

NMRA

PACIFIC COAST
REGION

BRANCH LINE



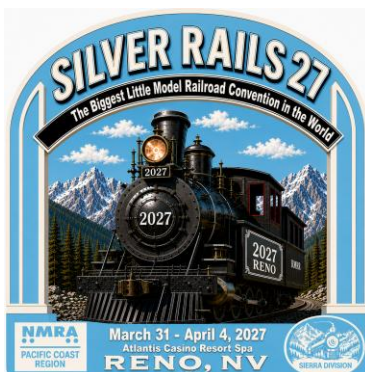
NMRA'S FIRST REGION

Oct-Nov-Dec 2026



See Page 22

Ed Merrin's Magical Camera – FOCUS STACKING



See Page 17

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

Vol. 83, No. 4, 4th 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

Branch Line
Deadlines for 2026/2027

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

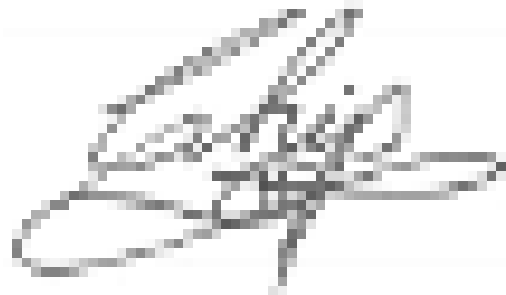


Chip Meriam,
PCR President

I Could Not Say It Better

One of the many “delights” stemming from serving as PCR President, has been writing this little quarterly epistle. Despite my love of writing, I frequently find myself stymied without any sort of idea about how to fill this white space. It is, indeed, a manifestation of the old adage about writer’s block: “Staring at the blank page until your brain bleeds.”

Well, this time I’ve received a reprieve in the form of an excellent message from our Vice President, Phil Edholm. Phil shares his thoughts on the next page and, regardless of how well I succeed (or fail) to be eloquent, I could not say it better than Phil has done. Enjoy!



From the Vice President



Phil Edholm,
PCR Vice President

The Challenge of a Model Railroad Social Circle

I admit, as I approached retirement, I was drawn back into model railroading by both the required focus, skills, and learning of the modeling process, but also the comradery and social network that being a member of the model railroading community brings. My prior stint building an HO bedroom layout, from about 1989 to 1996, was primarily as a lone wolf modeler with a short participation in the Niles HO club. When I returned to the hobby in 2015, I joined a modular group and found the members to be a great group. Since returning to the hobby and joining the NMRA in 2018, I have had great satisfaction in modeling, but also in the great group of friends I have made through the connections in the hobby. While the modeling satisfaction continues, 2026 has been challenging in terms of our community of model railroaders in the PCR.

So far in 2026, we have lost at least: Bob Brown, Doug Smith, Brian Booth, Bob Fergusson, Frank Markovic, Dean Lewis, and Gus Campagna. Together they were a great group of modelers and significant contributors to the model railroading community as well as the PCR and the divisions. Unfortunately, losing so many in a short period is a reflection of the overall age of our community as well as the Baby Boom bubble in society generally.

If you have a chance, as you move through the fall model railroad gatherings and events, take the time to remember together our members that have left us and to think back on how they impacted your modeling life. They were the mentors, volunteers, authors, and leaders that educated and inspired modelers throughout the PCR and helped make the PCR, the divisions, and many local clubs successful. They were all regular participants at NMRA events and at PCR conventions. They organized conventions and events, published magazines and led organizations. But more than anything else, they were well connected to the fabric of our model railroad community, the PCR and their respective divisions. They will be hard to replace. That demonstrates the challenges we are facing; having enough volunteers and leaders to organize our divisions and the overall PCR. If you are interested in participating further with the PCR or your division, let one of the PCR board members know, we all need you.

There is no better way of connecting across the PCR than in volunteering. And, as once was said about America, "Ask not what the hobby can do for you, but what can you do for Model Railroading?" Take the time to turn your next project into a clinic. Volunteer to be a chair in your division. It is not hard, you will meet some great modelers and, it is fun.

There is no better way of connecting across the PCR than in volunteering. And, as once was said about America, "Ask not what the hobby can do for you, but what can you do for Model Railroading?" Take the time to turn your next project into a clinic. Volunteer to be a chair in your division. It is not hard, you will meet some great modelers and, it is fun.

Most importantly, cherish the time you have, for family, for modeling, for other pursuits. Losing so many friends emphasizes the brevity of time and the need to cherish what we have. Whether to be a mentor, learn a new skill, or take on a new challenge, now is the time.

Membership

Member	In Memorium City/State	Date Joined
	Daylight	
Darrel Harbin(Lifetime)	Fresno CA	1/1/1966
Jim Williams(Lifetime)	Lompoc CA	1/1/1970
Donald Dixon(Lifetime)	Rosamond CA	1/1/1970
	Coast	
Robert Ferguson(Lifetime)	Martinez CA	1/1/1959
	Sierra	
Frank Markovich MMR #514 (Lifetime)	Modesto CA	1/1/1978
	Redwood Empire	
Gus Campagna(Lifetime)	Pennngrove CA	1/1/1982

PCR Membership Gauge

August 31, 2016—975

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

June 30, 2026—694

July 31, 2026—692

August 31, 2026—691

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 Tracker

Division

#Members

Coast	293
Sierra	207
Redwood Empire	96
Daylight	<u>95</u>
TOTAL	691

Welcome Aboard !

PCR's Newest

<u>Member</u>	<u>City, Sate</u> <u>Daylight</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Marlin Woodside	Calif City CA	6/16/2026
Tai Quan	Bakersfield CA	6/16/2026
John Maynard	Shafter CA	6/16/2026
Ric Garofalo	Bakersfield CA	6/16/2026
Bruce Barker	Bakersfield CA	6/16/2026
Jammes Province	Tulare CA	6/28/2026
G. Dodd	San Luis Obispo CA	7/15/2026
Gary Clark	Morro Bay CA	7/18/2026
Matthew Riley	Fresno CA	8/12/2026
Anthony Miller	Bakersfield CA	8/14/2026
Sierra		
Nicholas Fabish	Chico CA	7/20/2026
Eddie Reyes	Linden CA	8/1/2026
Daniel Anderson	Sparks NV	8/27/2026
Redwood Empire		
Lori Jones	Napa CA	6/24/2026

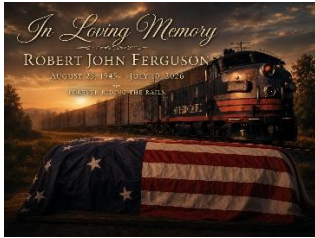


LAST RUN

Bob Ferguson

This is Wayne Ferguson, Bob Ferguson's son. Dad left us Friday (*July 10*) morning to join his parents, Charlie & Amy, and oldest son, Neil. It was a peaceful hospice passing at his home in Martinez per his wishes. At this time I do not have services planned and have not yet sorted his estate. I just wanted to let everyone know. Also, I have closed Garden Railroad Supply Company.

Godspeed, Dad.



I am so sorry to hear this, Bob was a friend and a special person. Having moved north a few years ago, it's been unsettling to hear of the passing of what seems like so many PCR friends!

Pat (and Ronnie) LaTorres

He will be missed! He was a hell of a guy!

Jim Radkey
BNSF PLSD

My condolences, Wayne. Your dad was a great person and a fabulous modeler.

He will be missed.

Bert Greeley
Fresno

Damn! So sorry to hear this. Bob was my mentor and guided me through the membership information when I first started working on PCR membership way back in the mid 2000's. Everything I learned about PCR membership data from NMRA HQ was from Bob as he had to guide me through every step of the way as I had a lot of stupid questions back then and he had the patience of Job to take me by the hand and teach me the way.

Doug Wagner
Bakersfield, California

Bob called me last week to tell me of his condition and that he'd be moving to hospice. He sounded weak but the news still came as a shock. Bob was a good guy and even when we disagreed, he always was positive. He did a lot for PCR, especially the auction revolutionizing the procedure and was a great help to us all. Take care my friend and my condolences to his family.

Charlie Getz

Dear Wayne,
Bob is missed. Much appreciated as a friend.
Cheers,
Brewster Bird

Continued on page 11

LAST RUN

Bob Ferguson

Bob and I ran trains together on the Diablo Valley Lines in Walnut Creek and worked together at the Coast Auctions

He made the hobby better for many of us

He was one of the great Coast "old timers" and will be missed

It was wonderful to know him

Jesse Walden

Bob will be missed. He was always willing to step up and contribute; for the PCR, the Coast Division or the Walnut Creek club. We all owe him a gratitude. I would personally like to thank him for his continued support through the last few years with the Coast auction and keeping the Coast going. His financial stewardship has put both the Coast Division and the PCR in great shape.

Thanks Bob, and all the best to Wayne and the Ferguson family. Our hearts are with you.

Phil Edholm

I am greatly saddened at Bob's passing. I have always enjoyed his guidance with respect to the Coast Auction. I will do my best to carry on his legacy as an auction committee member.

Jere Ingram

So sorry to hear this news, Wayne. Bob was a big part of the history and heart of Diablo Valley Lines. He was so welcoming when I joined and ever after.

I developed back problems that forced me to leave the Club, but I have warm memories of your family welcoming me in every way. Condolences to all in this deepest loss.

John Burgh

Wayne,

I am so sorry for your loss. I met your dad many years ago at a Coast meet in San Francisco and worked with him on many PCR and Coast events. He was always doing the right thing for the organization. He will be missed by all!

Frank Markovich

Bob was a great help to the Garden Railway community with his battery conversions. I bought a lot of G gauge supplies from him.

He was also an active member of the Walnut Creek Model Railroad club. I know that he will be missed there also.

May he rest in peace.

Joe Barker

LAST RUN

Bob Ferguson

Worked with Bob, opinionated and dedicated, on the Coast Division Auction for many years, the first time when Coast met in the Palo Alto Community Center. Learned a lot about serving the Division. He even trusted me to handle money 😊. Stopped making the long trip to Alameda some years ago, so hadn't seen him recently.

Bob occasionally operated at Dave Parks' Cumberland West op sessions. Most recently he'd chose the sit-down Evitts Creek Tower Operator position. Never an error there!

With Highest Regards for Bob,

Dick Zeren

This photo slows Bob working on my layout



The spline roadbed was used on his insistence for smooth flow and for not wasting wood. He was involved in building the railroad from the very beginning as I sat down at his dining room table (yes, we had to clear the table top to be able to use it) and we both started designing track plans by hand and discussed the good and the bad of each one. It was a fabulous time being able to interact with his prolific mind. He then made the one hour fifteen minute trip from Martinez to my house every week for two years until Covid stopped us. . My railroad is a monument to Bob and to his ability to find solutions for the weirdest of problems.

Thank you Bob for having been my friend and for wanting me to achieve my dream.

I am dedicating the railroad to your memory.

Giuseppe

I will miss Bob. I remember an event he participated in with the BAGRs. He needed people to act as guides while he showed the group his layout. I asked him if I could operate a train, having never done so, and he said "Sure." He showed me how to use the remote and turned me loose. He was then able to spend all his time showing off his outdoor layout and answering the questions of the tourists. Thank you Bob for having faith in me and trusting me with your expensive "toys".

Daniel O'Connell



LAST RUN

Frank Markovich

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a dear friend, teacher, mentor, and longtime leader within the Pacific Coast Region. Frank Markovich passed away peacefully on August 2, surrounded by his family, after a brief illness.

Frank was a passionate model railroader and an exceptional craftsman. He scratchbuilt several award-winning cars from the West Side Lumber Company and took great joy in sharing his knowledge with others. Over the years, he hosted numerous modeling workshops at PCR conventions and Coast Division meets, inspiring countless modelers. Frank, along with Mike Blumenstaat, was asked to build an HO scale layout for the California State Railroad Museum, where it remains the centerpiece of the museum's model railroad exhibit.

Frank devoted many years of service to both the Pacific Coast Region and the Coast Division. He served as Coast Division Superintendent and Director, and held several positions on the PCR Board, including most recently President. He was also a familiar face in the convention contest room, participating as both an award-winning entrant and a respected judge. As a mentor, he helped train and encourage many new contest judges, leaving a lasting impact on the NMRA judging program.

For all his excellent modeling and leadership presence, Frank was awarded Master Model Railroader Certificate #514. One of the things that comes with the award is a promise to help educate others about the hobby. Frank certainly kept his promise.

The West Side Lumber Company held a special place in Frank's heart. Beyond modeling its equipment, he dedicated countless hours to organizing the annual West Side Lumber Company Reunion in Sonora, an event he managed almost singlehandedly for many years.

Outside of model railroading, Frank was an accomplished guitarist and ukulele player. He performed regularly at festivals, church events, and other gatherings, and shared his musical talents by teaching classes at Skyline College.

Frank was a tireless advocate for the hobby of model railroading. His generosity, enthusiasm, craftsmanship, and willingness to teach enriched the lives of everyone who knew him. He leaves behind a legacy of friendship, service, and inspiration that will continue to influence the Pacific Coast Region and the modeling community for years to come.

Frank will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



Contest Room

by Paul Deis

Hello fellow Model Railroaders.

The NMRA continues its efforts to modernize the Education Program. The latest change is. Is a new Achievement Program Certificate. Modular Railroading.

The Modular Railroading certificate is the newest NMRA Achievement Program Certificate, having been approved by the NMRA Board of Directors on 27 July 2026

To qualify for the Certificate of Achievement in Modular Railroading, the applicant must:

Construct and complete a minimum of three (3) operable modules conforming to an established modular standard (e.g., NMRA, T-TRAK, NTRAK, Free-mo, Free-moN, or similar).

The modules must have a minimum combined size of 44 square feet (4.1 square meters) for O scale, 32 sf for S scale (3.0 square meters), 24 sf (2.2 square meters) for HO scale, 12 sf (1.1 square meters) for N scale, 9 sf (0.8 square meters) for Z scale, and 5 sf (0.5 square meters) for T scale. Minimum square feet required for other scales are based on the ratio between that scale and 24 sf in HO scale.

Each module must include:

Standards compliant electrical and physical interfaces at connection points (connections between the member's module(s) and adjacent modules of others adhering to the same standard).

Operational trackwork.

Reliable mechanical and electrical performance.

Complete scenery and backdrop if appropriate to the module standard used.

Modules must be displayed and operated successfully at a minimum of three (3) separate public exhibitions or NMRA-sanctioned events.

Merit Requirement: Each module must earn a minimum score of 87.5 points out of 125 using the Modular AP Merit Scoring Matrix. The evaluation considers each of the three (3) required modules as a stand-alone body of work, emphasizing conformance to the relevant standard, the integration of the scene depicted within the module, its reliability, and craftsmanship.

Evaluation Criteria

Module Construction (25 points) - Quality of framing, rigidity, surface preparation, joinery, durability for transport, and overall workmanship.

Trackwork, Standards Compliance & Operation (30 points) - Alignment, geometry, turnout performance, standards compliance at interfaces, operational smoothness, and reliability under public operation. Mainline track conformance is critical as a failure to meet standards on this affects all attached modules. Use of flex track or hand-laid track beyond required interface sections is encouraged and rewarded.

Electrical Systems & Control (20 points) Power distribution, wiring practices, connector and wiring type choice, strain relief, lighting circuits, control logic, sensor systems, sound systems, and operational reliability across multiple setups.

Scenery, Terrain & Scene Integration (20 points) - Realistic terrain shaping, drainage and slope, landform transitions, ballast application and blending, ground cover, vegetation, scenic textures, and effective treatment of module edges and seams, particularly across adjoining modules representing the same scene.



Contest Room, ct'd.

For purposes of this certificate's Merit Requirement, scenery is evaluated on the overall effectiveness of the module as constructed to the applicable modular standard used (including standards, such as T-TRAK, that may depict non-prototypical or fantasy settings), and is not evaluated to the Scenery Achievement Program Merit standard unless separately submitted for Scenery certificate credit as described in Section A.

Structures, Details & Animation (20 points) - Quality, placement, provisions for durability, and integration of structures, bridges, roads, vehicles, and visual storytelling elements. Includes mechanical and electronic animation such as moving machinery, vehicles, smoke or steam effects, sound-equipped scenes, IR-or sensor-activated features, and other dynamic elements. Scratch-built, kit-bashed, or modified elements and well-integrated animation receive higher consideration.

Presentation, Documentation & Public Readiness (10 points) Professional appearance, clarity of documentation, educational labeling where appropriate, and evidence of successful public exhibition and operation.

Statement of Qualifications: The applicant must submit a Statement of Qualifications including documentation of the modules. This documentation must include:

Written description of design intent, construction methods, and operational purpose.

Copy of the standard to which the modules were constructed.

Wiring diagram for each moduled.

Minimum of five (5) color photographs of each module.

Verification of public exhibition (Record and Validation form).

Evaluation form signed by three (3) qualified AP evaluators.

Who will be the first one in the PCR to earn this new certificate?

Until next time, keep them on the rails.

Paul





Congratulations to Rich Mossholder for achieving MMR 822.

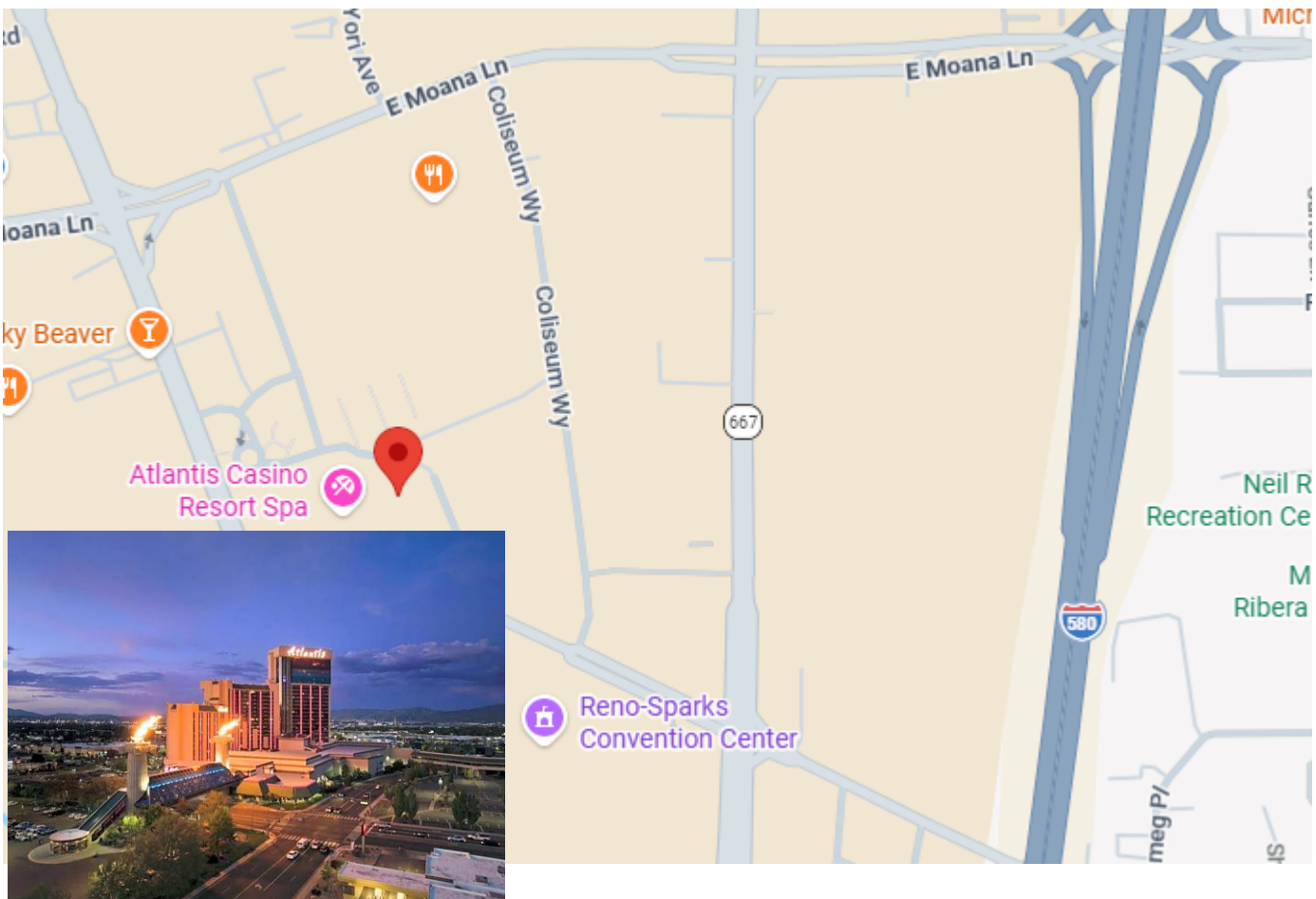
A number of us met at Rich's home this past weekend to present him with his award and to view the incredible work he's doing on his HO scale narrow gauge railroad. In addition to his work, he's also incorporating Malcom Furlow's San Juan Central into layout. It's next to impossible to discern where his scenery stops and Malcom's begins. Quite a task matching scenery that was done in the early 1980s with different materials!

In getting to see his hand-laid track, laser cut structures he designed and cut himself, scenery where the background and foreground blend seamlessly, and his other detailed work, Rich is well deserving of the award.



Also, congratulations to John Ungar on his beautiful N scale layout receiving both the Golden Spike and the Master Builder Scenery awards.

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



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. GO TO:
<https://pcrnmra.regfox.com/pcr-2027-convention>



The Puget Sound Express 2027 NMRA National Convention will be held at the Tacoma Convention Center from Tuesday, August 10 through Sunday, August 15. We are planning a first-class gathering for model railroaders from throughout the Pacific Northwest, and we invite our friends from across North America and around the world to join us for PRX 2027.

The convention website, <https://2027.NMRA.org>, features videos, program information, registration details, and a sign-up form for the convention newsletter. Registration is now open. Early-bird registration is \$150 for NMRA members and \$175 for nonmembers. The Marriott Tacoma Downtown and the Hotel Murano will serve as the convention's host hotels. Information about special convention room rates will be sent to registered attendees.

We have already identified more than 60 layouts that will be open to convention visitors, with approximately half prepared to host operating sessions. More than 100 activities are currently being developed, including hands-on make-and-take tutorials. The program will also feature several Modeling with the Masters sessions, beginning a day early on Monday, August 9.

The National Train Show will take place at the Tacoma Convention Center on Saturday and Sunday, August 14 and 15.

A hub of railroad activity for well over a century, the host city of Tacoma, Washington remains a busy rail center serving more than 50 trains each day. From the city's location at the heart of Puget Sound, visitors will have access to a wide variety of PSX 2027 events and activities, as well as the region's dramatic scenery and natural wonders. Tacoma is easily reached from the north, east, and south by car, air, or train.

We welcome your participation. If you are interested in presenting a clinic, volunteering, or serving on one of the organizing committees, please complete our interest form [here](#). We will need A LOT of volunteers. To receive the latest convention news, program announcements, and registration updates, visit our website and click on the button at the bottom of the page to sign up for the [2027 NMRA Convention Newsletter](#).

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:

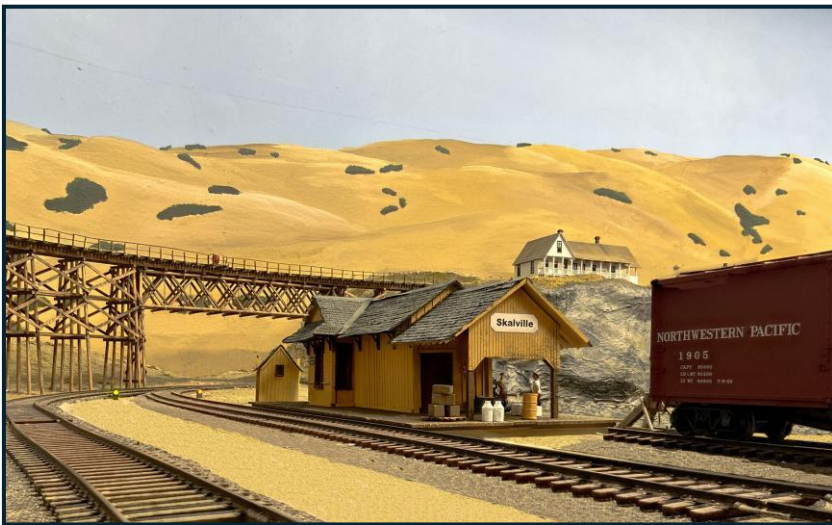
Information should be be available September 15, 2026. Please check the website at that time.



FOCUS STACKING

Ed Merrin, of the Redwood Empire Division, has been experimenting with focus stacking, a technique he uses to capture scenes from several depths using the same camera angle. The camera does not move, but the area of focus does--creating several “layers” of the same shot with different portions in focus. The layers are combined and refined together with special “focus stacking” software. The final product is a photo in perfect focus from front to back.

The following is a gallery of Ed’s work using Jon Schmidt’s Nicasio Northern as a subject.





Continued on page 24



Continued on page 25



Continued on page 26

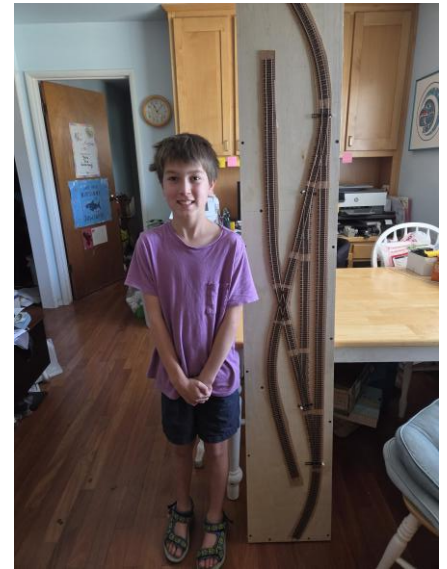


Ed offers clinics on focus stacking during PCR annual conventions. Be sure to keep an eye out for the next offerings.



The Answers Are Out There

By Robert Pethoud
LAYING TRACK



All three of my grandsons have now chosen the track plans for their sections of the model railroad we're building. Gampy (that's me) insisted that each section have a passing siding as shown, so their decisions were where to place two more turnouts and how to arrange the resulting spurs. The goal was to create a small town or yard with industries to facilitate interesting peddler freight operation. It pleased (and surprised) me that none of them insisted on an unrealistic or impossible track placement. Photo 1 shows what they came up with.

The next step was to acquire the tracks. Lacking a nearby hobby store that carries model railroad supplies, I ordered HO standard gauge code 83 flex track, number 4 turnouts, and rail joiners from Walthers. For roadbed, I found 3/32" thick corkboard from NSI Materials Group in 2' x 3' sections from Amazon. This works out well because each section can be cut into two 1' x 3' pieces to cover one boy's layout. If glued down carefully just under where the track will go, the extra corkboard can be cut away after the glue dries.

Here's the process. Before going to collect a grandson, I cut the 1x2s to go under the plywood and clamped them with C-clamps into place. Then I had the grandson drill the holes and install the #6 x 1" drywall screws to attach the 1x2s. Next, we drew the track locations in pencil on the plywood and then drew the very same locations in felt pen on the two corkboard pieces. We then spread white glue on the plywood everywhere that was within 7/8" of the pencil-drawn track centerlines. Finally, we put the corkboards in place on the plywood and weighted them down with books. I should note that the advertised 3-foot length of corkboard is actually about 2' 11.5", so the roadbed is about one inch short on one end of the plywood. No worries, though, since after cutting away the cork not under track there will be plenty to fill in that missing inch.

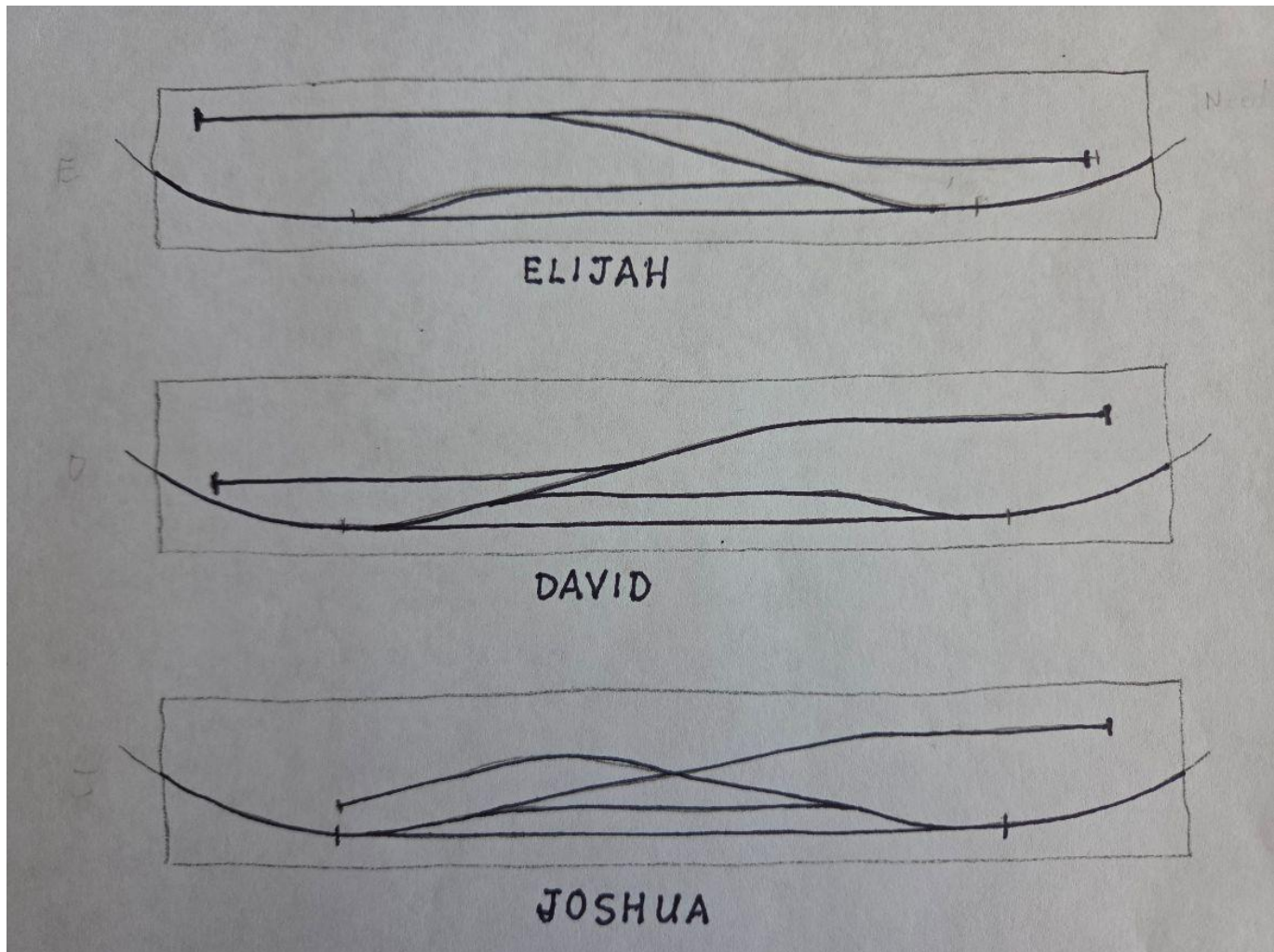
After the track arrived from Walthers, there was some preparation needed. Before the boys came over (one at a time, as usual), I removed the last tie at each end of each turnout so that rail joiners can be installed. Then I used an ice pick to enlarge both ends of each rail joiner so that they are easier to insert. After a boy arrived, I had him drill 3 or 4 holes in each of his four turnouts to accommodate the 1/2" x 20 wire nails we use to fasten the track down to the plywood.

After the glue holding the corkboard roadbed down was dry, we used a box cutter to cut away the cork not under track. Before starting to lay the track, we placed each turnout where it was destined to go and decided which of the three holes in the throwbar we would use to throw the turnout. We marked that spot on the cork and drilled through the cork and plywood there with a 3/8" drill bit.

Answers ct'd.

Finally, we started laying track. We began with a turnout on the main at one end of the siding and used a tack hammer to fasten it (semi-) permanently into place. Next, we placed the turnout at the other end of the siding and measured the distance between them. We cut a piece of flex track to this length, removed the last tie on each end, and drilled a few ties for the 1/2" x 20 nails. Then we hammered the flex track and turnout into place and on to the rest of the track. Photo 2 shows Joshua working on fastening track down and photo 3 shows the end result.

The switch handles we made last issue worked well for throwing the switches, but unfortunately interfered with the rolling stock, so next time we must work on a better way to permanently power the turnouts. Until then, you may reach me with comments or questions at pethoud@comcast.net





Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

By: Jim Providenza

Getting to Santa Cruz – Finally, Maybe?

Seth Neumann and I were grabbing a bit of lunch at the 2026 St. Louis RPM meet held in Collinsville, IL. A huge event, maybe the largest RPM in the country. Quite the display of models and a large number of vendors. (We won't talk about how I went cruising the aisles looking for a specific UP loco that Seth wanted to buy, only to end up buying a Rapido wide nose Montreal M420W – but that is a different story altogether!

And then we were going to take a road trip with Doug Harding and Travers Stavac – to the NMRA National in Chattanooga (and the National Train Show, poor wallet!) Again, another story...

In any case, as Seth and I were sitting on a couple of stools along a shelf / table on one side of the main lobby, the topic of 'getting to Santa Cruz' once again came up. This has been an occasional staple of conversations about the railroad, and I have always maintained that while I would like to get to Santa Cruz, I really didn't see a reasonable way to do it.

The railroad would somehow have to continue downgrade from the current last modeled station of Laurel, cross the garage-kitchen door a second time, and end in Santa Cruz below the cabinets that Holy City and west end staging sit on top of. I couldn't think of how to engineer a double track helix with both ascending and descending lines without having hidden curved crossings involved. But the bigger stumbling block - I couldn't figure out how to hide the 'downhill' track behind the Watson Crick scene on the middle level. I did not have the room to build a new, larger helix. has the Watson Crick scene up front and center. Bridge 5 is lurking off to the left, trying not to advertise that it only looks like one bridge...



The current middle (and end) of the SCN – Holy City on top of the built up cabinet (with Zayante / West End staging behind). New Santa Cruz will go beneath the cabinets. The Non-Railroad Spouse is somehow thrilled that I will have to find a place to put 'all that stuff' so neatly organized under the cabinet...



Watson Crick bridge in its museum style shadow box in what Mike O'Brein called the 'herniated helix'.

Tales ct'd.

While talking to Seth I realized the real problem was the fact that *in my mind* the Watson Crick shadow box scene was fixed in place in the geography of the railroad. The helix on the SCN isn't 'just' a way to get from the lower to the upper level. Watson Crick is not just about half way up the helix. It is a place on the railroad at MP 27.9.

And thus I was ignoring the fact that the helix really was also 'just' a layout design tool. What if I ignored my 'railroad reality' and concentrated on the design concept? It really wouldn't be any different than what I did 10 years ago when I built Bridge 5 across the garage-kitchen door. Recall that Bridge 5 is has two tracks. The inner track comes off the top of the helix and is at the mid point of the railroad. The outer track runs between Laurel and Zayante, which is west end staging.

What if... the helix track was both at the middle of the railroad and one end? What if... when you went west from E. Rica you went up the helix, across Bridge 5, through Holy City and Fallon and when you got to Laurel you went back down the helix, crossed a new bridge... and got to Santa Cruz?

Engineering and construction – would be relatively simple at Laurel. The 'Old Hihn Spur' at Laurel is a remnant of the turnback curve at the former top end of the helix. Blow up a bit of scenery, cut a hole in the 'new' backdrop between Ilium and Laurel and add another switch at Ilium to make the connection again.

But, preliminary survey also says – the new track from the bottom of the helix to Santa Cruz will be a much more 'interesting' proposition. It appears I will have to add a new switch at the back of the helix and build a new half circle at a "0" level. This will be an exercise in re-engineering part of the helix benchwork.

And there will be electrical. Of course. Reinstalling the connection at Laurel will create a giant reverse loop – so the track bus to the helix will have to be reconfigured and set up to be a reverse section. Will the Laurel / E. Rica Agent-Operator have control of the new switches – and the power routing? More levers and lights on another machine? Only time will tell.

Don't hold your breath, but eventually I expect I will get the chance to write about the adventure.



Preliminary survey says... lots of work ahead!



Getting Started in the NMRA Achievement Program is Easier than You Think



By Dave Theis



A little over a year ago I wrote an article for the PCR Branchline newsletter that talked about our journey towards improving our skills in model railroading and how everyone has to start somewhere. I also mentioned the NMRA Achievement Program and how we could use the program to establish measured goals for assessing our progress as we work to improve many of the skills that may be needed as we grow in the hobby. Fast forward to

today and I thought it would be helpful to others to discuss my personal journey in working to improve my skills and what part the Achievement Program has played in my progress. By doing so I hope that others may be encouraged to consider the Achievement Program and to see how it might help or benefit them as they look to improve their skills as well.

As I started researching the AP Certificate process the first thing I did was to check out the NMRA website so I could get a clear view on what all was involved. What I found was that there were eleven different categories or AP Certificates that could be earned in a variety of model railroading disciplines: including Railroad Equipment, Railroad Settings, Railroad Engineering and Operation, and Service to the Hobby. Furthermore, I found that in order to obtain an MMR certification, I would have to complete certification in seven of the categories with at least one certificate from each of the four primary categories.

Having looked closely at each area, and because I had already written several articles for the PCR'S Branchline and for the Daylight Division's Observation newsletters, I felt that the AP Certificate for Model Railroad Author might be the best place for me to start the journey. Then, with an understanding of the certificate requirements, I began collecting and making copies of the work that I had already completed. This was fairly straight forward since the articles I had written were published in the PCR/Daylight newsletters and I still had the handouts from the live clinics that I had taught. This information was then recorded onto a qualification form (available at the NMRA AP Program Website) and assigned a point value based upon the volume of work submitted and the type of publication the articles were published in.

The good news is that many of you, regardless of which AP Certificate you are pursuing, may have also already completed many of the requirements that are needed for your certification, and like me, it will just need to be properly documented. This includes your work on structures, motive power, cars and rolling stock, etc., that you have already built. While you may still have some work to do, like me, you may actually find that you are closer to completing the certification than you think.

Here is a tip: as you work through the initial assessment of where you are at you might find it helpful to create an Excell Spreadsheet to record and document your information. While the NMRA has a qualification form for recording this information, I found there was limited room in the blocks to enter everything that they were asking for. Keep in mind that that a spreadsheet will not take the place of the qualification forms, but it will be helpful in tracking and documenting your work.

Once I had compiled all of my information I found that I had actually accumulated about 28 points towards the goal of 42 points that were required. Knowing this gave me a clear path forward on what I still needed to accomplish and it allowed me to consider a potential timeline that I could implement to get everything done. If spreadsheets aren't your thing, then don't worry, you can still use the NMRA AP Qualification Form and then add additional sheets of paper as needed. Either way, both will work and get you to the goal of properly documenting your progress.

Continued on page 32

Riding the Rails, ct'd.

Another thing that would be extremely helpful, which should be done when you get to about the half way point of completing the requirements of your certificate, is to speak to the Division or PCR Achievement Program Managers and to talk to them about where you think you are. This will help to confirm their assessment of what you have accomplished and to get their input on what they think that you still need to do. It will go a long way towards fixing any misunderstandings and it will certainly help you to avoid the frustration of thinking you are close to being done when you're not.

The AP Manager will also be a big help once you have completed the requirements for the certificate and its time to submit everything for approval. They will help you to make sure your forms are complete, that your documentation is up to snuff, and then walk you through the process of submission. Having just completed the work on my AP Certificate for Author, our Daylight Division AP Manager Dave Grenier was a big help with this step and guided me through the process of getting everything submitted to the next level: which was to the AP Manager for the PCR. If everything passes his review, then the next stop is the National AP Manager, and after that, hopefully a certificate.

This would also be a good time to mention that we should not be discouraged if at any step in the process we are asked to submit additional documentation or additional work. We must always keep in mind that our goal is to demonstrate that our work shows quality, proficiency, and competency in what we submit. I believe these are standards we should all be willing to achieve in order to be recognized with an AP Certificate: a certificate that is earned, not given. Remember, our ultimate goal is not just to get a piece of paper that says we completed a program, but to improve our skill levels and become more competent modelers.

And this leads me to my final point, which is that no matter which AP Certificate you decide to pursue, the basics of what we have discussed here will still apply. You will still need to research the requirements, document and record your work, interact with the AP Managers, and then submit everything for approval. It is also important to note, that unlike me, you do not have to work on just one certificate. In fact, you can be working on several at the same time. I just found that it was easier for me to ease into the program by focusing on my first AP Certificate and becoming more comfortable with the process, before diving in head first into the deep into the pool.

Regardless of your approach, just keep in mind that working towards your AP Certificates will require a commitment of your time and it will take some effort on your part, but in the end, I truly believe that you will find it extremely rewarding and that it will help build your experience and confidence in your ability to perform the various skills which define our hobby. It has been a great journey for me so far, and I hope it will be for you as well.

Until next time,

Dave Theis

Director/Superintendent

Daylight Division, PCR, NMRA

Note: For a more comprehensive look at the entire MMR process I would recommend you check out the NMRA website and the articles by Cynthia Priest that can be found in past issues of the monthly NMRA magazine. For some time now she has been chronicling her full journey through the process of completing her AP Certificates, along with some of the ups, downs, and various challenges she has been experiencing as she works to complete her MMR certification. Her journey has been very inspiring to me and I am sure it will be informative and encouraging to you as well.



Daylight Division Report

by Dave Theis



Greetings to all. What an exciting six months it has been since taking over as the Director/Superintendent for the Daylight Division. It has been an absolute joy and a pleasure to work with the many volunteers and members within our Division and I greatly appreciate the hard work they are doing to help make our events so successful. They are truly the backbone of the division and have gone above and beyond in the help and support they have provided.

Since our last update we have been quite busy with a number of activities. Things started off around the end of June with the Fresno Train Show where our division hosted a table with promotional materials and the opportunity for folks to run trains on a John Allen Timesaver layout. We also hosted a couple of clinics where folks could learn about how to get started in the hobby and how to ballast their track. Attendance at the train show was pretty good with quite a bit of interaction with the crowd: especially those who enjoined trying their hand on the Timesaver. I am also pleased to report that we even had a young man, Matthew Riley of Fresno, who signed up to join the NMRA. All in all it was a fun time and provided a great opportunity to let everyone know about our Division and the NMRA.



Daylight Members Walter Mizuno and Ed Jones at our booth talking with one of our newer members: Geoff Brown



Steve Lowe showing a guest the in's and out's of ballasting track.

Daylight Director Dave Theis with our new NMRA member: Matthew Riley.



Continued on page 34

Daylight Division Ct'd.



On Aug. 29th, 2026, the Division also held an Operations Day at Gary Siegel's L&N Eastern Kentucky Division HO Scale Layout in Santa Barbara. This layout has been featured in several You Tube videos, including one produced by TSG Multimedia which featured our own Bruce Morden as the host. The one-day event, which also featured a clinic on operations that was led by Al Daumann, was attended by over 24 people and guests. Lunch was provided and at the end of the day everyone seemed to have had a really great time. We even had three of our guests who pulled the trigger and made the decision to join the NMRA. Many thanks to Gary Siegel, Bruce Morden, Larry Young, Al Daumann, and the many other volunteers for their help in organizing and hosting the event.



Al Daumann presents his clinic on operations to the group.



Lunch was provided and created an excellent opportunity for conversation and connecting with some of the Division members that had never met before.



Robert Pethoud running some trains.



Al Daumann and Doug Wagner keeping things on track in Dispatch.



Tom Osterdock taking a moment with new NMRA members Bob Lyons and SR Bush.

By the time you read this article we will have also hosted a Division lunch event that will have taken place on Oct. 3rd, 2026, during the Central Coast Railroad Festival in San Luis Obispo, CA. Information was published on the event and more will be reported on how things went in the next issue.

Finally, we are in the midst of planning our next activity which will take place on Nov. 21st, 2026, in the Fresno, CA area. The goal at this time is to locate a venue where we can have breakfast and host a couple of clinics in the morning, followed by tours of the various layouts located in the Fresno/Clovis area in the afternoon. One of the highlights of the tours that has already been confirmed will be an wonderful 2-Rail O Scale layout owned by Dave Myers of Fresno. Dave's 50x80 ft. layout has some impressive and meticulously detailed scenery and is a must see for anyone who will be in the area that weekend.



Just a peek at Dave Meyers 2-Rail O Scale layout. If you look closely you will see the two ladies in the middle of the picture and it will give you an idea of the size and scope of the layout.

As you can see we have been very busy over the last few months and are in the planning stages that will create even more opportunities to bring our division together as we enjoy this hobby that we all love and appreciate. I hope that you are making plans to join us and I invite you to feel free to reach out to me with any suggestions or activities that you would like to see us consider.

Until next time,

Dave Theis
Director/Superintendent – Daylight Division





**Downloadable
Poster**

18"x24" JPG

Last updated 6/22/26



Central Coast Railroad Festival

October 2-4, 2026

San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties, California.

The Central Coast Railroad Festival (CCRRF) is a broad-based festival that focuses on railroading of many types with an eye toward the beauty of the central coast of California. Typically several dozen rail-related organizations across the area are involved!

The Festival is designed to attract the attention of avid and casual rail fans as well as curious folks from across the Western United States. It presents historical, educational, and recreational events for local citizens, the area's large population of second home owners, and visitors. The visibility of all local rail entities as well as railroading in general is elevated and enhanced by the Festival. A cooperative spirit is developed among all participating organizations to promote their mutual well being and to expand interest in all things rail!

Calling all Participants and Sponsors

If you'd like to be a Participant or Sponsor or are interested in developing a program for the upcoming Railroad Festival, please email our Director at Conductor@CCRRF.com.

Feedback

If you have any feedback to offer - good, bad, or indifferent - about the Festival, please send it to: Conductor@CCRRF.com.



Central Coast Railroad Festival
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Email Webman at Webman@CCRRF.com





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.

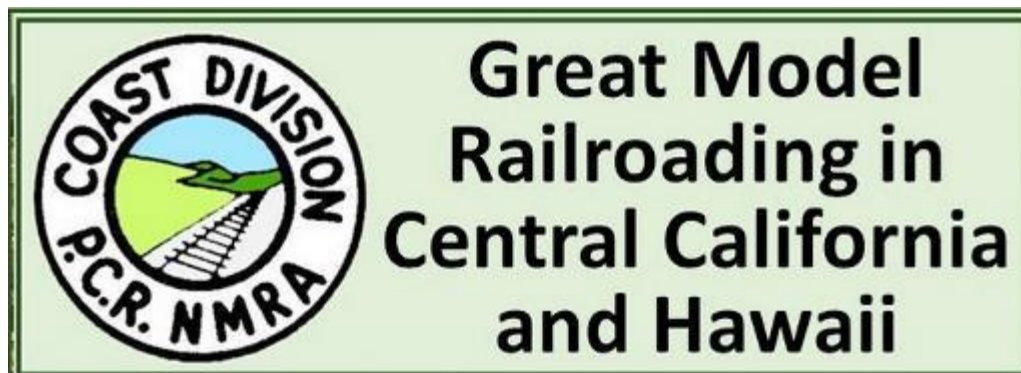
For more information, please email
carldw@aol.com, phone (661) 331-6695
or visit our web site at gehams.club

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>



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



Summer is coming to an end and time to get back to the layout. My progress has been slow but I'm newly enthused to get working on it. Only a couple more hundred turnout brackets and throws to build.

If you ever get up to Willits, stop by The Roots of Power museum. They restore and operate many types of steam powered equipment. Our RED picnic was there on the weekend after Labor Day when they have a big Steam Up event where they get all of it running. This year they added a huge steam tractor. That tractor is huge.

The RED is working to get back to pre-pandemic levels of activity and after the loss of several long time members. Not sure I'm the guy for the job but I did volunteer so now I need to perform. I am getting lots of help, which I appreciate.

Hoping for a more active fall with a little help from my friends.



Sierra Division Report



NO REPORT

The PCR Calendar is constantly updating. As such, a printed calendar in a quarterly publication is out of date almost as soon as it's published. For the current PCR Calendar go here:

<https://www.pcrnmra.net/pcr-calendar>

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!

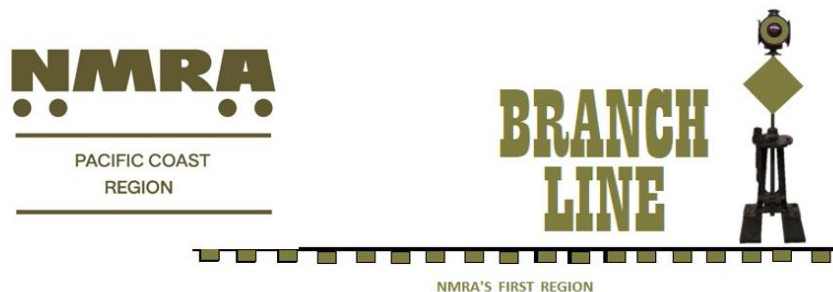
In fact, may we say that we go so far as to solicit your input?

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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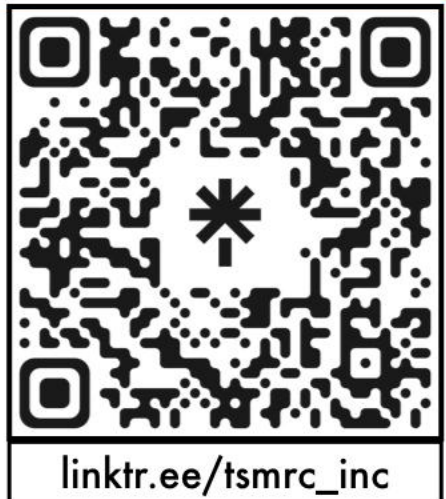
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