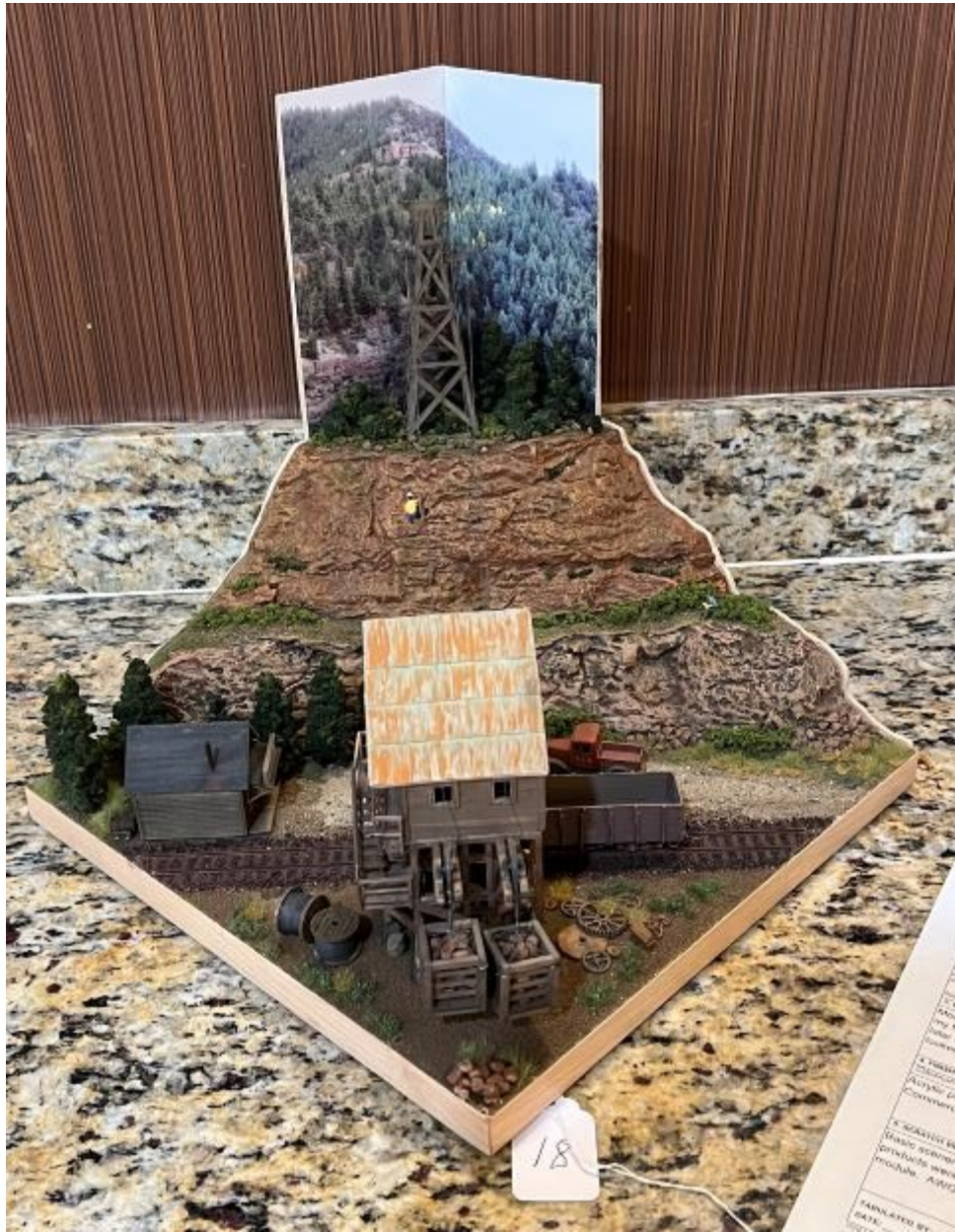


First Place Display

Ken Kilby

A Day in the City

Continued on page 37



First Place Display Novice & Square Foot Challenge Winner Don Burch Omega Mine Tramway

Continued on page 38



First Place Model Photo B&W

Ken Kilby

Iron Horses

Continued on page 39



Second Place, Model Photo B&W

Ken Kilby

The Old Peddler



Third Place, Model Photo B&W

Ken Kilby

Working the Steel Mill

Continued on page 40



First Place Model Photo Color

Ken Kilby

Up to the High Country

Continued on page 41



Second Place, Model Photo Color

Ken Kilby

Cab Forwards



Third Place, Model Photo Color

Ken Kilby

N&W Y6B

Continued on page 42



First Place Trains in Action Pat La Torres Pickering #12 at Castro Point

Continued on page 43



Second Place, Trains in Action

Pat La Torres

Eastward at Gold Run



Third Place Trains in Action

Steve Skold

480 at Silverton

Continued on page 44



First Place Track and Structures Lorri Meriam Arch Bridge Over Dead Horse Gulch

Continued on page 45



First Place General Railroad Subject Neil Fernbaugh Ganesha on the Rails

Continued on page 46



Second Place General Railroad Subject Pat La Torres

Gandolf at Dunsmuir

Continued on page 47



Favorite Train

Dick Witzens

Circus Train



2023 PCR Honors

Dave Connery, Acting PCR Honors Manager



The Awards Banquet at the “Rails by the River” 2023 PCR Convention was the setting for his years PCR Award announcements. Each year each Division Director gets to select the Division Member of the Year. In Sierra Division, Lou Anderson presented the Sierra Award to David Putnam. Daylight Division Director, **Walter Mizuno, presented the Daylight Award to Doug Wagner.** Coast Director, **Phil Edholm, presented the Coast Award to David Gibbons.** Redwood Empire Division Director, **Giuseppe Aymar, MMR, presented the RED Award to Al Merkrebs.**

PCR President, **Frank Markovich, presented the Pacific Coast Region Presidents Award to Ed Merrin.**

This year’s prestigious John Allen Memorial Award went to Don Shortt, a valued member of Coast Division, who has worked for years on the Auction Committee, was the key person arranging Coast meets at Buchser Jr. High for many years, and a strong supporter of his Club, the California Central Model RR Club in the Agnew (Santa Clara) depot. The winner of the John Allen Award is selected by a nomination and vote of all past John Allen Award recipients.

Special thanks to Mike Kotowski, PCR member and renowned railroad artist now living in Oregon, for the beautiful artwork and to Bill Scott for the superb matting and framing of this year’s awards.



Don Shortt with Past John Allen Award Winners

Continued on page 49



Frank Markovich Presenting Ed Merrin with the PCR President's Award

Continued on page 50



Lou Anderson Presenting Dave Putnam with the Sierra Division Member of the Year Award

Continued on page 51



Walter Mizuno Presenting Doug Wagner with the Daylight Division Member of the Year Award

Continued on page 52



Dave Gibbons with the Coast Division Member of the Year Award

Continued on page 53



Giuseppe Aymar Presenting Al Merkrebs with the Daylight Division Member of the Year Award



Rails By The River Convention - Virtual Edition

By Cydney George-Abatecola



This year's convention brought a lot of fun, great clinics and lots of opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones. This year we offered a virtual option for our in person attendees so that they could attend clinics when they couldn't be at the convention site but also for those that couldn't make it to the event. As the virtual event host, I noticed that this year's event was special for one of our virtual attendees.

Ethan Doty has never attended a PCR convention despite being an NMRA member for 2 years. We were able to provide him with his first convention experience by providing a virtual option. He is a great example of the folks that, due to distance and location, can't attend our member events. Ethan is a full time volunteer at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, CA so this year's convention partnership with the Feather River Railroad Society meant lots of content he was sure to be interested in. He is also currently building a layout too so the modeling clinics were of interest as well.

Our virtual event included more than the 3 full days of clinics advertised. Ethan was able to attend our Virtual Check In event the evening before the convention started to get tips on how the event would run, how to get the most out of the Zoom viewing environment, introduce ourselves to each other, a lot of laughs and a good time just hanging out together. We also provided the virtual attendees with a cruise through the event lobby, introducing in person attendees to our virtual attendees and checking out all the displays and vendors. Our virtual attendees got to see the contest room where they were shown every entry into the contests in up close detail as well as the vendors in that room with a video walk through. We closed out the virtual event with an after party of sorts when the final clinics finished. Chatting between our virtual attendees, in person attendees and clinicians made for a great finish to the event.

Ethan sums up his experience when he says,

“Other than a sore butt by Saturday night, I enjoyed the whole experience. I learned a lot, and felt that for what was provided was worth the price of admission. The presentations provided were all engaging and I look forward to watching them on the replay as I'm ready to. I would certainly do it again. The opportunity to learn in that matter is wonderful.

I think the region should make every reasonable effort to continue to offer the hybrid convention. I wouldn't have been able to attend otherwise, and I was glad to have the ability to participate, even in a limited capacity. I keep checking the website for next year's convention to see if a virtual option gets added. I think if it's better advertised that more people would take advantage of it, and I definitely think it helps serve the membership better, especially for those with the computer skills to do it.”

Thanks, Ethan! And we are glad you had a fun, first convention experience.



Ethan Doty leading a tour of the Western Pacific Railroad Museum July 2022

Photo by Cydney George-Abatecola





Achievement Program

By Jack Burgess, MMR, Manager, PCR Achievement Department Chief Dispatcher

Interest in realistic operations on model railroad layouts has been growing exponentially in recent years, especially operations under timetable/train order or TT/TO. The Chief Dispatcher certificate recognizes the work involved in realistic layout operations. To meet the requirements, you must participate in the operation of a model railroad (either home or club) for not less than 50 hours. A minimum of ten hours each must have been served in three of the five categories listed below, one of which **must** be as a Dispatcher.

1. Engineer (mainline freight, passenger, or wayfreight)
2. Yardmaster (or station master)
3. Hostler (or power desk)
4. Towerman (or traffic manager, or road master)
5. Dispatcher

There are definitions online at the NMRA website for the above positions and their duties. For example, a Towerman can operate one or more towers/control panels, determine which cars come and go from each industry, or be the operating trouble-shooter and repair person.

The layouts used to meet these requirements must have at least two mainline trains plus yard switching in simultaneous operation. Some system of freight and passenger car movements, including road switching, must be used for controlling train activity. That generally means TT/TO, Track Warrants, a CTC system, etc. Like the other certificates, the full requirements for this category are available online at the NMRA website.

In addition, the modeler must: 1) prepare a schematic drawing of the layout being used to qualify for this category and 2) develop an eight-hour timetable for the layout and 3) develop an operating chart (graph) for this timetable; and 4) develop or adapt a system of operation for the layout including the necessary forms. If members of the same operating group are applying for Chief Dispatcher, they can use copies of the same paperwork with their application but must develop and submit their own timetable and train chart, even if they are for the same operating scheme.

A note on the required hours of operation: A minimum of 10 hours must be served in three of the five categories (with 10 hours as a Dispatcher) which totals 30 of the 50 required hours. The other 20 hours can be in any of the above categories. It is also possible that credit can be earned by serving in other prototype positions. For example, being a station agent/operator may qualify if the position involves the duties of a prototype agent such as transcribing train orders from a dispatcher, providing crews with those orders and Clearance Cards, operating the train order board, etc.

Before you begin working toward this AP category, download the Record and Validation form from the NMRA website to easily record your progress toward meeting the operational requirements.

Once you complete these requirements, submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which includes the required drawings and forms and describes the jobs held and approximate number of hours in each category. Witnesses must sign the *Certificate of Operation* verifying that the applicant has operated the model railroad in a prototype manner. Send the completed SOQ to your Divisional AP representative, **along with a photocopy of your NMRA membership card** and you are on your way toward another certificate!

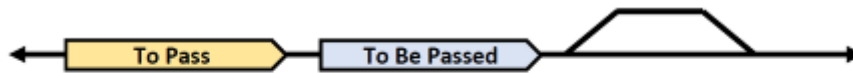




The Answers Are Out There By Robert Pethoud Non-Clearing Trains 2

As railroad technology developed over time, maximum train lengths have sometimes grown to exceed capacities of passing sidings before affected railroads have been able to lengthen their sidings. Operating departments have allowed this to happen because it is possible for such non-clearing trains to get around each other at sidings, albeit with extra effort required of the train crews. In our most recent issue, we examined such saw-by and double-saw maneuvers. This time we'll take a look at some even more challenging situations, which occasionally arose on the prototype.

Last time we considered a meet (trains moving in opposite directions on a single-track main) between two non-clearing trains. Can we arrange for one non-clearing train to pass another—trains moving the same direction—at a siding which is too short for either train? If so, how could it be done?



Pass at Short Siding

Try it for yourself before you read on.

Of course, it's possible. Here's one way: the first train to arrive (the train to be passed) enters the siding and pulls through until the rear end clears the switch it used to enter the side track. Uncouple clear of the switch the head end used to exit and pull ahead on the main. Reset both switches for the main, with the rear end safely ensconced on the siding. The second (passing) train continues until its rear end has cleared the second siding switch. Throw both switches for the siding and back the second train into the cars on the siding, couple, and continue backing until the head end is back on the main. Now the head end of the first train backs onto the siding and both switches are again set for the main. The passing train now pulls ahead, uncouples the rear end cars of the passed train near the siding, then is free to proceed. The last step is for the head end of the passed train to back onto its rear end, couple, and then it, too, is free to go.

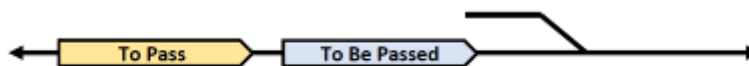
The next situation we'll consider is a meet not at a siding (a side track that connects to the main at both ends) but at a spur, a single-ended track. Again, you should try it for yourself before you read the next section.



Meet at Short Spur

Here is a way two non-clearing trains can stage a meet at a spur: the train for which the spur is trailing point will leave its rear end on the main and put its head end onto the spur. The meeting train (for which the spur is facing point) will couple to the cars on the main and shove them ahead until its rear end clears the switch. This allows the head end of the train on the spur to move onto the main and pull ahead, behind the second train. After setting the switch to the main, the second train backs up, pulling the rear of the first train with it, and shoves those cars onto the spur. This train then backs out of the spur and is free to proceed. The last maneuver is for the first train to back up, recouple to its rear end, and proceed in the other direction.

The last puzzle for this time is to consider a pass at a too-short trailing point spur. Try it for yourself before you continue.



Pass at Short Spur

Continued on page 57

Answers ct'd.

The train to be passed puts its rear end onto the spur, uncouples, pulls out and resets the switch for the main, and pulls ahead far enough for the following train—which will pass it—and the cars on the spur to fit on the main clear of the switch. That following train then pulls clear of the switch, backs onto the spur, couples, pulls forward clear of the switch, and backs down the main with the cars to be passed behind it. That allows the head end of the train to be passed to back onto the spur and reset the switch for the main. Finally, the passing train proceeds on its way, leaving the rear of the passed train where the head end can pick it up.

Notice that this pass took place at a trailing point spur. Is it possible to accomplish the same thing at a facing point spur? It turns out that it is possible, but only under certain conditions that we will examine next time.

Such antics as these are certainly not everyday occurrences on most railroads, but on occasion they did happen. So, why not set one of these up every once in a while, on your model railroad, assuming that your operating crews are up for it?

We'll wrap up this discussion next time. Until then, you may reach me with comments or questions at pethoud@comcast.net



HELPER SERVICE



Mike Dunston, Sierra Division, is looking for a couple MRC Prodigy Advance2[®] or MRC Prodigy Express[®] users within the PCR. If you are using one of these systems on your layout and willing to help test and provide feedback on a few upcoming products please reach out to Mike at atanissoftware@gmail.com. Also, if you are using LCC on your layout that would be a plus.

Mike should be able to show the MRC products that are in the pipeline if there is interest. It won't be a full demo of them but he can at least show what they look like currently (throttle is likely to change a bit with the next revision).



Life on the Fungus & Mungus



Life on the Fungus and Mungus Railroad

By Steve Folino

232 Days

On September 1, 2022, I began construction on version 5.0 of the Fungus and Mungus HO scale model railroad. In the 55 years since I became an avid model railroader, this is the fifth layout that I've constructed.

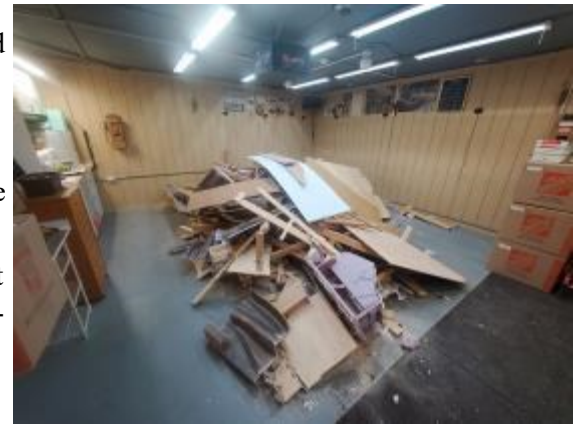
The first was when I was ten years old. It was a Lionel, O-27 layout covering a couple of sheets of plywood with no building or scenery. Just a train, a couple of cars, and some tracks.

The second was years later, in 1976, after I graduated college, was single, and living in a one-bedroom apartment near where I worked. This version consisted of a single sheet of plywood, atop some cinder blocks, a couple of track ovals, and for the first time, some buildings and scenery. I got married a couple of years later and needed to make room for my new bride, so the layout had to go. I didn't give up on model railroading. Instead, I began constructing detailed, craftsman kits, on a card table in a corner of the hallway that would hopefully be used on a future layout.

Alas, these dozens of highly-detailed kits were lost in the divorce in 1992.

Fast forward another twenty-plus years. It's the year 2000. I'm married again, this time to the love of my life. Version 3.0 of the F.M.R.R. would occupy a corner of our 2-car garage and consisted of a five-foot by nine-foot "L-shaped" layout that featured lots of tracks and could support two trains running at the same time. Once again, life got in the way and the as-yet-uncompleted HO scale layout was destined for the scrap heap. The space was needed for other uses.

It's now 2018... I'm retired with some leisure time on my hands. So, what do I do? I start construction of version 4.0. This time, I get the entire garage as a train room. The layout is a 16-foot by 16-foot horseshoe with the capability to run multiple trains. It includes lots of mountains, a logging camp, some mining activity, a town, and lots and lots of tracks. Guess what? This one never gets finished either. In 2022, my wife begins her retirement and we start looking for a new community in which to retire. We never would have guessed that the new community would be in Afton, Tennessee, some 2,524 highway miles and a 5 day road trip away.



All that remains of version 4 of the Fungus and Mungus HO Scale Model Railroad



A blank canvas from which to create version 5.0

It's now May of 2022. We're in our new home in Afton, TN. Guess what? I have a full, 1,600 sf, unfinished basement that can be transformed into version 5.0. Construction can't start immediately. The infrastructure needed to be put in place. I added 3, 30-amp circuits to the breaker panel; one for the 16 overhead 8-foot LED tubes and two to power the layout. The concrete floor needed to be patched. We had a high-end, 2-part epoxy floor poured. The basement walls were patched and painted.

Continued on page 59

Fungus & Mungus, ct'd.

As I indicated earlier, construction began on September 1, 2022. In addition to the layout itself, I began putting together the crew lounge, similar to what you would have found in a 1906 railroad station with the added convenience of a microwave oven and mini-fridge. This will provide space and comfort for crews when they come to operate on the layout. Just to make one thing clear... we DO NOT play with trains. We operate prototypically accurate, scale model trains on a historical recreation of a railroad line.



Lounge for operating crews on the Fungus and Mungus Railroad

So what's with the 232 days? Well, 232 days after construction began, the trackwork is 100% complete and tested. So, benchwork, 100%; "L-girder" supports, 100%; under-layout DCC, track power and DC accessory powers busses, 100%, plywood sub-roadbed, 100%; cork roadbed, 100% and now trackwork, 100% complete. With that having been said, or rather having been written, here's an image of me driving the final track nail. In the background is the enlarged track diagram.



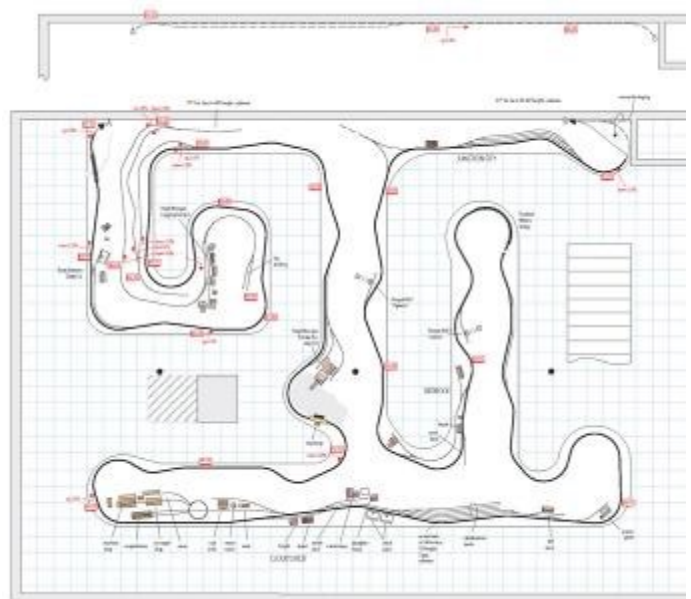
Driving the final track nail as 100% of the Fungus and Mungus trackwork is completed

What's left you ask? The answer is a lot. The mountains, rivers, and valleys have to be formed out of foam, plaster, and fiberglass. Then everything has to be painted and scenicked. The details have to be added. Lots and lots of details... hundreds of trees, rocks, grass, weeds, etc., etc., etc. This shouldn't take more than... the rest of my lifetime.

In a couple of weeks, we'll host an open house, inviting local fellow railroaders and the community. We'll have the driving of the gold spike ceremony. Yes, it's a real, scale gold spike that my wife had fashioned by a local jeweler. There will also be silver, copper, and iron spikes.

Let's take a look at some Fungus and Mungus Railroad Statistics.

- Train room size - 28-1/2 feet by 49 feet
- Layout size - 24 feet by 33 feet
- Layout height above the floor - 42 inches climbing to 60 inches
- Turnouts - 45, mostly #4
- Mainline 160 feet, all track 354 feet
- Era - Friday, October 12, 1906
- Location - Somewhere in the Colorado high country.



Track plan of version 5 of the Fungus and Mungus Railroad

Continued on page 60

Well, certainly not mole hills. This is after all scale model railroading not gardening. So, how do we make mountains. Over the years I've tried several methods of terra-forming on my Fungus and Mungus railroad.

In the 60s and 70s the hard-shell method was the most popular. It involved creating the basic shape by bending and twisting chicken wire or poultry netting into the basic shape and then adding layer upon layer of plaster-soaked paper towels till the shell was around 1/4" thick. This gave us a solid, albeit very heavy mountain. Texture could be added by filling latex molds with plaster and 'slapping' them on while still wet. It was also easy to carve and could be painted with house paint.

In the 80s and 90s cardboard strips became popular. Pieces of cardboard were cut into 1" wide strips and stapled into the basic shape eliminating the need for the wire frame. Some used drywall shims; pieces of cardboard 1-1/2" wide and 42" long. Either way, the cardboard strips were woven into the basic shape and once again layer upon layer upon layer of plaster-soaked paper towels were applied.

In the early 2000's Geodesic Foam started to gain in popularity. Joel Bragdon marketed two versions of his 2-part foam. Used with his latex rubber molds, the shell and the details could be 'cast' as a single, light-weight piece which after cooling, needed few if any supports.

Next up... EPS or Extruded PolyStyrene sheets. Available from local big-box stores, this foam was available in 4x8 sheets in thicknesses ranging from 1" to 4". It could be stacked layer upon layer and then carved with a wood rasp, surf-foam plane, or even a reciprocating saw into the desired shape. It can be used as support for the cardboard strips method. It can be painted with house paints. Plaster could be applied over it to add texture. It was light weight. But it is expensive compared to other methods.

Several other innovative methods were developed including Shaper Sheets, thick aluminum foil with a unique fiber mesh on one side designed to be shaped, then covered with plaster. Plaster cloth, a fine cotton gauze that's been impregnated with plaster. Borrowed from the medical profession, this is what's used to create casts for broken bones.

So, which method is best? Which is the worst? Well, they're all good, tired, and true methods of making mountains. Which one will I use on version 5.0 of the F.M.R.R.? The answer is... all of them. Each has their advantage under different circumstances.

For small rolling hills and for contours in open fields and meadows, I'll use the EPS foam. I'll cut 1" thick foam into 3"x3" through 10"x10" squares and stack them into various heights using foam glue between the layers. After the glue has dried (about 24 hours) I'll use Hot Wire Foam Factory tools to carve the foam as desired.



Sections of EPS foam glued together. When the glue has finished drying, the foam will be carved and contoured using a Hot Wire Foam Factory hot knife.)

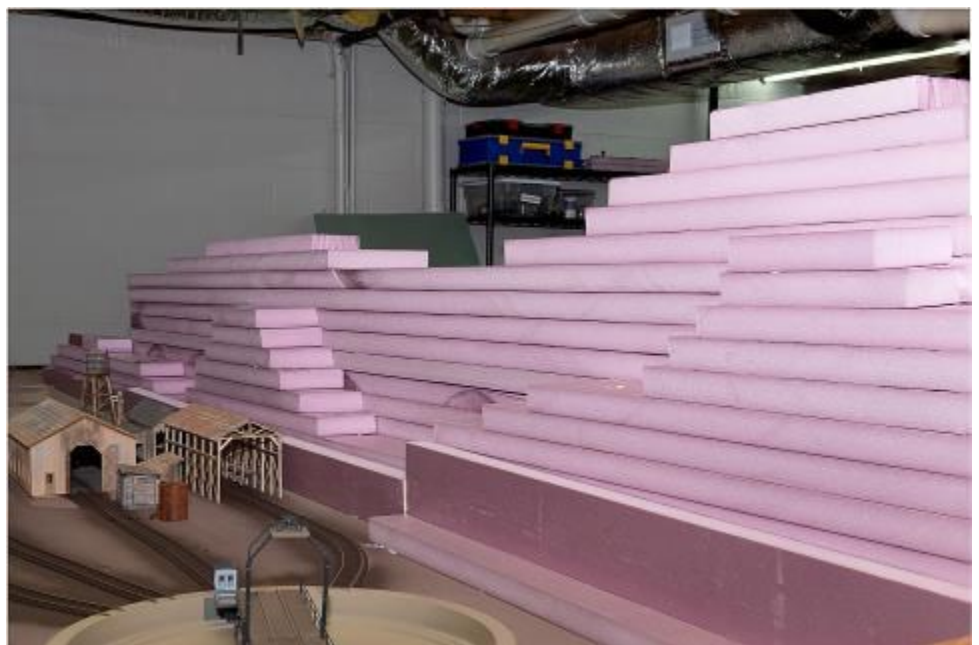
For more rugged mountains, I'll use larger pieces of foam to create supports and then connect those supports with a network of cardboard drywall shims which are stapled or hot glued in place. Over these inter-woven cardboard strips I can apply sheets of Bragdon's Geodesic Foam or for smaller areas, plaster cloth topped with smaller pieces of Geodesic Foam, plaster castings, or Sculptamold modeling compound.

Continued on page 61



Three tiers of this mountain have been cut into the EPS foam supports. The supports will be spanned with cardboard drywall shims to create the faces of the cliffs. Bragdon Geodesic foam shapes will be hot glued to the cardboard strips. Gaps will be filled with Sculptamold.)

Where the cliff faces will be narrow, with not much room for the mountains, I'll stack 4" wide strips of 1" foam on top of one another staggering the ends to create a sense of contour. After the glue has dried, I'll use the hot knife to carve some details. I'll apply some plaster cloth over the foam and add cast plaster rocks to the still wet plaster cloth. Any gaps will be filled with Sculptamold.



Narrow strips of EPS foam are glued atop one another to create sheer cliffs. When the glue has dried, they will be contoured with the hot knife and covered with plaster cloth.)



Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann



Pacific Coast Region SIG Report for 2nd Quarter 2023

Jim Providenza and I hosted the ever-popular SIG Roundtable at the Rails by the River PCR Convention in Sacramento in April. About 25 participants attended and introduced themselves and their modeling interests and shared layout and operating plans> Topics discussed included:

- Sectional Layouts
- Selection an optimal section/module size

Construction of sections

- Getting between levels on a multideck layout
- Helix
- Nolix
- Elevator
- Cassette

Ideal Operating deck height

- Depth as a function of deck elevation above the floor
- Illumination of lower decks

Design for aging

Starting Ops at a club

Getting cob webs out of the layout (restarting ops after the Pandemic)

Operations with helpers

David Parks organized 5 operating opportunities and about 35 operating slots were available.

As noted in my last few reports, national visiting operations meets are back, and events are falling back into pre-pandemic schedules. We often have slots for these meets, and some have open registration. I have some slots available for MinnRail in the twin cities at the end of September. Please contact me if you're interested.

The "Texas Express" national convention will be held in Grapevine (DFW airport) August 20-26. Both LDSIG and OP SIG (as well as other SIGS: CMRI, American Civil War RRs, Women in Model Railroading) will participating. OPSIG is working with local FreMo-N modelers to provide Operations in the convention hall (hopefully the SIG Room) organized by the Operations Roadshow group, as was done in St. Louis.



Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

Ron Plies, from the Redwood Empire Division, tells us about the Eel River Valley Model Railroaders and their layout in Ferndale, California. He has included a series of photographs showing different locations on the layout and the prototype locations that inspired them. Enjoy!

In a land far, far away, in the State of Never Never-land, up behind the redwood curtain (Humboldt-Mendocino Co. line) and on the southern border of the State of Jefferson (Del Norte-Humboldt Co. line) lies the small Victorian Village of Ferndale, CA, the home of the Humboldt County Fair. On the fairgrounds, in its commercial building is the location of the Eel River Valley Model Railroaders. Over 25 years ago a group of modelers got together and was given a room to rent in the commercial building on the fairgrounds with the understanding that they would be modeling the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, mostly in Humboldt County. With the maps from the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society, drawn by Allen Tacy, of different locations along the Railroad, the members selected the locations they wished to model, building them as modules, so if they ever had to move it would not destroy the layout. The layout starts at Sonoma then moves to Schellville, the Wingo bridge, Hopland, Longvale, South fork, Shively, Alton, Fernbridge, Fortuna, Loleta trestle, Loleta, Bucksport, and Eureka. Most of the layout is hand laid track and turnouts are all custom built. All of the buildings are scratch-built using photos and museum plans as available. The Sonoma depot museum had plans drawn up in the 1960's when a fire almost destroyed it. Along with photos they were able to build a good representation of it. The Fortuna depot is still standing in Rohnerville Park in Fortuna, so it was there to take measurements and photos. The freight section was not saved and moved to the park, but with some historical photos from the Fortune depot museum they were able to create a good model of the depot. With the Eureka depot they had 26 photos and a diagram to work from.

The roundhouse was built all from photos mostly from the Bill Bish collection. The turntable at Eureka was still in the ground when they did the model. So working from those photos and measurements taking a Central Valley through truss bridge turning it over made an excellent model of the turntable at Eureka. The turn--table pit is a 75 ft. Diamond Scale model.

We are using the NCE DCC control system for the layout. We have our open house in August during the Humboldt County Fair. If you would like to help this year please e-mail me at rcp4449@gmail.com. Our group has gotten smaller over the years and we could use all the help we can get.

Trust that your tracks ahead are all high green.

Ron Plies, MMR

Continued on page 64

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

The Eureka Depot



Continued on page 65

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

The Wingo Bridge



Continued on page 66

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

The Fortuna Depot



Continued on page 67

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

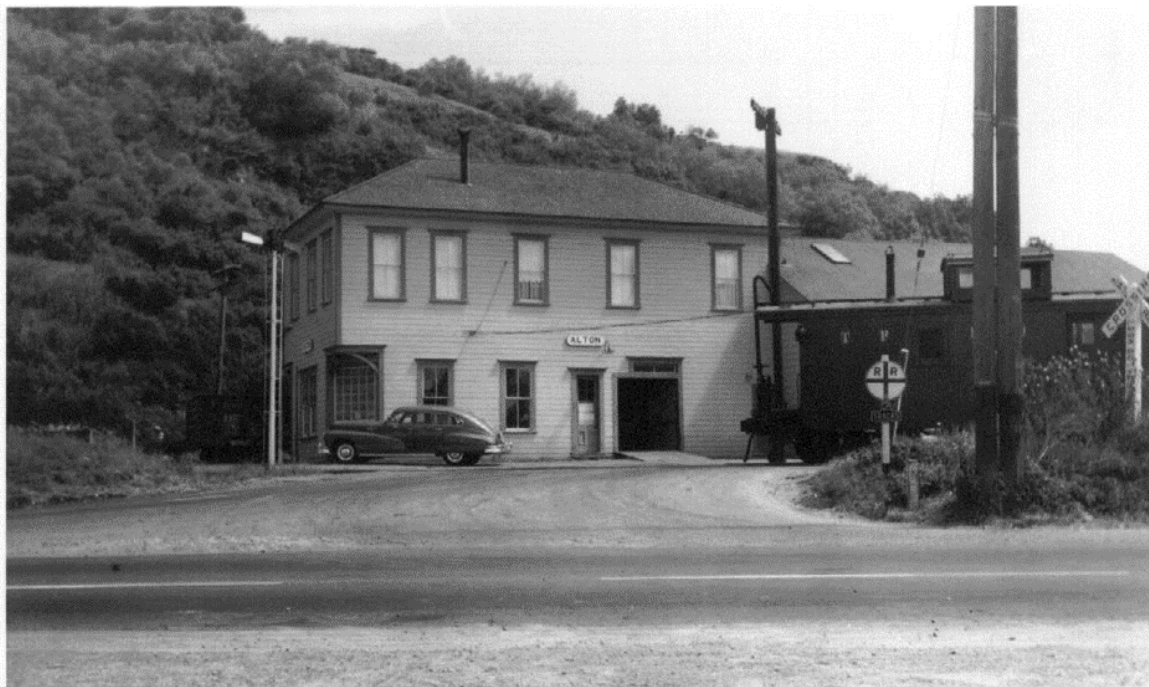
The Eureka Roundhouse and Turntable



Continued on page 68

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

The Alton Depot



Continued on page 69

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

The Loleta Trestle



Continued on page 70

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

The First Scene When Entering the Layout



Overall Layout Views



Tales of the SCN ct'd.

Did you take advantage of some of the presentations offered by FRRS members? I missed a number of these – the good news is that almost a third of all the clinics are available on YouTube thanks to the work of John Abatecola and Cydnry George-Abatecola of TSG Multimedia. I am currently watching parts of retired WP/UP conductor Chris Skow's 3 part presentation on the last days of the WP and have several PCR clinics I still want to watch.

And food, and fellowship. The banquet was excellent and fun, and the Steve Miller's presentation on the efforts of Caltrans Department of Rail over the years very well done. More time with good friends...

But my favorite food thing has always been the Hobo Breakfast. To attend you have to be a hobo, defined as having attended a regional or national convention outside of the PCR. Oh, and be willing to get up really early on Saturday morning to go to a restaurant. The Hobos provide the placemats which are used over and over from year to year (somehow there is some sort of organization to this thing, but if pressed I couldn't possibly explain it) – and you sign your name with the convention year and city on your placemat. I won my hobo signs mug as a door prize for having a placemat with the earliest convention city / date on it. But my real

prize was finding that I had signed my placemat before - in Palo Alto in 1995.

Oh, did I mention that at the breakfast I found out that there was a need for another operator at Phil Gully's UP / Summit County op session that afternoon? Done!

Hope to see you next year in Silicon Valley for the 2024 PCR 'Tech Line' convention!



Hobo Breakfast placemat - 28 years and counting!

Looking Back

by Dave Connery, MMR, PCR Historian
Voices – An Interview with Pat La Torres

Pat comes by his interest in railroading and the Southern Pacific honestly. His father worked for the Southern Pacific for 30 years as a switchman. Pat learned later in life that his maternal grandfather (who he never knew) served as a conductor on street railways in the East Bay, but passed away in 1926, before Pat's birth. Pat's interest in model trains began with receipt of an American Flyer train set when he was 3 or 4 years old. At that time, his family moved from El Cerrito to Berkeley so Pat and his sister could be enrolled in the Berkeley School system where his mother was a teacher. She wanted her kids to attend schools in that district.

Following his interest in trains came an interest in slot cars but once in High School, girls and music became the centers of Pat's interest. Later still, his interests coalesced around sports, especially motor sports, and music. Model railroading again became an interest for Pat about 1980 when he joined the HO Model Engineers, an off shoot of the East Bay Club of members interested in more prototypically accurate modeling in HO Scale. One of the members of his group was Sheldon King, who was deeply into modeling the Southern Pacific with prototypical accuracy. He was the one who lit the flame in Pat to become obsessed with prototype modeling in general and the SP specifically. He pointed Pat in the direction of accurate modeling with help on how and where to do the needed research for fine scale modeling.

Pat joined the San Leandro Model Railroad Club about 1986-ish and became a charter member of the San Leandro Historical Railway Society when the model railroad club transitioned to this organization. They acquired the historic San Leandro depot building in 1987. They moved it to its present site in 1988 and by July 1990 they got the museum underway and were moving along with the building of their HO model display. The SP official who delivered the key to the depot was Charlie Heimerdinger, who was one of the original members of the Pacific Locomotive Association and a model railroader in the PCR Coast Division. Charlie joined the club and soon began pestering Pat to join the NMRA. Pat went as Charlie's guest once and became a member in 1994. He was soon helping Charlie and Al Massi handle the Auction Bid Cards – a task Pat has continued to perform into 2023.

Pat finished his first super detailing model project by working from plans, by Robert Zink, published in *Model Railroader*. Pat's project involved several Southern Pacific tunnel motor locomotives. He found he had fun and realized he could do fine scale model railroading relying only on a magazine article. From this point on, Pat never looked back.

In 1995 Pat attended his first PCR Convention, held in Palo Alto that year. During the convention he met several people who were to become important to Pat and his model railroading hobby, including Jim Providenza, Bill Kaufmann, and Bill Schaumburg. Pat also met Lisa Gorrell in the Photo Contest area. The photo contests, like so many other aspects of the PCR and NMRA, have opened up whole new areas of interest for Pat. Like Pat's collecting of railroad China, there were parts of the hobby of which Pat was previously unaware. Since 1995 Pat has only missed 4 PCR Conventions. Pat has also attended 3 National Narrow-Gauge Conventions and he has attended several NMRA National Conventions; namely Santa Clara in 2000, Seattle in 2004, Anaheim in 2008, Sacramento in 2011, 2014 in Portland, and Salt Lake City in 2019. He worked on the committee for 2011, the 2021 Virtual Convention, and for several other Convention Committees of both PCR and NMRA. He especially enjoyed working on the 2021 NMRA convention, which was first planned as an in-person convention in Santa Clara. But when COVID hit it was rejiggered into a virtual convention. Pat was impressed by the many NMRA members from all over the world who came together virtually to enjoy a week of activities. "All over the world" included NMRA President, Gordy Robinson, MMR, who connected via internet from Scotland, even though it was in the middle of the night for Gordy.

For Pat, this showed the resiliency and determination of volunteers at all levels of the NMRA organization to make things happen despite serious issues like the pandemic. It was a thrill to be a part of this and see it succeed despite innumerable challenges, which were all successfully overcome.



Continued on page 74

Looking Back ct'd.

Pat has remained active in the San Leandro Historical Railway Society and has served that group as Vice-president and Secretary. He is currently their Historian. He has been involved in the running of Winterail as a "roadie" for many years. In addition, Pat joined the Yosemite Short Line On30 sectional railroad group, taking over responsibility for one of Brad Lloyd's sections when Brad left the group. Pat had become interested in On30 and this gave him a place to test his HO and On30 models while still concentrating his efforts on modeling the SP in HO. And of course, HO and On30 run on the exact same gauge rail. Pat is by nature a competitive person so naturally he is attracted by the Regional and National Contests. Pat worked with the PCR Contest Chair from 2007 to 2010 until work and serving as PCR President got in the way. Pat has been a regular in both the modelling and photo contests. An example of his modeling was at the 2014 NMRA National Convention when he took 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the Caboose Kit-Built category and 2nd and 3rd in the Locomotive Internal Combustion category.

Pat is also interested in the NMRA Achievement Program. He has earned certificates for Volunteer, Official, and Author, and has partially completed the requirements for Chief Dispatcher, Motive Power (one scratch-built locomotive to finish), and he is working on structures and rolling stock. He is planning to complete these Awards and become a Master Model Railroader. He does like to point out that the Contest and the Achievement program are not necessarily connected. A modeler who is not interested in contests can still have his or her modeling reviewed and become an MMR without ever entering a single contest.

In 2007, Pat was approached by Bill Kaufman (PCR Nominations Chair) and asked to run for the position of PCR Vice-President. Eventually his running partner for President was Ron Plies, MMR. Pat was elected and served as PCR Vice-president from 2007 to 2010. He was subsequently elected as PCR President and served from 2011 through 2014. This was a noteworthy time since it included the period of planning and conducting the 2011 NMRA National Convention in Sacramento – which was a rousing success.



On a personal note. Pat worked in motor vehicle fleet management for a company contracted to Pacific Telephone for 14 years. Then, in 1997 he hired on with Pacific Bell as a Communications Technician in the San Jose/Santa Clara area. It was at work that he and Ronnie (Veronica) met. Pat stayed with this company until the end of 2022, when he retired. Pat and Ronnie began dating in 2006 and at the 2007 PCR Convention, held in Santa Cruz, he and Ronnie were married by the Reverend Doug Harding. Doug, a model railroad friend, and minister living in Iowa, not only married Pat and Ronnie but gave two clinics during the convention as well!

What does the future hold? Pat and Ronnie are now both retired and interested in relocating to a less expensive area to live and where there is a sizeable space for Pat to build the layout he has dreamed of for so many years: an HO layout of the SP from Magnolia Tower in Oakland to 2nd Street (Marina Blvd.) in San Leandro. This is industrial railroading and will be modeled in the 1958-1960 timeframe. Pat really enjoys operations, and his plans call for a railroad that will employ 6 to 8 operators for a full session. Currently (March 2023) Pat and Ronnie have been looking in Oregon, between Corvallis and Salem in the Willamette Valley.

Pat has been recognized for his many contributions to model railroading and in 2006 he was the Coast Division Member of the Year. In 2020 wife Ronnie became that year's Coast Division Member of the Year for all her work; especially staffing the registration table at Coast Meets. The day Ronnie received her award (that was a pandemic year and awards were not physically presented during the PCR Convention) she hung her MOY award in place of Pat's on the wall. When he got home from work it took a while for Pat to notice his award had been replaced with Ronnie's! Pat received the prestigious John Allen Memorial Award in 2019. The award recognizes someone who exemplifies the characteristics of noted modeler John Allen. Pat feels this is the most important recognition he has ever received and is proud to be a JAA recipient.

When Pat first attended NMRA activities he thought it mostly for "old timers" but has come around to the perspective that it is an organization rich in tradition with great advantages for all model railroaders. He feels new member outreach and retention of existing members is critical for the organization. It is vital for modelers to see the advantages that come with NMRA membership. Today most people are not "joiners" as they once might have been, so we need to be proactive in our outreach efforts.





A Railroad Model competition was conducted by Fresno State. Students from Fresno County schools were invited to form teams covering the following grades: upper elementary, middle school, and high school. Teams normally consisted of ten students dividing up the project responsibilities to do research; design, construct, and operate the transportation system; write the reports; and make the presentations to a panel of judges. The teams were formed in the fall of 2022, with the competition held on April 29th, 2023.

Sponsors for the event were the California High Speed Rail Authority, Wm. K. Walthers Inc., and Caltrans.

There were eight teams representing various schools from Fresno County. During the competition, about two hundred students, teachers, judges, parents, and friends assembled in the auditorium to cheer on their favorite teams as they operated their creations, shared their research, and made presentations.

This was an opportunity to expose young people and others to the hobby of model railroading. When many of us were growing up, we were fascinated by model trains and developed a life-long interest in them.



An upper elementary student team discusses operating strategies to score the most points.

As youngsters, we were first introduced to the hobby. Today's youngsters have many different options vying for their attention. Unless you have a parent or a friend who is into model railroading, it is more likely that young people will develop an interest in video games rather than trains.

Not every member on the teams will become model railroaders, in fact, because of the way in which the teams were organized, only about half the team would help with the construction and operation of their transportation system, the part that for many of us constitute some of the most interesting aspects of model railroading. In each team there were students who showed tremendous interest in laying roadbed and track, soldering rails and wires, and wanting to operate the trains. After a few lessons and some practice, most students became very good at doing these tasks, provided they were given proper supervision, tools, and some time to practice.

I would be very naïve to think that the NMRA will be gaining any new members as a result of the competition, but there were some students, teachers, and parents that were interested enough about the hobby to ask where they can buy their own locomotives, track, and rolling stock, what scale is the best and what it would take to build their own layout?



Another upper elementary school team applying their scenery to finish the layout.

Continued on page 76

Daylight Division, ct'd.

When we all got started in the hobby, I would venture to guess that being an NMRA member was not the first thing on our minds. Only after being in the hobby for a while and made aware of the organization and its benefits did we join.

For now, at least, I'm happy that I was able to share the hobby with several students (and some teachers) and spark their interest in the hobby. The teams that participated in this competition will be on our mailing lists to invite them to model railroading events to hopefully keep their interest alive. Maybe, just maybe, a few of them will become interested in model railroading.



Teams preparing for the competition.



Team awards recognition.

Continued on page 77

Daylight Division, ct'd.

Daylight Summer Meet July 29 at the Goleta Depot

Save the date of July 29 because you are invited to the beautiful Santa Barbara area. We will be meeting at the South Coast Railroad Museum at the historic Goleta Depot. At the time of this writing, we are not sure what will be on the program; maybe a clinic from Bob Chaparro. Maybe a clinic on building a 7 1/2" gauge locomotive out of wood. Maybe a repeat of the history talk and tour of the 1901 Depot. Come and find out or check back on the Division's "Next Meeting" page: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/daylight/nextmeet.html>




If anyone reading this has a clinic and is willing to step forward, we would welcome that also. Contact Bruce Morden at brucedmorden@gmail.com.

Of course, we will have our famous White Elephant auction and maybe some door prizes. Attendees can stay after the meeting and ride the museum's 7 1/2" gauge miniature railroad or visit the museum's shop.

At this time, we have four railroads to visit after the meeting. We are working on more so save that date! We are also discussing some way of live streaming the meet so those in Mariposa, Merced, Fresno or Bakersfield don't have to make the long drive. No promises but stay tuned. Only the meeting will be streamed and maybe one of the clinics. Train rides and layout tours will not be streamed.





Great Model Railroading in Central California and Hawaii

VISIT THE COAST DIVISION YOUTUBE CHANNEL



[LINK](#)



There are currently twelve recorded videos comprising nearly sixteen hours of model railroading content. Make sure you have plenty of time!!



Redwood Empire Division Report

by Paul Weiss



The Redwood Empire Division had an amazing, record-breaking turnout for our Spring Meet in May. We introduced and publicized an all-new format and it seemed to resonate with our membership. First and foremost, we adopted a free lunch for all policy for our membership to give everybody another reason to join us. We also introduced cash prizes for Best Show and Tell... not a modeling contest, this award (voted on by attendees real time) was a recognition of effort, level of interest, emotional appeal, and any other standard the voter chose to apply. Topping 15 other robust presenters, our John Huckaby walked away \$75 richer; our Jason Schoenmann took \$25 home as second place presenter. We furthermore adopted a "door prize for everyone" plan that went well (some noted some kinks that we will have solved by next time). Our keynote speaker, Giuseppe Aymar, spoke in detail about the conceptualization and execution of his marvelous layout.

Most importantly, the turnout of around 40 attendees at this Meet... which some veterans claim to be a doubling of the previous high... proved our belief that we are in a period of robust demand for this kind of gathering. Here at the RED, we are experimenting with new concepts to further boost engagement and ultimately recruitment. Your correspondent has also begun, by popular demand, a regular series of email bursts with short, value-added news and other items such as help requests from fellow members. These "RED Alerts" we hope will further boost the value added associated with being a member of our division.

Our Summer Meet is among the year's most important RED events and planning is under way. We hope this year will be particularly robust and look forward to the possibility that our dear friends from other divisions will join us.

Paul Weiss
RED Superintendent



RED Members at Monroe Hall



Show And Tell

Continued on page 80



Mary-Moore Campagna hosted a delicious Free Lunch with generous help from Madeline.



RED Director, Giuseppe Aymar, with a presentation on the development of his layout



Dave Grundman, RED Chief Clerk, manning the door prize table.





by Chip Meriam

During the second quarter 2023, the Sierra Division was busy coordinating and hosting the PCR Convention, Rails By The River, in Sacramento. A short division business meeting took place during the convention, but there was no other in-person meet. Nonetheless, a major event was finalized:

The International Rail Fair is moving to Cal Expo!

Sierra Division hosts this event along with Sacramento Modular Railroaders, European Train Enthusiasts, and the Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club. For many, many years Rail Fair has been held at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville, but recent changes in focus (and cost) at that venue have made it necessary to look elsewhere. We are delighted to have this annual event at the new location. Cal Expo will afford us a larger area, better parking, and a more prominent and recognizable event center. We hope to see you there the weekend of November 11 & 12.



Sierra continues to have on-line ZOOM meets during the months when no in-person meet is scheduled. The last such meet was June 17 for a business meeting and Show-n-Tell. Michael Eldridge shared his progress on an S scale Southern Pacific combination depot.



SP Combination Depot - Standard Design No. 22 (two-story) or No. 23 (single story)

Continued on page 82



SP Combination Depot - Freight End



SP Combination Depot - Passenger End

Michael reports he is “experimenting” as he builds. This is his first honest attempt at modeling interiors.

Chip Meriam presented a PowerPoint slide show, somewhat whimsical in nature, about using Sycamore fuzz to model prairie grass of swamp tules.



Sycamore Ball



Individual Seed



Planted Fuzz

Continued on page 83



Wireless Throttle

Mike Dunston shared his progress on development of a throttle and gateway especially designed for compatibility with MRC Prodigy Advance2® or MRC Prodigy Express® systems. Mike has been working closely with Model Rectifier Corporation in the process. Please see Mike's plea for help testing these new devices on page 57.



MRC Gateway

The next Sierra Division ZOOM meet will be July 8. The next in-person meet will be August 11 in Carson City, NV and August 12 in Reno, NV. Several layout visits are being planned for the weekend event.



The Timetable is in the process of transitioning from the previous website to the new website. For now, special events are listed beginning on page 88.

Sat Jul 1, 2023

All day National Garden Railway Convention

Sat Jul 1, 2023 - Sat Jul 8, 2023

Where: Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA

Sun Jul 2, 2023

All day National Garden Railway Convention

Sat Jul 1, 2023 - Sat Jul 8, 2023

Where: Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA

Mon Jul 3, 2023

All day National Garden Railway Convention

Sat Jul 1, 2023 - Sat Jul 8, 2023

Where: Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA

Tue Jul 4, 2023

All day National Garden Railway Convention

Sat Jul 1, 2023 - Sat Jul 8, 2023

Where: Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA

Wed Jul 5, 2023

All day National Garden Railway Convention

Sat Jul 1, 2023 - Sat Jul 8, 2023

Where: Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA

Thu Jul 6, 2023

All day National Garden Railway Convention

Sat Jul 1, 2023 - Sat Jul 8, 2023

Where: Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA

Fri Jul 7, 2023

All day National Garden Railway Convention

Sat Jul 1, 2023 - Sat Jul 8, 2023

Where: Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA

Sat Jul 8, 2023

All day National Garden Railway Convention

Sat Jul 1, 2023 - Sat Jul 8, 2023

Where: Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA

10:30am - 12pm Sierra Division Zoom meeting

Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

Sat Aug 12, 2023

All day Sierra Division meeting

Sat Aug 12, 2023

Where: Carson City, NV, USA

Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

Continued on page 85

Time Table, ct'd.

Sun Aug 20, 2023

All day NMRA National Convention

Sun Aug 20, 2023
Where: Grapevine, TX, USA
Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

9am - 10pm NMRA National Convention

Where: Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, TX 76051, USA

Mon Aug 21, 2023

All day NMRA National Convention

Mon Aug 21, 2023
Where: Grapevine, TX, USA
Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

9am - 10pm NMRA National Convention

Where: Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, TX 76051, USA

Tue Aug 22, 2023

All day NMRA National Convention

Tue Aug 22, 2023
Where: Grapevine, TX, USA
Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

9am - 10pm NMRA National Convention

Where: Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, TX 76051, USA

Wed Aug 23, 2023

All day NMRA National Convention

Wed Aug 23, 2023
Where: Grapevine, TX, USA
Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

9am - 10pm NMRA National Convention

Where: Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, TX 76051, USA

Thu Aug 24, 2023

All day NMRA National Convention

Thu Aug 24, 2023
Where: Grapevine, TX, USA
Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

9am - 10pm NMRA National Convention

Where: Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, TX 76051, USA

Fri Aug 25, 2023

All day NMRA National Convention

Fri Aug 25, 2023
Where: Grapevine, TX, USA
Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

9am - 10pm NMRA National Convention

Where: Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, TX 76051, USA

Continued on page 86

Time Table, ct'd.

Sat Aug 26, 2023

All day NMRA National Convention

Sat Aug 26, 2023

Where: Grapevine, TX, USA

Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

9am - 10pm NMRA National Convention

Where: Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, TX 76051, USA

Sat Sep 9, 2023

10:30am - 12pm Sierra Division Zoom meeting

Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

Sat Oct 14, 2023

All day Sierra Division meeting

Sat Oct 14, 2023

Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

Sat Nov 11, 2023

All day International Rail Fair

Sat Nov 11, 2023 - Sun Nov 12, 2023

Where: Cal Expo, Sacramento, 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815, USA

Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

10am - 5pm International Railfair

Where: Cal Expo Building C 1600 Exposition Blvd Sacramento, CA

Sun Nov 12, 2023

All day International Rail Fair

Sat Nov 11, 2023 - Sun Nov 12, 2023

Where: Cal Expo, Sacramento, 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815, USA

Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

10am - 5pm International Railfair

Where: Cal Expo Building C 1600 Exposition Blvd Sacramento, CA

Sat Dec 2, 2023

10:30am - 4pm Sierra Division meeting

Where: Stockton, CA, USA

Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

Sat Dec 9, 2023

10:30am - 12pm Sierra Division Zoom meeting

Calendar: pcrsierradivision@gmail.com

Fri Feb 2, 2024

9am - 4pm Layout design and operations weekend,

Continued on page 33

Continued on page 87

Time Table, ct'd.

Sat Feb 3, 2024

9am - 4pm Layout design and operations weekend,

Sun Feb 4, 2024

9am - 4pm Layout design and operations weekend,

Wed Apr 24, 2024

9am - 10pm PCR 2024 Convention, The Tech Line, Silicon Valley, CA

| Where: Sonesta San Jose - Milpitas, 777 Bellew Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035, USA

Thu Apr 25, 2024

9am - 10pm PCR 2024 Convention, The Tech Line, Silicon Valley, CA

| Where: Sonesta San Jose - Milpitas, 777 Bellew Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035, USA

Fri Apr 26, 2024

9am - 10pm PCR 2024 Convention, The Tech Line, Silicon Valley, CA

| Where: Sonesta San Jose - Milpitas, 777 Bellew Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035, USA

Sat Apr 27, 2024

9am - 10pm PCR 2024 Convention, The Tech Line, Silicon Valley, CA

| Where: Sonesta San Jose - Milpitas, 777 Bellew Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035, USA












Sun Apr 28, 2024

9am - 10pm PCR 2024 Convention, The Tech Line, Silicon Valley, CA

| Where: Sonesta San Jose - Milpitas, 777 Bellew Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035, USA


The Timetable is in the process of transitioning from the previous website to the new website. Please see special events beginning on the next page.

Continued on page 88


	<p>July 28, 2023 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA - MAP</p> <p>The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. This model railroad features standard gauge, narrow gauge, and interurban (overhead electric) freight and trolley lines.</p> <p>Fares: • \$5.00 Adults • \$3.00 Seniors & Children (5-12 yrs) • Children under 6: FREE</p> <p>For information call: (925) 937-1888 Visit our website: wcmrs.org Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcmrs</p>
	<p>July 29, 2023 - 10:00 am, Daylight Division Summer Meet, South Coast Railroad Museum at the Historic Goleta Depot, 300 North Los Cameros Road, Goleta, CA - MAP</p> <p>Bruce Norden is working on getting the presentations/clinics and layout tours organized, so please be sure to check out the latest Daylight Summer Meet information by visiting the next Daylight Meet webpage.</p> <p>Please consider joining us in Goleta on Saturday, July 29th, for the Daylight Division Summer Meet. Besides, for you Valley members, it's a great excuse to escape the Valley's summer blazing heat!! Besides, we'd greatly appreciate seeing you folks once more!</p>
	<p>August 20 – 26, 2023 - Texas Express 2023, NIMRA National Convention, Hosted by Lone Star Region, Convention Hotel, Gaylord Texan, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, Texas, USA - MAP</p>
	<p>August 25, 2023 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA - MAP</p> <p>The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. This model railroad features standard gauge, narrow gauge, and interurban (overhead electric) freight and trolley lines.</p> <p>Fares: • \$5.00 Adults • \$3.00 Seniors & Children (5-12 yrs) • Children under 6: FREE</p> <p>For information call: (925) 937-1888 Visit our website: wcmrs.org Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcmrs</p>
	<p>August 26 – 27, 2023 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, Carmezet Model Railroad Society, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA - MAP</p> <p>Come visit this HO scale tri-level 35' x 60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains to Sparks, Nevada. Our walk-around model railroad allows you to closely follow a train as it traverses the railroad from Oakland to Sparks.</p> <p>Admission: \$5.00, children under 16 free when accompanied by an adult. Info: president@cmrainsclub.org or secretary@cmrainsclub.org</p>
	<p>September 10, 2023 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, Carmezet Model Railroad Society, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA - MAP</p> <p>Come visit this HO scale tri-level 35' x 60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains to Sparks, Nevada. Our walk-around model railroad allows you to closely follow a train as it traverses the railroad from Oakland to Sparks.</p> <p>Admission: \$5.00, children under 16 free when accompanied by an adult. Info: president@cmrainsclub.org or secretary@cmrainsclub.org</p>
	<p>September 16 & 17, 2023 - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Weekend Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA - MAP</p> <p>The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. This model railroad features standard gauge, narrow gauge, and interurban (overhead electric) freight and trolley lines.</p> <p>Fares: • \$5.00 Adults • \$3.00 Seniors & Children (5-12 yrs) • Children under 6: FREE</p> <p>For information call: (925) 937-1888 Visit our website: wcmrs.org Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcmrs</p>
	<p>September 25, 2023 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA - MAP</p> <p>The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. This model railroad features standard gauge, narrow gauge, and interurban (overhead electric) freight and trolley lines.</p> <p>Fares: • \$5.00 Adults • \$3.00 Seniors & Children (5-12 yrs) • Children under 6: FREE</p> <p>For information call: (925) 937-1888 Visit our website: wcmrs.org Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcmrs</p>
	<p>October 6 – 8, 2023 - Central Coast Railroad Festival, San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties, CA. Hosted by San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1940 Santa Barbara Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA - MAP</p>
	<p>October 14 – 15, 2023 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, Carmezet Model Railroad Society, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA - MAP</p> <p>Come visit this HO scale tri-level 35' x 60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains to Sparks, Nevada. Our walk-around model railroad allows you to closely follow a train as it traverses the railroad from Oakland to Sparks.</p> <p>Admission: \$5.00, children under 16 free when accompanied by an adult. Info: president@cmrainsclub.org or secretary@cmrainsclub.org</p>
	<p>October 25 – 28, 2023 - SP&T's Bakerfield 2023 Convention, Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bakerfield, 3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakerfield, CA - MAP</p>


Continued on page 89


Time Table, ct'd.

	<p>October 27, 2023 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkley Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. • MAP</p> <p>The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. This model railroad features standard gauge, narrow gauge, and interurban (overhead electric) freight and trolley lines.</p> <p>Fares: • \$5.00 Adults • \$3.00 Seniors & Children (6-12 yrs) • Children under 6: FREE</p> <p>For information call: (925) 937-1888 Visit our website: wcmrs.org Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcmrs</p>
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NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD MONTH!


	<p>November 11 & 12, 2023 - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, International RailFair Model Railroad Show.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEW VENUE! Cal Expo Building C 1600 Exposition Blvd Sacramento, CA MAP</p> <p>The International RailFair show is run by members of the Sacramento Modular Railroaders, the Sacramento chapter of the European Train Enthusiasts, Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Association, and the Sierra Division of the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRRA. We've been putting on model railroad shows for over forty years!</p> <p>We display operating model railroads to the public and educate the public about model railroading, railroad history, and prototypical railroad operations. We want to share the best family hobby in the world with you and your family! The two-day show is called "International RailFair" because one of our sponsor clubs, European Train Enthusiasts, specializes in building and operating European model railroads.</p> <p>Today our show has become a county fair of model railroad activities. International RailFair offers many operating model railroads. The show will be filled with operating model railroads of different scales and sellers who sell model railroad and railfan products. The Rainbow Gifts will operate snack bars during both days of the show.</p> <p>Kids love model railroads. So do adult kids! Be sure to bring your cameras and plan to spend a day full of fun for you and your family! If you have any questions while at the show, please feel free to ask our members wearing green International RailFair vests.</p>
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	<p>November 17 - 19, 2023 - Friday: 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Holiday Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkley Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. • MAP</p> <p>The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. This model railroad features standard gauge, narrow gauge, and interurban (overhead electric) freight and trolley lines.</p> <p>Fares: • \$5.00 Adults • \$3.00 Seniors & Children (6-12 yrs) • Children under 6: FREE</p> <p>For information call: (925) 937-1888 Visit our website: wcmrs.org Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcmrs</p>
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	<p>November 24 - 26, 2023 - Friday: 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Holiday Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkley Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. • MAP</p> <p>The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. This model railroad features standard gauge, narrow gauge, and interurban (overhead electric) freight and trolley lines.</p> <p>Fares: • \$5.00 Adults • \$3.00 Seniors & Children (6-12 yrs) • Children under 6: FREE</p> <p>For information call: (925) 937-1888 Visit our website: wcmrs.org Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcmrs</p>
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	<p>December 9 - 10, 2023 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, Carpanez Model Railroad Society, 646 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. • MAP</p> <p>Come visit this HO scale tri-level 36' x 60' model railroad depicting the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad as it traverses California from Oakland, California through the picturesque East Bay before climbing through the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada mountains to Sparks, Nevada. Our walk-around model railroad allows you to closely follow a train as it traverses the railroad from Oakland to Sparks.</p> <p>Admission: \$5.00; children under 16 free when accompanied by an adult. Info: president@cmrtrainclub.org or secretary@cmrtrainclub.org</p>
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	<p>December 25, 2023 - MERRY CHRISTMAS</p>
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	<p>December 29, 2023 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, in Larkley Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. • MAP</p> <p>The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society (WCMRS) operates the Diablo Valley Lines (DVL) model railroad, one of the most mountainous and one of the largest exclusively HO scale model railroads in the United States. This model railroad features standard gauge, narrow gauge, and interurban (overhead electric) freight and trolley lines.</p> <p>Fares: • \$5.00 Adults • \$3.00 Seniors & Children (6-12 yrs) • Children under 6: FREE</p> <p>For information call: (925) 937-1888 Visit our website: wcmrs.org Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcmrs</p>
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2024 and FUTURE EVENTS

	<p>February 2 - 4, 2024 - San Francisco Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend 2023 Sponsored by Pacific Coast Region-NMRA and Layout Design SIG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Location to be announced</p> <p>The Bay Area Layout Design and Operations meet is a model railroading event for modelers interested in model railroad design, model railroad operations, railroad and local history, or any related topic.</p> <p>The event is a mix of clinics and talks, in-person events, and tours of model railroads in the San Francisco Bay Area. We also invite attendees to participate in operating sessions on local model railroads, and especially invite folks who haven't done operations before to join in. If you'd like feedback or advice on model railroad design, you can sign up for a layout design consulting session where you can brainstorm or seek advice from other modelers about your future layout design.</p> <p>The meet is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. NMRA, PCR, LDSIG, OPSIG membership is NOT required!</p> <p>Website for the January 30-31, 2023 SIG Meet</p> <p>TSG Multimedia's video of Bay Area Meet 2019</p> <p>TSG video report of Live Crew Lounge Panel Discussion at 2020's meet (Starts at 0:49)</p>
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	<p>April 24 - 26, 2024 - The Tech Line, Silicon Valley, CA, Pacific Coast Region 2024 Convention, Sonesta San Jose - Milpitas Hotel, 777 Bellvue Drive, Milpitas, CA 95035. • MAP</p>
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Continued on page 90



August 22 - 25, 2023
Gaylord Texan Hotel
1501 Gaylord Trail
Grapevine, TX

**2024 NMRA
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

SURFLINER
LONG BEACH, CA
2024

AUGUST 4 - 11
LONG BEACH, CA

WWW.SURFLINER2024.ORG

GET ON BOARD TODAY!

August 4 - 11, 2024
The Westin Long Beach
333 E. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA



Monthly Activities

First Thursday - 10:00 AM / Siskiyou Model RR Club. / Currently meeting at member's homes. Info: Tom Brass, (530) 842-4921,

First Saturday 10:00 AM / San Leandro Historical Railway Society (HO, O, G), Monthly meeting / 1302 Orchard Ave, San Leandro, CA / Eugene 510-963-2985 / Info: info@slhrs.org.

First Saturday 11:00 am to 12:00 PM / Golden State Model Railroad Museum / East Bay Model Engineers Society (O, HO, N, Narrow Gauge, Traction) / Point Richmond, CA / Club Phone 510-234-4884 or info@gsmrm.org. Free coffee and doughnuts.

First Saturday 12:30 PM / European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) Sacramento Chapter (HO, HOM, N) 3600 J Street, Sacramento, CA. (entrance from 36th Street near East Sacramento YMCA). Social and H0 layout running 12:30 to 2:00 PM, then program/show and tell, followed by 2:30 PM business meeting. / Contact: Dusan Petras (650) 300-9504 or Jim Fischer (916) 965-7117, e-mail: dusanpetras@aol.com / See the website for additional information: www.ete.org.

Second Tuesday 7:30 PM / Empire Builders Model Railroad Club (HO) 3318 School St, Oakland, CA / e-mail: president@ebmrc.org

Second Wednesday 7:30 PM / Golden Empire Historical and Modeling Society (HO&N) Bakersfield, CA / Doug Wagner, e-mail: carldw@aol.com or 661-589-0391 / Club phone: 661-325-5820

Second Saturday 10:00 AM / Tehachapi Loop RR Club / Tehachapi, CA / Tom O'Brien, e-mail: threerail@earthlink.net 661-822-1546

Second (and Fourth) Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (and every Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM) • Admission: Free / Bay Area N-Trak Model Railroad Club (N) Wells Fargo Express Room, Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, 900 Loring Ave., Crockett, CA • Map / Donations are welcome. / Contact: Jim Gray, send text to 925-260-5804 or e-mail to gray-marks@hotmail.com

Second Saturday 1PM-4PM / West Bay Model Railroad Association, Open House, We run trains run for our visitors, 1090 Merrill Street, Menlo Park, CA / e-mail westbaylines.com

Second Saturday 1:00 to 5:00 PM / European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) San Francisco Bay Area Chapter (HO) Location varies / Contact: Brian Hitchcock, brianhitchcockdba@gmail.com / See the website for additional information: www.ete.org.

Second Saturday 1:30 PM / Carquinez Toy Train Operating Museum Business Meeting , 645 Loring Ave (Across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. MAP

Second Saturday 3:00 - 6:00 PM / California Central Club (HO & HOn3) / Old Agnew Station, 4185 Bassett St, Santa Clara, CA / Subject to change, contacting us in advance of your visit is highly recommended at: ccmrc1961@gmail.com

Second & Fourth Weekends / Swanton Pacific Railroad Society (19") Santa Cruz County, CA / Ed Carnegie, e-mail: ecarnegi@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2378

Mid-Month Weekends / Bitter Creek Western RR (Live Steam) Arroyo Grande, CA / Dan Andrews, e-mail: danandrews@charter.net or 805-481-0419

Third Monday 7:00 PM / San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (all) Oceano Depot, CA / Dennis Pearson, e-mail: info@sломra.org or 805-929-3062

Third Tuesday 7:00 PM / Visalia Electric Model Railroad & Historical Society / Meets at Ryan's Place Restaurant, 3103 South Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA / Cecil Eppler, e-mail: cecil_eppler@sbcglobal.net

Third Wednesday 8:00 PM / West Bay Model Railroad Association, Monthly Business Meeting, 1090 Merrill Street, Menlo Park, CA / e-mail westbaylines@gmail.com

Third Friday 7:00 - 11:00 PM / Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club Operating session (HO) / Antioch, CA / Info: info@blackdiamondlines.com / Club phone 925-779-1964

Third Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Noon / San Joaquin Central Operating Session (HO) / Fresno, CA / Chuck Harmon, e-mail: harmonsta@aol.com or 559-299-4385. It's April 1949 on SP's Donner Pass and fictitious SJC. An advance courtesy contact is appreciated. Send e-mail to be added to mailing list.

Third Saturday / Sacramento Modular Railroaders Operating Session (HO) / Sacramento, CA / Scott McAllister, e-mail: scooter923@att.net

Fourth Wednesday 7:00 PM / Coast Toy Train Club / Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Rd (at Alamar), Santa Barbara, CA / Lots of collecting in S, O, and Standard gauges. / Contact: Ken Kelley, e-mail: kenatttr@thirdrail.com

Fourth (and Second) Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (and every Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM) • Admission: Free / Bay Area N-Trak Model Railroad Club (N) Wells Fargo Express Room, Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, 900 Loring Ave., Crockett, CA • Map / Donations are welcome. / Contact: Jim Gray, send text to 925-260-5804 or e-mail to gray-marks@hotmail.com



Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Alameda County Central Railroad Society

ACCRS is an HO and O scale club with layouts in a 30x100 building on the Alameda Co. fairgrounds in Pleasanton. With over 60,000 annual visitors, ACCRS is a great showcase for the hobby. Layouts reflect Alameda County and California and are continually improving and updating. Open for Fair events and Fridays, 6-9 PM. Lowest dues in the area.

Contact: Gary Lewis 925-455-8135

Email: glslewis@comcast.net

Web: www.pleasantonmodelrr.org/index.html

Amador County Model Railroad Museum

The ACMRRM is located at 13828 Gold Mine Road, #1, Pine Grove, CA. Gold Mine Road intersects with Hwy 88 in Pine Grove. Our non-profit association is open to the public from 10 AM to 5 PM, Friday through Sunday during Winter months and Wednesday through Sunday during the Summer. Work sessions are held every Tuesday starting at 10 AM. Our scenic DCC HO-scale layout depicts the lumber and gold mining history of Amador County. Operations include the Amador Central short line as well as the railroads of California's Central Valley including terminals at Stockton and Sacramento. Contact: Robert Piety, 209-296-3587 email rdpiety@sbcglobal.net

Antioch Model Railroad Club

The Black Diamond Lines is an HO Club located at 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch. The BDL has been in continuous operation since 1981. We meet Tues. (work night) & Fri., 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Visitors can always find trains running every Friday 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 S Scalers

BASS is a group of modeler railroaders in the San Francisco Bay Area focused on scale modeling in 1:64 scale. BASS is a round robin club, typically meeting in a member's home on the third Saturday of odd numbered months. Meetings may include a mini-clinic, or showing progress on models or a layout. We also have a modular layout that has been displayed at public events. Contact: Michael Eldridge (meldridge2000@gmail.com).
Web: www.bayareasscalers.org.

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

CMRS models the line from Oakland to Sparks with a double track mainline and many well-known lineside industries on three levels. The layout is in the 36 x 60 foot main room of the recently renovated former Oddfellows building that dates back to the 1890's. New HO_{n3} branch-line coming soon. Entire railroad is NCE DCC-based with JMRI WiFi throttle support. We are open to the public bi-monthly with weekend open houses. Please see our web site (www.cmrstrainclub.org) and our listings in the PCR Master Calendar for more information. The club is open for perspective members and visitors during our Wednesday night work nights, 5PM to 9PM. We are located on the second floor at 645 Loring Ave., Crockett, CA 94525. Contact: Ron Lehmer, president@cmrstrainclub.org or Steve Huffstetter, secretary@cmrstrainclub.org. Club number 510-722-3025

Continued on page 93

Coastal Valley Lines Model Railroad Club of Sonoma County, LTD

Coastal Valley Lines Model Railroad Club of Sonoma County, LTD (Coastal Valley Lines) is an association of novice-to-expert model railroaders from the Sonoma County area, who operate a digitally command controlled (DCC) HO scale modular railroad at public and private events, and gather for clinics, work sessions and monthly meetings. Coastal Valley Lines is incorporated in the State of California with its primary purpose of educating the public about model railroading as a family hobby and is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization with elected officers and bylaws. Additional information can be found at cvlrr.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: Jack Jensen, 707-845-2823, 3313 Union St., Eureka, CA 95503 or Ron Plies, 208-229-7107, 12818 N. 11th Ave., Boise, ID 83714.

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.

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 BillKeaney (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: ww.gehams.org

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 1st & 2nd Friday evenings of the month between 7:30 and 10 PM.; 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 1st or 2nd Fridays 8-10p.m. (510) 236-1913. For other information or to schedule special events, Email info@gsmrm.org. Website: www.gsmrm.org

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you



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.

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



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Continued on page 94

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 1st Sat of month, 7:30 PM. Contact: David Berriman P.O. Box 915, Arcata, CA 95518 707-825-7689

Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad Museum

26 Station Place - Salinas, CA 93901
The Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad Museum is dedicated to creating & maintaining a Railroad Museum in Salinas with an emphasis on the historic, contemporary and future value of the Railroad to the Salinas Valley and Monterey Bay Regions, providing experiential educational opportunities for children of all ages enhancing the core curriculum and inspiring civic involvement in our communities.

Open first weekends of each month 10AM - 4PM
831 789 8097

www.msvrr.org
info@msvrr.org

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: Napa-John@napanet.net Web: www.nvmrc.org

Nn3 Alliance

An Internet-based fellowship of over 700 members in nine countries who model narrow gauge in "smaller scales". The term "Nn3" is used generally to describe 3', 3'6", and meter gauges, modeled in N or 2MM Scales. Members include local groups in the USA, UK and Europe whose portable exhibition layouts and modules regularly appear at conventions and shows. The "corporate" entity of the group - The Nn3 Alliance - created and published "The Nn3 Handbook", 140 pages with 400 illustrations, covering all aspects of small-scale narrow gauge, which remains the standard reference.

Web: www.Nn3.org
<https://groups.io/g/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: membership@sacmodularrailroad.com

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/>

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Continued on page 95

San Joaquin Valley Toy Train Operators

We are an all scale train club. We have members in scales from Z to G. Whether you are someone who likes to run toy trains in circles or model an exact date, railroad or scene or anything in between you are welcome. Everyone who likes trains is welcome. You don't need to own any trains. We have two portable layouts that we setup at public locations. We have set them up at care facilities, Amtrak stations, train shows and other places. We also have outside club activities. We have gone on the train to Sacramento and the Sacramento Rail Museum. We've ridden the train at Railtown 1897 SHP and had a private tour there. Also we have visited home train layouts and will have many other activities in the future.

Our meetings are at the Scouts Hall, 4717 Elm Street, Denair, CA at 1:30 PM (doors open at 12:30) on the first Sunday of each month. Holidays or other events can change that. We always get there by 1:00 PM to visit and see what others have brought to show. For more information please call Ed Cathcart at 209-479-4432

San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRA)

The SLOMRA is a multi-scale modular group with active N and HO scale layouts. The goal of our nonprofit association is railroad education and local history through public display of our modules. Our shows usually include G-gauge, tinsplate, and even LEGO trains. The monthly meetings include model and prototype activities, videos and discussions. 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.

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

Siskiyou Model Railroad Club

Currently we are meeting at a member's home on the first Thursday evening of the month. Contact Tom Brass as 530-842-4921 Currently a few members have been getting together on Tuesday mornings for various activities.

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. 5:00 to 8:00 PM or Sat. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Contact: 408-243-3969. Web: www.sbhrrs.org.

Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

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: Eugene Brichacek, 510-963-2965 email: embrichacek@gmail.com

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Continued on page 96

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 David Kuehn, email: davidkuehn@cox.net. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=163470062239>

The Tidewater Southern MRC Inc. & Tidewater Southern Railway Historical Society Inc. reorganized and incorporated in 2018. We are Located at the San Joaquin Fairgrounds, Building 1, (corner of Airport and Charter Ways (Hwy 4), Stockton), a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove houses a large HO layout depicting the Tidewater Southern, & Freelanced N-Scale. We meet 2p-7 :30p Thursdays. 10a-3p Saturdays events permitting. Contact: Tiffany Barning 135 W. Emerson Ave. Tracy , CA 95376 E - mail: tidewatersrhs@gmail.com

Tri-city Society of Model Engineers

The TCSME located in the Niles Plaza is currently looking for new members to help build and operate both an N Scale and an HO layout focused on Fremont and surrounding areas. We meet Fridays 7:30-9:30 PM. The depot is located at 37592 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536. Please visit our web site at <http://www.nilesdepot.org/> <http://www.nilesdepot.org>

Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society The WCMRS located at 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, is open on last Friday of the month from 8:00 to 10:00PM for operations. Fares are \$3.00 for 6-12 and seniors over 60 and \$5.00 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). Please refer to www.wcmrs.org for the dates and times of our Annual, Weekend and Friday evening shows .

West Bay Model Railroad Association

The West Bay Model Railroad Association is accepting new members; all skills are invited. Construction and scenery are now complete on our DCC 2-level HO layout designed for operations; work on signaling is in process. Work sessions are Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Prospective members and visitors are always welcome. We run trains for visitors monthly on second Saturday afternoons. Business meetings are at 8 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, and operating sessions are on Saturday of the following week. We're located a few hundred feet south of the Menlo Park Caltrain station, in the former baggage building, at 1090 Merrill St., between the station and Ravenswood Ave. For more information, visit wbmrra.ning.com and facebook.com/wbmrra. Or e-mail westbaylines@gmail.com.



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We not only welcome your input here at the *Branch Line*, we actively encourage it!

In fact, may we say that we go so far as to solicit your input?

If you have a small article you would like to submit for publication, or even just an idea for an article, please let us know. We will be happy to work with you.

Just contact our editor, Chip Meriam, at:

chipmeriam@comcast.net

We're looking forward to hearing from you!





Wow! Did you know there's a **new NMRA Member Benefit?**

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