

NMRA

PACIFIC COAST
REGION

**BRANCH
LINE**



NMRA'S FIRST REGION

Jul-Aug-Sep 2026

SILVER RAILS 27
The Biggest Little Model Railroad Convention in the World

NMRA
PACIFIC COAST
REGION

March 31 - April 4, 2027
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
RENO, NV

SIERRA DIVISION

See Page 34

The Branch Line
The Official Publication of the Pacific
Coast Region/ National Model
Railroad Association

Vol. 83, No. 3, 3rd Qtr., 2026

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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

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OCT-NOV-DEC 2026 issue

Articles due by
September 10, 2026

JAN-FEB-MAR 2027 issue

Articles due by
December 10, 2026

APR-MAY-JUN 2027 issue

Articles due by
March 10, 2027

JUL-AUG-SEP 2027 issue

Articles due by
June 10, 2027

Please direct questions to the
Branch Line Editor,
 Chip Meriam at
chipmeriam@comcast.net
 Or phone (530) 228-1544

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From the President



Chip Meriam,
PCR President

A Matter of Time and Distance

At a recent Sierra Division get-together (virtual), the matter of travel time and distance came up. In this case, the travel distance under consideration was from Modesto, CA to Reno, NV, some 170 miles with a travel time of 2.5 to 3.0 hours by car. Both of these cities are in the same (Sierra) division, yet considerable time and distance separate the two.

This got me to thinking about other, similar issues throughout the Pacific Coast Region:

Fairfield to Crescent City (Redwood Empire Division) – 300 miles

Mariposa to San Luis Obispo (Daylight Division) – 150 miles

San Francisco to Honolulu (Coast Division) – 2,400 miles

Is it any wonder why we feel a bit separated?

Is this really a problem? Well, I believe the numbers tell the story. There are 696 NMRA members in the Pacific Coast Region. At our most recent convention in Rohnert Park, we garnered 114 members – just 16.3%. At a recent Sierra Division, in-person, meet-up, we had 24 of the 208 members in attendance. I suspect the other divisions experience similar results.

Now, there are likely several reasons the attendance is less than stellar, but I think the primary concern is the investment of time (and money) required to travel and attend our NMRA events. What can we do to make this better?

- We can take advantage of the virtual technology available to us. ZOOM has been around since the COVID days, and most of us have survived the associated learning curve. Google now has a competing product that some of us are beginning to use. The virtual meet-up I mentioned above lasted a little over one hour. Nobody had to travel any farther than from one room to another in their own home. The cost of attending was zero.
- We might consider the concept of subdivisions—divisions within the divisions. For example, Daylight might contain the “Coastal Subdivision” and the “Valley Subdivision.” Or Sierra might break it down as the “Sacramento Subdivision” and the “Superior Subdivision.” Such subdivisions might serve well to create in-person activities without the extensive travel.
- Have a look at what RED Superintendent, Dan Obermeyer, has to suggest in his quarterly report on page 46.
- There may be other ways to “shrink the divide”. I’ll leave it up to you to brain-storm them. Send me a message anytime: chipmeriam@comcast.net

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chip', with a stylized flourish underneath.



HAPPY 250, AMERICA



Jacob Lyman

East Ely, NV – 09/25/2025

photo: Jacob Lyman

From the Secretary



Cydney George-Abatecola
CR Secretary

Member's Meeting

Our Annual Members Meeting was held at our convention's breakfast in Rohnert Park, CA on May 3, 2026.

- Chip Meriam, PCR President, thanked everyone for attending and recognized Denni Baumer for her hard work and her committee's efforts in putting together the convention. Fred Soward, NMRA National Representative, was also recognized for being in attendance.
- Division reports were received and outgoing directors, Walter Mizuno and Lou Anderson both expressed their appreciation to their Divisions for their support and thanked everyone for the opportunity to have served as Directors
- Our treasurer, Bob Osborne, reported we had approximately \$16,026.00 in income for the year. We presently have about \$200,000.00 in assets with no liabilities.

Chip Meriam, our President, explained that there will continue to be a focus on the quality of our conventions. There is an ongoing issue of decreasing membership within the Region. He encouraged everyone to emphasize recruiting new members and supporting and retaining current members. He thanked all the many volunteers who helped keep things running smoothly and added that he was very encouraged about the future of our Region. Witnessed the installation of new directors

- New officers officially installed in their positions
- Based on regional elections
- Dave Theis, Daylight Division
- Dan Obermeyer, Redwood Empire Division
- Jesse Walden, Coast Division (Not present)
- Mike Hamlin, Sierra Division (Not Present)

From the Secretary ct'd.

- Our Vice President, Phil Edholm, is looking for volunteers to help manage the PCR calendar. He wants to expand the calendar to include all railroad related events and activities that might interest our region. Those interested in helping should contact him directly. He also encouraged the development of mentors who could contact and connect new members with like minded modelers and groups based on their commonly shared interests and the scales they modeled. Those interested could contact him and he could show them how the Coast Division is piloting this approach through both personal and online contact.
- The 2027 PCR Convention will be in Reno, NV
 - Dates: March, 31st to April 4th, 2027
 - Website is in the works
 - Hosted by Sierra Division
 - Location: Atlantis Hotel and Casino
 - Hotel will offer a shuttle from the Reno Train Station to the hotel for anyone coming to the convention by rail.
 - Currently working on the layout tours, excursions, and other activities that will be available.
 - More information will be provided as we get closer to the event.

Our next members meeting will be held April 4, 2027 during next year's convention. Minutes for all meetings are accessible online on our website <https://www.pcrnmra.net/> under the Meetings & Docs tab.

From the Secretary ct'd.

- **BOD Meeting:**

Our Board of Directors annual meeting was held online April 14, 2026. With our quorum met, we

- made the PCR Zoom account available for division use.
- were reminded that the new NMRA logos should be actively used by divisions and regions.
- authorized funds to purchase a projector for any division that does not have one.
- were updated on membership numbers:
 - 723 in October 2025 to 688 in March 2026
- received the financial report and another consignor was added to the bank account to be in line with Manual of Operations.
- suspended the assistance program to the Divisions until we have an opportunity to determine necessity and cost.
- updated the Manual of Operations
 - Clarifying financial responsibility for conventions.
 - Making the Nominating Committee a standing committee.
- were updated on division activities:
 - Coast will invite all PCR to their Modeling on the Coast Zoom held periodically during their Saturday Zoom meetups. Next one is June 13th. This event is where members share 5 photos of a model or models they have been working on or finished.
 - Sierra Division has pretty good participation at their in person and virtual events. Int'l rail fair went well.
 - Redwood Empire Division has had good attendance at events. The show & tell component at the events seems to be popular.
 - Daylight Division has had success getting together despite difficulty because the area is so big. They are rotating meetings around the division to increase reach and participation.
- are looking for a calendar manager to manage the entries for the PCR website calendar. Maybe that person is you! Email Phil Edhom (pedholm@pkeconsulting.com) if interested.

We thank our board and many committee chairs and managers for all their work. Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held October 2026.

Minutes for all meetings are accessible online on our website

<https://www.pcrnmra.net/> under the Meetings & Docs tab.



Membership

Member	In Memorium City/State	Date Joined
Coast		
Charles Dennis (Lifetime)	Santa Clara CA	01/01/1964
Sierra		
David Armstrong (Lifetime)	Turlock CA	01/01/1960
Jack Goodall	Elk Grove CA	06/03/1994
Redwood Empire		
Doug Smith	Santa Rosa CA	02/01/2014
John Adams	Napa, CA	01/01/1971

**Have you changed your address or other membership information?
Please Notify Headquarters.
Email: nmrahq@nmra.org
Phone: 423-892-2846 (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM eastern)**

PCR Membership Gauge

May 31, 2016—981
May 31, 2025—744
June 30, 2025—741
July 31, 2025—740
August 31, 2025—743
September 30, 2025—724
October 31, 2025—723
November 30, 2025—691
December 31, 2025—697
January 31, 2026—684
February 28, 2026—673
March 31, 2026—688
April 30, 2026—701
May 31, 2026—696

PCR Membership Tracker

Division

#Members

Coast	303
Sierra	208
Redwood Empire	99
Daylight	<u>86</u>
TOTAL	696

Welcome Aboard !

PCR's Newest

<u>Member</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
	Daylight	
Ronald Jones	Fresno CA	3/24/2026
Paul Thomas	Tehachapi CA	4/16/2026
	Coast	
Mark Klingiel	Walnut Creek CA	3/26/2026
Stephanie Starkey-Brown	San Jose CA	4/7/2026
John Crandall	San Jose CA	4/17/2026
Andrew Kalinowski	Pleasant Hill CA	4/21/2026
Xiao Guan	Santa Clara CA	4/21/2026
Douglas Jones	Boulder Creek CA	4/21/2026
Josh Sandhu	Fremont CA	4/21/2026
Tom Daspit	Morgan Hill CA	4/24/2026
Richard Sobel	Walnut Creek CA	4/24/2026
Kevin Murray	Walnut Creek CA	5/16/2026
Mons Cedercreutz	Orinda CA	5/22/2026
	Sierra	
John Theodorakis	Manteca CA	3/20/2026
Doug Manchester	Roseville CA	3/22/2026
Steve Elkins	Redding CA	4/21/2026
Emanuel Petrisor	Orangevale CA	4/27/2026
Gary Gomez	Manteca CA	5/15/2026
	Redwood Empire	
Marcus Nofi	Windsor CA	4/4/2026
Raymond Kummer	Santa Rosa CA	4/21/2026
Keith Roark	Santa Rosa CA	4/21/2026
Edward Millard	Vallejo CA	4/21/2026
Howard Hansen	Santa Rosa CA	4/21/2026
Tim Hallman	Potter Valley CA	5/5/2026



LAST RUN

Brian Booth



Coast Division member Brian Booth passed away on May 31, following his valiant fight against a brain tumor. Brian had previously served as Chief Clerk of the Division and was instrumental in helping organize Layout Tours for the Division. He was also a member of the N-scale San Ramon Valley Branch Line sectional layout. Brian and his wife Ellen McGarvey were often attendees at National Narrow Gauge conventions. Ellen's red hair was often a feature at Coast Meets, PCR Conventions and she enjoyed running trains at Layout Tours. Brian will be deeply missed by his many friends.



LAST RUN

Gus Campagna



The Pacific Coast Division recently lost a significant force in our hobby. Early Sunday morning, June 28, 2026, Redwood Empire Division member, Gus Campagna, marked “off” for the last time.

Gus grew up with the Northwestern Pacific railroad in his back yard, and his interest in model trains also started at a very early age. A friend down the street had a large board in his basement and he and Gus would set up their HO trains and run them, then take it down when they had finished playing. Gus’ father had O-scale trains on a board that came down from the wall, but they knew they should not play with those when his father was not around. Gus would be very careful when he lowered the board to look at the trains and put it back up afterward, but his father always knew someone had been fooling with his Lionel trains. Later on, Gus visited a hobby shop in Sonoma and discovered **Model Railroader**. Shortly thereafter, Gus became involved with the NMRA and began attending PCR conventions; the first in Grass Valley and the second in Walnut Creek, where he volunteered to work in the company store. Around 1988, he joined the Sonoma County Highballers where he met Don Cabrall and Steve Skold.

Gus’ first large layout was the 55’ X 40’ Gold Hill and Udell Southern (GUSRR), built in the upstairs of a building in Petaluma. Before Gus embarked on a second large layout, he was advised by Jim Providenza to keep a specific railroad in mind so there would be a “realistic and consistent prototype after which to pattern things.” Gus chose the California Western between Fort Bragg and Willits with a connection with to Northwestern Pacific at Willits.

In 1993 Gus married Mary Carol Moore and, within a few years, PCR had a new member. Mary took on the Non-rail activities in 2001 before they moved to Soda Springs. Gus built their current home in Penngrove along with a detached building to house the new California Western Railroad, a short-line between Fort Bragg and Willits where it interchanges with the NWP. The NWP has staging representing Eureka to the north and Tiburon to the south. In addition, there is a 10-mile logging branch line feeding the mill at Ft. Bragg.

Gus was also active in the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society, where he became the permanent secretary and library manager. And Gus was active in the NMRA as a committee member of several PCR conventions, Redwood Empire Division Superintendent, Chief Clerk, Editor, and Membership and Publications chair for the Pacific Coast Region.

Gus was recognized as Redwood Empire Division Member of the Year in 1991 and 2003, and the John Allen Award in 2004. He accomplished AP Certifications as Dispatcher, Volunteer, and Official.

Gus Campagna’s presence and leadership will be missed by us all.





**Seth Neumann,
SIG Manager**



Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann

There were several out-of-town operating meets this winter and Spring, including the Kansas City area, Puget Sound, Northern New Jersey, Southern California and a “24 hours of Tehachapi” Timetable and Train Order event at the La Mesa Club’s layout at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. There will be more, later in the year, including Desert Ops in the Phoenix area on October 23-25. Meets are held periodically throughout the year, please contact me at the email below if you are interested in participating.

We held the Annual Bay Area Layout Design and Ops meet January 31 and Feb 1 at the Depot in Santa Clara, and ops were held on Saturday and the Clinic program on Sunday in change from past practice to accommodate the SNHRS’s public visiting schedule. We had a successful SIG program at the excellent Extra 2026 North PCR Convention in April in Rohnert Park.

Due to a lack of suitable layouts in Chattanooga, LDSIG will be holding its annual program at the St Louis RPM (in Collinsville IL) meet, July 23-25 <https://www.stlrpm.com/> along with the NMRA Mid Continent Region, NMRA is the next week in Chattanooga, TN. As of this writing Op Sessions slots are “sold out” at Chattanooga.

As NMRA SIG Program Coordinator I’m here to help you form a SIG around any topic or grouping of individuals. So, if you want to bring people together around a prototype, a technology a historical period or a group of people who have not historically participated in in the NMRA, reach out to me at sigs@nmra.org and I’ll help set you up as a SIG.

Cydney George-Abatecola has posted a “Women in Model Railroading SIG” report elsewhere in the Branchline.

As always if you are interested in these programs and don’t know where to start (especially operations) please contact me at sneumann@pacbell.net

Seth Neumann



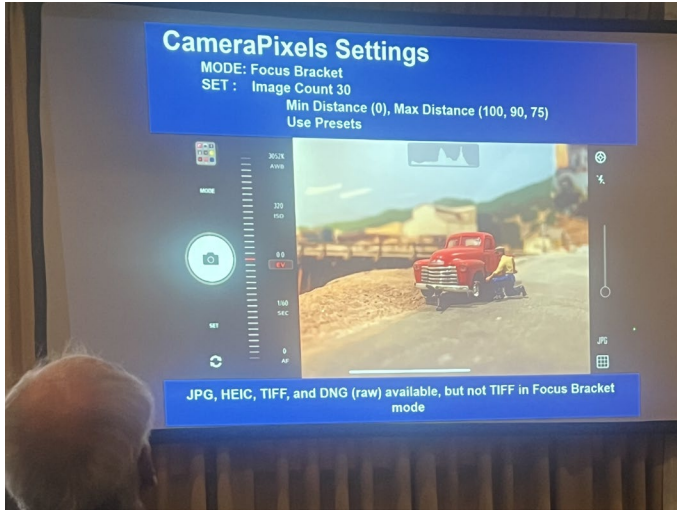
EXTRA 2026 NORTH

**PCR CONVENTION
ROHNERT PARK, CA**

The 2026 Pacific Coast Region Convention was a tremendous success. 149 like-minded souls convened at the Double Tree Sonoma Wine Country hotel for 3 full days of model railroading fun and education.

We owe a hearty “thank you” and “well done” to the convention chair, Denni Baumer, the convention committee, the volunteers, and the Redwood Empire Division.

Follow along as we relive some of the convention activities with this photo essay.



Forty-plus clinics



Modular layout with a scene named for our editor



An excursion to the Western Railway museum was well attended



“Modern day” BART at the railway museum



Out to dinner Saturday night



Annual Members meeting and breakfast



Steve and Carol Skold honored at what will be their last convention.





Tobin Roye wins first place – structure.



**Bill “Grumpy” Scott honors Stan Keiser,
the “Camera Man”**



Doug Harding wins a door prize.



EXTRA
2026
NORTH
PCR CONVENTION
ROHNERT PARK, CA



Bob Osborn receives the 2026 President's Award

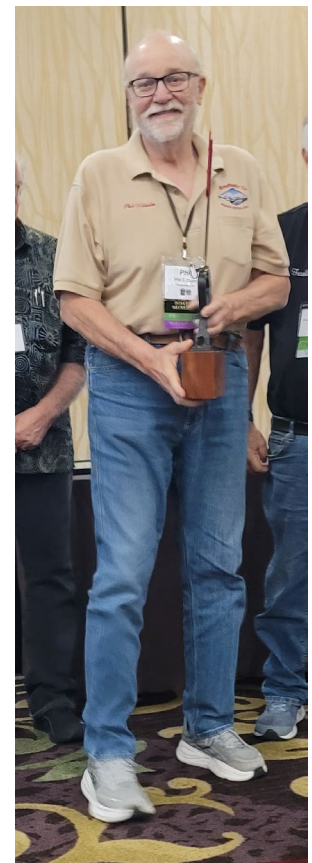


Walter Mizuno honored for years of service to Daylight Division and PCR Board of Directors



John Alan Memorial Award winners (left to right)
Seth Neumann, Giuseppe Aymar, Carol Skold, Steve Skold, Jim Providenza, Lisa Gorrell, Bill Scott,
Phil Edholm, Frank Markovich, Ed Merrin, Gus Campagna, Mary C Moore-Campagna

2026 John Alan Memorial Award winner,
Phil Edholm



Contest Room

by Paul Deis



Judges at Work in the Contest Room

The Extra 2026 North, 2026 PCR Convention has completed its run. It was a fun convention throughout including the Celebration of Models.

This year saw 38 entries across many categories, including 2 entries in the Module category. 12 entries scored high enough to earn a merit award. Larry Tidball was awarded Best in Show model for the second year in a row, Congratulations Larry.

Best of Show and category first place winners are as follows:

Best of Show, Model

Favorite Model, Model

Larry Tidball

West Side Lumber Company, Blacksmith Shop



Contest Room ct'd.

Best of Show, Photography
Stanley Keiser
Waiting at the Diamonds



Marion Madsen Memorial, Best in Show, Arts and Crafts
Barbara Soward
Barb's First Bestie Bag



Contest Room ct'd.

First Place Steam Locomotive, Kit
Scott Lockhart
Lynch Creek & Easter Beyer-Garrett, On30



First Place Passenger Car, Open
Ingenuity Award
Kenneth Martin
CB&Q Business Car #67



Contest Room ct'd.

First Place Freight Car, Open
Phil Edholm
PVRR Beet Car



First Place Freight Car, Kit
Dave Turner
SP&S Wood Chip Car



Contest Room ct'd.

First Place Maintenance of Way, Open
Dave Croshere
Ash Pit Gondola



First Place Structure, Open
Michael Eldridge
Bott's Cotton Gin



Contest Room ct'd.

First Place Structure, Kit
Tobin Roye
Drakes Theater & Diner



First Place Display, Kit
Walter Schedler
SP Signal Maintenance Facility



Contest Room ct'd.

First Place, Photography, Model, Color
Stan Keiser
Mail Pouch and Barn



First Place, Photography, Trains in Action
Stan Keiser
Scenic Train Trip



Contest Room ct'd.

First Place, Photography, Working on the Railroad
Stan Keiser
Discussing the Next Run



First Place, Photography, Prototype, Black and White
Stan Keiser
Results of the Train Wreck



Contest Room ct'd.

First Place Module
Brian Hendrix
Winery and Lumber Yard



Contest Room ct'd.

First Place, Arts and Crafts, Railroadiana
Popular Vote, Arts and Crafts
Sandy Theis
Railroad Shirt



Levity Award
Laura McKeegan
Mini Diorama Railroad



Contest Room ct'd.

Favorite Model, Square Foot Challenge
Donald Burch
High County Stock Loading Facility



Favorite Train
Paul Deis
SP MOW Train



Contest Room ct'd.

Popular Vote, Photograph
Stan Keiser
Waiting at the Diamond



Thank you to everyone who shared their talents with us.

Thank you to the volunteers who worked in the contest room and to those who served as judges.

Until I see you, keep-em on the rails,
Paul Deis



3D Clinic Update

At the PCR 2026 convention I gave a live clinic on using AI tools to create and print figures for your layout. I continued to experiment with this, and have a couple of updates to share. First, at the clinic I said that Tripo, the online app that converts 2D images to 3D models, required a paid subscription. I looked again and found that there is a free tier, albeit with some limitations. In the free tier you will probably only be able to generate two



figures, maybe three, per month. You also have to select a down-level AI model (2.5) or you won't be able to download the 3D file. The AI model didn't seem to make any significant change in the output model.

If you want to do a quick sample project, go to gemini.google.com and enter a description of what you want. For example, "Create an image of a worker in a fruit packing plant in 1950. Show the figure full height." You can then refine the picture. Maybe you want the figure to be of a younger person. Type in the prompt, "Have a younger woman." At some point you need to remove the background: "Remove the fruit containers and the background, leave only the woman." When you are satisfied, click the download button in the upper right corner of the picture. You now have a sense of one thing AI does – it accepts natural language requests, and it remembers what has gone before.

Now go to <https://studio.tripo3d.ai>. You will have to create an account. After that, click on Generate HD Model, and drag your image file into the upload area on the left. Just below that click on Texture and Topology and change the poly count to 100,000. Below that click on AI Model and change that to 2.5 – Legacy. Below that click on Generate Model. Click on the Export button and export an STL file. You can load the STL into your slicer and resize and print the figure.

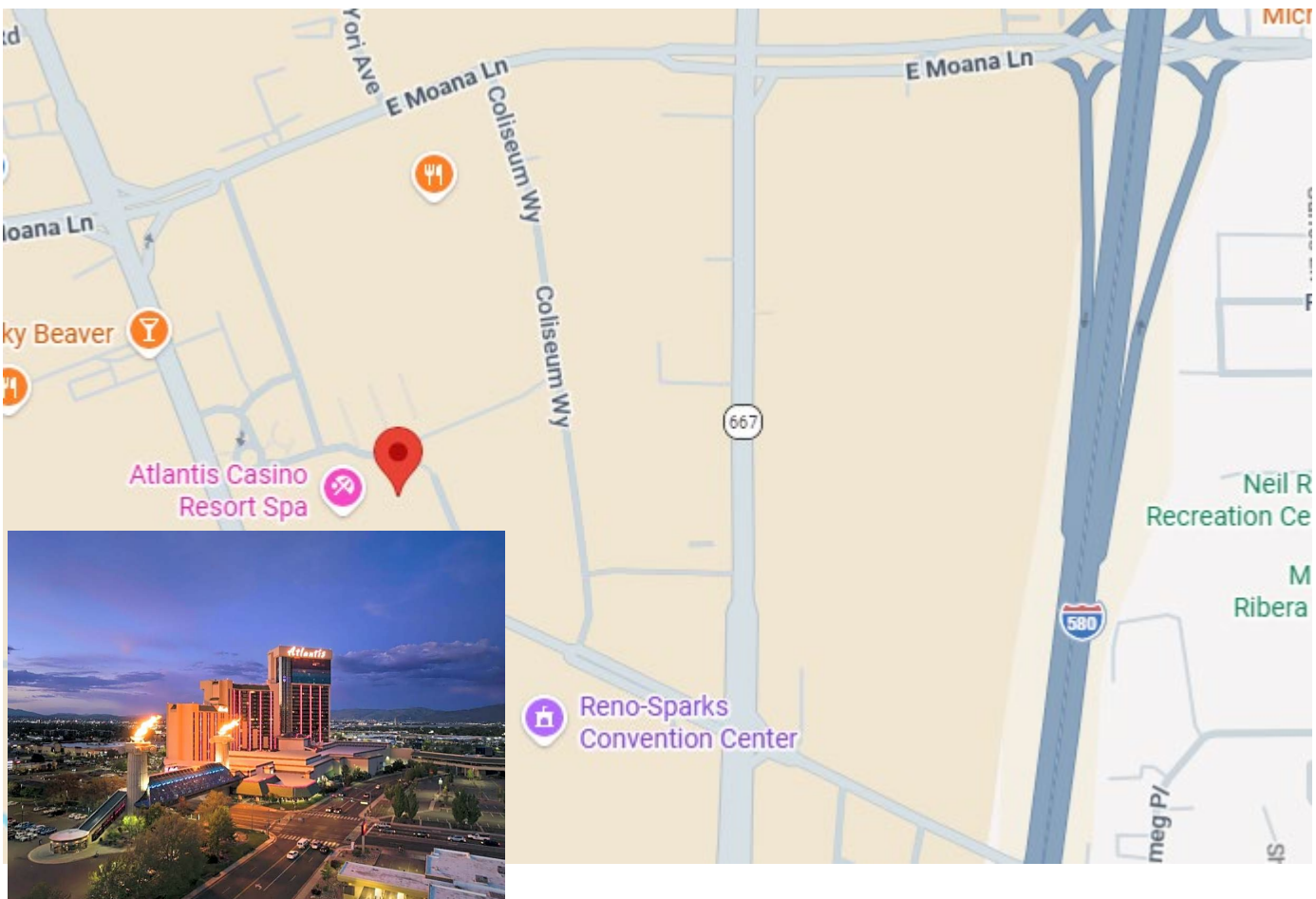
You can also create a figure that you can pose. This takes more steps, but most of the steps are exactly the same for each model. With these figures you can position their arms, legs, head, and even individual fingers before printing.

I have posted a video on YouTube that describes and demonstrates both the simple method and the posable figure method. You can view the YouTube at <https://youtu.be/HLYfRrGpehs>.

Layouts can use lots of figures, and if you have access to a good 3D printer you can now make them for just pennies per figure.



- ✓ Three Day Program
- ✓ Clinics
- ✓ Make & Take Workshops
- ✓ Layout Tours
- ✓ Operating Sessions
- ✓ Contests
- ✓ Excursions
- ✓ Swap Meet
- ✓ Free Companion Fare



2026 SPH&TS CONVENTION : VISALIA, CALIFORNIA



Welcome to Visalia. Located on California State Route 99, the city is easily accessible from central, northern and southern California.



October 7-10, 2026

**Wyndham Visalia
9000 W Airport Dr
Visalia, CA 93277
Registration:**

**Members will receive their forms in July.
Non-members, please check the website after July 15.
Hotel Rooms:**

A block of hotel rooms has been reserved for Tuesday October 6 through Saturday October 10.

The room rate is \$129 per night before fees and taxes. You may reserve one king bed or two queen beds. To book your hotel room, click on the link:

Direct Link: [LINK](#) Reservations must be made prior to September 6, 2026, to receive the discounted rate.

Extra Fare:

On Wednesday October 7, we will have two events.

- **Tour of the Hillcrest & Watoke Railroad**

This 15-inch gauge railroad is on a tree farm near Reedley, CA. We will visit the railroad for a few hours in the morning. Motor coach transportation will be provided.

- **Tour of the O-scale layout near the Fresno Yosemite International Airport**

Privately owned and operated layout. Steam and diesel locomotives from Santa Fe, Southern Pacific and Union Pacific provide the motive power. Some of the locomotives are custom built such as a SP Krauss-Maffi. This is a self-driving tour. Groups of 5-10 people will be authorized to have a 30-minute time block starting at 2 pm with the last tour ending at 5 pm.

Additional information will be available in the registration packet in July

Presentations:

- Thursday, October 8th
- 9:00am, 10:30 am, 1:00 pm, and 2:30 pm
- Friday, October 9th
- 9:00am, 10:30 am, 1:00 pm, 2:30 pm, and 3:30 pm
- Saturday, October 10th
- 9:00am, 10:30 am, 1:00 pm, and 2:30 pm

All presentations will only be given once. Check your registration timetable for speakers, subjects, and times.

Other Tours and Model Layouts:

- We are arranging for a tour of the Visalia Depot (formerly The Depot Restaurant)
- We are gathering Information about layouts for a self-guided tour
- Information will be available in your registration packet in October

Room Sponsors:

Please contact the Society if you are interested in sponsoring the vendor room, the presentation room, or the banquet.

Vendors:

- Vendor registration will be available in July.

Vendor Setup Hours:

- Wednesday October 7, from 4 pm to 7 pm
- Thursday October, 8 from 8 am to 8:30 am

Vendor Sales Hours:

- **Thursday October 8**
8:30am to 12:00 pm, and 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
- **Friday October 9**
8:30am to 12:00 pm, and 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
- **Saturday October 10**
8:30am to 1:30pm
- At 1:30 pm on Saturday, vendors must begin removing their items; the room must be cleared by 3:00 pm.

Models, Dioramas & Photograph Contest:

- All scale models of equipment operated by Southern Pacific and its subsidiaries may be registered on Friday October 18 from 9 am to 5 pm at the model contest area in the vendor room.
- Contest models may be entered if you did the modeling.
- Display models may be entered if you did not do the modeling.
- Photographs must be a minimum of 8 inches x 10 inches.
- Contest photographs may be entered if the you were the photographer.
- Display photographs may be displayed if you were not the photographer.
- Voting will be on Saturday, October 18, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please see the ballot in your registration packet.
- All items must be retrieved Saturday, October 18, between 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm.

Convention Schedule:

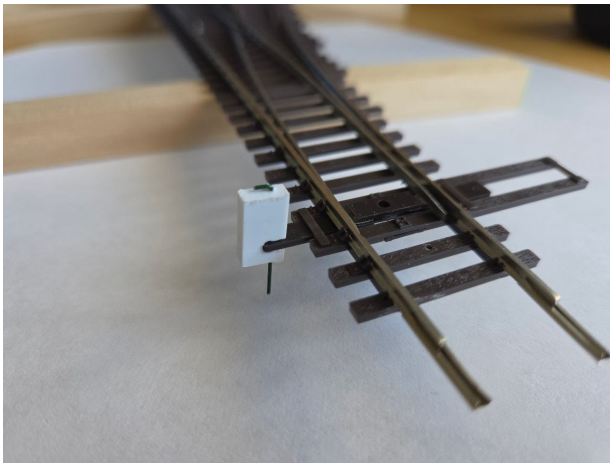
Information should be be available September 15, 2026. Please check the website at that time.



Cheap, Quick, and Easy Turnout Control

Currently, my grandsons are 7, 9, and 11 years old. As we build switching layouts for each of them, I want them to do most of the work. Throwing the turnouts, I discovered, poses a dilemma. My first thought was to use New Rail Models Blue Point turnout controls like the ones I use on Fall Creek Branch. But it turns out that these are no longer being produced, and fabricating their equivalents using available items from the hardware store is a more challenging task than I think we're able to accomplish.

Examining the HO scale, code 83 nickel silver DCC friendly turnouts from Walthers that we're using, I found that they are lightly sprung so that they can be thrown easily by hand. We will be drilling a hole under the throw bar so that we can power them from under



Turnout Handle

the track later if any of the boys decide to do that. In that case, each will be powered by a piece of music wire through one of the three pre-drilled holes in the throw bar. I decided that now I'd like to attach a removable handle to that throw bar so that they don't have to push the rail itself into place. This article describes how I constructed those handles, using a process the boys can do themselves.

Since the Walthers throw bars have a cross section measuring about $\frac{1}{16}$ "x $\frac{1}{8}$ ", I used Evergreen Scale Models strip styrene measuring $\frac{1}{8}$ "x $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Cutting pieces $\frac{1}{2}$ " long allows almost $\frac{3}{8}$ " of the styrene to be above the throw bar for easy access. 22-gauge wire (diameter = 0.0253 inches = 0.643 mm) fits through the pre-drilled holes, so I drilled a hole just larger than this through the full $\frac{1}{2}$ " from top to bottom of the styrene. This hole should be about $\frac{1}{16}$ " away from the $\frac{1}{8}$ " face of the styrene, because that is the distance from the pre-drilled hole to the end of the throw bar. See the illustration on the next page.

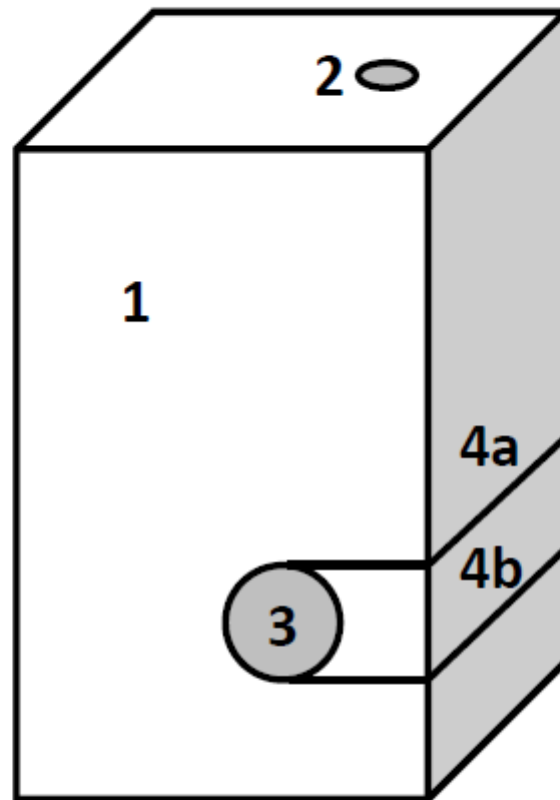
Next, use a $\frac{1}{16}$ " drill bit to drill through the styrene from front to back about $\frac{3}{32}$ " or $\frac{1}{8}$ " above the bottom. Then use a razor saw to cut down to the $\frac{1}{16}$ " hole, creating a trench or ditch which will surround the end of the throw bar. The penultimate step is to cut a short length of 22-gauge wire and bend one end to form an L-shape. Finally, insert the long end of the L into the styrene part way and fit the styrene over the end of the throw bar. Gently fiddle with the pieces until the wire goes through the hole in the throw bar. Now you have a handle you can use to throw the turnout. Consider painting the handle so it is not so obvious, or, alternatively, so it is even easier to see. And, if you decide later to power the turnout differently, the handle is very easy to remove.



Easy-to-use Tools

Until next time, you may reach me with comments or questions at pethoud@comcast.net

Handle to throw Walthers HO scale turnouts



- 1** Start with styrene measuring $1/8'' \times 1/4'' \times 1/2''$
- 2** Drill top to bottom to fit 22 gauge wire
- 3** Drill front to back with $1/16''$ drill bit
- 4** Use razor saw to cut down to $1/16''$ hole. Resulting trench fits over turnout throw bar, then wire through this piece and throw bar secures the handle.



Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

By: Jim Providenza

What the DS Worries About

I was cleaning off my bedside table. It had accumulated an ungodly amount of ‘stuff’. Buried deep down (how could there be some much paper?), sitting almost unnoticed under several piles of papers, envelopes, receipts and library checkout printouts were 4 or 5 sheets of slightly yellowed 5x7 note paper. Three of the sheets were still held together at the top with the gum from the pad they came off of – I guess they made such stuff stronger back in the day.

And the day was ‘way back in the day’ – right around 1989. The note paper had no water mark, no company logo, no form number. Just plain, unlined notepaper. But I knew exactly what it was, how it came to be, and why I have kept it ‘kickin’ around’ all these years.

I was in the SP Oregon Division Dispatcher’s Office in Eugene Yard. I was visiting my good friend and operations mentor Rick Kang. Rick was working second shift “SP Hill Dispatcher” at the time – the CTC controlled mainline from Eugene to Crescent Lake on the Natron Cutoff. One of the longest (or maybe the longest) sustained mountain grades in the US. I had gotten myself invited to sit in with him for a shift and he had agreed to let me tape record him. The clock was ticking, the Dispatcher Office in Eugene was going to be closed and consolidated with the dispatch office in Roseville. The Company had not made such a move official. But in the way such things work, it was known amongst the rank and file as a done deal. Just a matter of time. Rick had always emphasized to me that the dispatcher’s primary duty was to ensure that the railroad ran safely. Managing train movements came second. Rick also pointed out that one or more shifts a day the dispatcher was concerned with maintenance of way and other crews working on or around the right of way. They needed ‘track and time’ to get work done to maintain the railroad so trains could run and thus earn revenue. But their work could not be allowed to unduly interfere with train movements! This is something we rarely model.

Assuming you were past these hurdles, Rick said that the dispatcher then focused on a number of train issues. This was what I had written on the first piece of notepaper:

1. Non Clearing trains
2. Short timers
3. Wide Loads
4. Work on line
5. Expedited trains

1. The SP was of course known for (notorious for?) running non-clearing trains. Which tended to have the same effect then that running double and triple length trains does today. It may cut down on crew starts but if the siding capacity does not exist to allow trains to meet because one or several are too long, the railroad really starts to congeal. So a dispatcher had to plan carefully were, if at all, he can meet non-clearing trains.
2. Short timers are self-explanatory; the crew is about to ‘outlaw’ on the hours of service and cannot remain on duty after reaching the maximum hours allowed. The ‘hog law’ was 16 hours continuous duty up until the end of the 1960’s. The maximum permissible hour was reduced to 14 and then several years later to 12, where it remains today. Needless to say, the Division Superintendent does not want to pay a second crew to dog catch a train that has died on the law.

Tales ct'd.

3. Wide loads - High / wide loads are often restricted, sometimes severely, in their allowed track speed. Make the load high or wide enough and things slow to a real crawl with the train having to stop repeatedly at bridges, overpasses, etc. to make sure the load will safely pass the obstacle. Meeting or being passed by other trains may also get real tricky.
4. Work on line is just that – work that a train has to stop to do while traveling across the line. The dispatcher has to plan how long a crew needs to accomplish work at a certain industry. Does the crew have a reputation for getting the job done in a timely fashion? Or is the crew one that routinely drags its collective feet?
5. Expedited trains require lots of advanced planning. And woe to the dispatcher who delays an expedited train for anything but a ‘very good’ reason. Trains like the Blue Streak Merchandise became legends not just because they were supposed to be fast, but because of the constant pressure from management to keep them so, and the daily efforts of dispatchers and train crews to make it so, at almost any cost.

So take a non-clearing train and figure out how he is going to meet an expedited train with a short time crew... and we have a general idea of WHAT THE DS WORRIES ABOUT. Now throw in a maintenance window...

That would never happen on the Santa Cruz Northern of course. Unless, just maybe, we are talking about the Cementipede and the Eastbound Perishable.



As the session ends The Cementipede once again has cars all over the place – and is on the time of #202, the Eastbound Perishable. They are still within Fallon Yard Limits, and while #202 may be the hottest train on the SCN this evening, it is still ‘only’ a Second Class train... and so the crew of the Cementipede has at least some cover under the rules. The DS is not amused... “Pay attention to the times of scheduled trains!”

Next session’s crews will have to clean things up a bit!





Greetings to All

My name is Dave Theis and as the new Director/Superintendent for the Daylight Division I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and to let everyone know a little bit about my vision and the direction I am looking at for the Division over the next two years.

Let me start by saying thank you to our outgoing Director/Superintendent, Walter Mizuno, whose leadership and dedication have contributed significantly to our success and the growth of our Division over the past four years. We greatly appreciate everything you have done and we wish you the best of luck as you transition to other responsibilities and areas of service within the Division.

As for myself, I am presently model HO and N scale with my local club, the Visalia Electric Model Railroaders and Historical Society. I also operate a Lionel "O" scale postwar inspired layout and Garden Railroad at my home in Woodlake, CA. As a member of the Daylight Division, I have been active in attending NMRA National and PCR Conventions, served on various Daylight committees, hosted and taught clinics, and I am actively writing articles for the PCR Branchline newsletter and the Daylight Observation: the newsletter for our division. As a member of the Layout Design SIG and the Operations SIG I have also participated in several PCR Bay Area Layout Design and Operations meets.

While I have only been back in the hobby for about eight years, and while I would not consider myself to be an expert model railroader by any stretch of the imagination, I do believe I possess an enthusiasm, energy, and excitement for our hobby which will help me to continue to build upon the existing programs within our Division and work to implement some of the new programs which members are recommending. This includes work on:

- Increasing the frequency of Division meetings, activities, and to offer clinics that will have an appeal to all levels of modelers.
- Promoting and encouraging a Division wide emphasis on recruitment of new members.
- Continuing to promote our new Division Facebook page and making better use of the existing Constant Contact email list with regular email updates so that we can emphasize Division activities and highlight what our members are up to.
- Connecting and meeting with the members of the Division in order to hear their ideas and even their concerns about ways for us to improve how the Division is operating.

I recognize that I have laid out a very ambitious agenda, however, I have no doubts and firmly believe that by working together, we can not only accomplish these goals, but we can develop and secure the future legacy of the NMRA and our Division for generations to come.

If you have any questions or if you want to set up a phone call or meeting to discuss some of these items you can email me at director.daylight@pcrnmra.net. Thank you and I look forward to the next couple of years as we work together and create opportunities to promote the growth of our hobby, our Division, and to advance our common interests in model railroading.

Respectfully,

Dave Theis
Director/Superintendent
Daylight Division



Daylight Division Report

by Dave Theis



The Daylight Division hosted its Spring Meet, in Bakersfield, Saturday, May 16th. The main event of the meet was to host some hands-on Basic Layout construction clinics. The clinics included the following:

- Laying Track
- Installing Turnouts and Switches
- Wiring the Layout and Soldering Feeders to the Track
- Ballasting Track
- Creating Scenery

Approximately 23 folks, which included 11 NMRA members attended. Not a bad attendance for Daylight Superintendent/Director, Dave Theis, first official meeting to chair! The Daylight Division wanted to try a different slant on attracting new members, so we figured to offer something for the most novice-beginning model railroader. We offered the most basic of skills to those beginners so they could take what they learned and construct their own layouts. The clinics allowed the participants do actually try their hand at the skills required to construct a model railroad layout. The strategy seemed to have paid off as we were able to attract 12 non-NMRA members to the meet and we gained 7 new NMRA members, to boot! It was a great payoff for the amount of time and effort that went into planning this type of event. We are hoping to take what we have learned from the November 8th Woodlake and the May 16th Bakersfield, hands-on clinics style of meets, over to either Santa Barbara or San Luis Obispo, sometime in August. We are just starting to organize those meetings, so nothing in concrete at this time.



Daylight member, Tom Osterdock, of Bakersfield, standing, explains how to put down some track and turnouts



Daylight Division Director/Superintendent, Dave Theis, welcomed everyone to the meet



Daylight member, Doug Wagner, of Bakersfield, standing, explains the techniques he has learned to attach power to the track



Daylight member, Bill Vaughn, of Bakersfield, instructs on the technique of applying ballast once your track is installed.





GEHAMS welcomes visitors
on any Saturday, (closed on Dec. 25)
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM,
to view trains operating over
Central California's largest
HO and N Scale layouts.

For more information, please email
carldw@aol.com, phone (661) 331-6695
or visit our web site at gehams.club

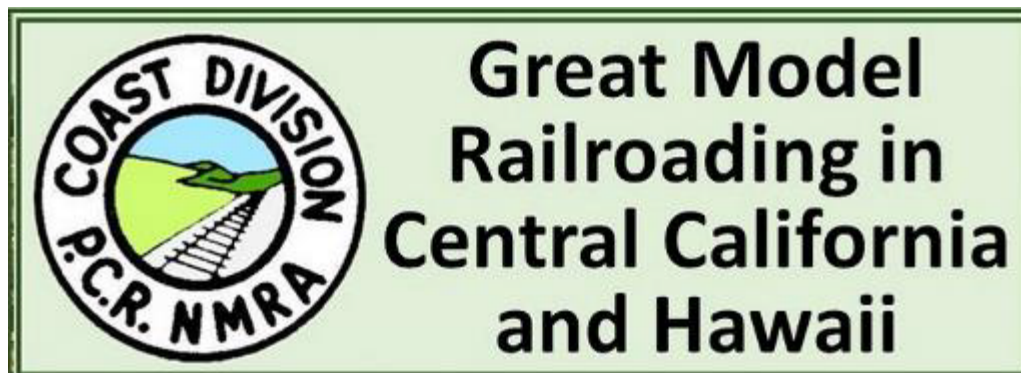
Bakersfield Podcaster, San Joaquin Sound, spent last month producing a documentary on the Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society, here in Bakersfield.

AJ Rodriguez, who is San Joaquin Sound Podcaster, has informed me the documentary is now completed and posted on YouTube.

If you'd be interested in viewing the short 3-minute documentary, you may view it by going to this link:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/X59nU2w73qw>

Coast Division Report



VISIT THE COAST DIVISION YOUTUBE CHANNEL



[LINK](#)

There are currently 109 recorded videos comprising nearly sixteen hours of model railroading content. Make sure you have plenty of time!!

Redwood Empire Division Report

by Dan Obermeyer



Just got back from attending a college graduation in New York City. Rode the subway all over. It seemed we were never more than 10 minutes to a station. Great experience for this country kid.

Now riding SMART to a Giants game with a ferry trip to the ball park and I am writing this report to PCR as we travel. So stress free after finding a parking space. And for us older ones, it's free.

So why is this guy talking about riding transit. It is my observation that rail transit is about the only experience people now have with railroads (other than waiting at street crossings for a train to pass). Gone are the days of wandering railroad yards and maybe scoring a caboose ride or even hitting the jackpot and getting a cab ride. Been there; done that. Great memories.

And what does all this have to do with model railroading? For a guy that has been in the hobby for almost 70 years it magnifies the changes to the railroad industry and the hobby. And slowly how our national, regional, and divisional organizations are changing. We often complain about how the hobby is maybe dying as it only appeals to boomers or that generation who had a closer connection to railroads. But cruise around YouTube and you will see lots of younger people involved in this hobby. Many of the PCR clinic presenters were younger. I do not believe the hobby is dying. It's changing in ways that reflect the changes in our society. NMRA and its regions and divisions are trying to catch up.

And what does this opinion piece have to do with a report about the RED to the PCR? I attended a Directors' meeting and a Superintendents' meeting recently. All from the comfort of my recliner. Zoom has served us well. During the Pandemic the then leaders of RED kept us sane and connected with Zoom. The PCR is clearing the way for divisions to access the Zoom and email services they have developed. This creates a great opportunity for bringing more involvement for the divisions that are geographically large. RED will be working on efforts to bring our far-flung members into division activities.

All this effort will rely on volunteers to organize events and contact far a flung member or local member who don't regularly attend our quarterly meetings. So please step up and take on a small part of this effort. Opportunities are open to do clinics or presentations on what interests you from your own home; or call new members and make connections to those that joined under the Rail Pass program but who haven't had that personal invite from others members; or host an event within your community if it is too far from where the division normally meets; or connect to the YouTubers within our division and build connections to the rest of our membership. Contact me if interested.

The PCR annual convention is over, and it was a good one. Rode a rail bike for the first time. Didn't fall off. Also visited the Western Railroad Museum and got extra time walking the car barns. Clinics were great. They got me enthused to get working on my own layout. Hope you all had the same experience.



Sierra Division Report



"We have passenger trains ready to roll in Cincinnati, we have freight trains in San Diego and Mojave--new batteries in all of our NCE controllers." Thus declared Jason Roye a day or so before the inaugural OP session for the Remanso de Paz & Western railroad.

The HO scale RdeP&W runs a point-to-point route from San Diego, CA to Cincinnati, OH over the lines of Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, and Santa Fe.

On Saturday, June 27, the railroad came to life with the help of nine Sierra Division members:
Jason Roye, Tobin Roye, Ken Roye –all from Chico
Len Railey - Auburn
Emanuel Petrisor - Susanville
Dave Neighbors – North Highlands
Dave Kronick - Orland
Mike Hamlin – Orland
Chip Meriam - Chico



Crew members during morning briefing.
(left to right) Dave Kronick, Jason Roye, Dave Neighbors, Emanuel Petrisor, Mike Hamlin



Cincinnati Union Terminal



The hosts: (l-r) Tobin, Ken, and Jason Roye

Time Table

PCR EVENT CALENDAR

28 JUN, SUN

● 9am Coast Auction

11 JUL, SAT

● 10:15am Sierra Division Meeting

8 AUG, SAT

● 10:15am Sierra Division Meeting

12 SEP, SAT

● 10:15am Sierra Division Meeting

10 OCT, SAT

● 10:15am Sierra Division Meeting

14 NOV, SAT

● 10:15am Sierra Division Meeting

12 DEC, SAT

● 10:15am Sierra Division Meeting

9 JAN, SAT

● 10:15am Sierra Division Meeting

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 HO 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@gmail.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 & HOm3) / 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@slopra.org or 805-929-3062

Third Tuesday 5:30 PM Dinner, 6:30 PM Meeting / Visalia Electric Railroad Modelers & Historical Society / Meets at Apple Annie's Restaurant, 1165 N. Blackstone, Tulare, CA 93274 / Mike Harris, e-mail: rmike2003@yahoo.com.

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: harmonta@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



CLUB INFORMATION

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. Our Club is open to visitors on Tue. & Fri. from 5 to 7PM. We hold monthly Operations Sessions (4 hr.) on the LAST Saturday of each month, from 10 AM to 2 PM using Train Orders. We are a DCC (only) layout and we are kid friendly, although anyone under 18 has to have a related adult present, to run on the layout. For more information, 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

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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 Flies, 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: www.gehams.org

Golden State Model Railroad Museum – East Bay Model Engineers Society

900-A Doman 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@gsmmm.org. Website: www.gsmmm.org

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: bod@smrhs.com
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.

Web: <http://home.att.net/~sjvgrs/train/>

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 set up 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 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

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, tinplate, 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 530-643-1556. 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.

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 monthly operations and work sessions at member layouts, as well as occasional club field trips. We meet every 3rd Tues. at members homes. Junior members welcome with parents. Contact: Bruce Morden, email: brucedmorden@gmail.com.

The Tidewater Southern MRC Inc. & Tidewater Southern Railway Historical Society Inc.

We are Located in Building 1 at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds (1658 S Airport Way, Stockton, CA 95206). We have both HO and N scale layouts housed in a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove. The HO scale layout represents the former Tidewater Southern branch line of Western Pacific. We meet every Saturdays from 9am - 5pm except for major holidays and run trains on the last Saturday of the month. Admission is free! Email us at: tidewatersrhs@gmail.com for our schedule.

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-raning.com and facebook.com/wbmrra. Or email westbaylines@gmail.com.



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

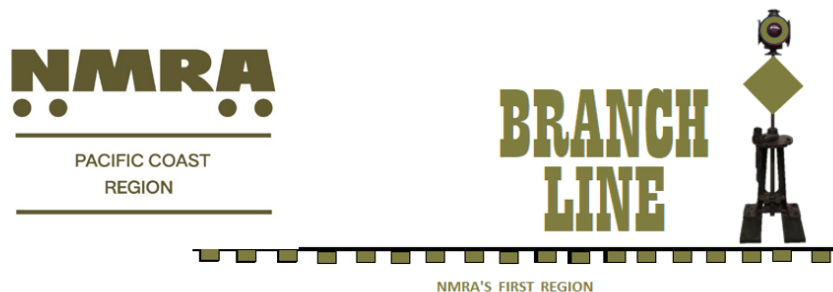
In fact, may we say that we go so far as to solicit your input?

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!



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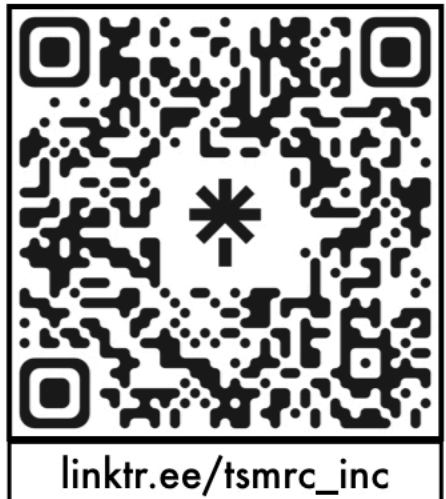
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