

Apr-May-Jun 2025



For 90 years, the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) has been the “mothership” of the model railroading community. Founded on the principles of supporting both the hobby and industry of model railroading, we've grown into a global fellowship of model railroaders united by our passion for "the world's best hobby." As we celebrate our rich history, we look forward to the next 90 years of innovation, education, and community. Supporting the NMRA, supports the hobby!

NMRA Promise

To foster the art and craft of model railroading through education, standards, and fellowship, ensuring the hobby continues to thrive for generations to come.

NMRA Core Values

- Fellowship: Creating connections through shared passion •
- Education: Sharing knowledge and expertise
- Innovation: Advancing the hobby through standards and best practices •
- Heritage: Preserving and celebrating railroad history
- Community: Supporting and inspiring model railroaders worldwide
- Strength: Building lasting connections and enduring standards

Daylight Limited PACIFIC COAST REGION CONVENTION

RECAP



SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.



Daylight Limited
PACIFIC COAST REGION
CONVENTION
MAY 27-30
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

See page 18

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

Vol. 82, No. 2 2nd Qtr, 2025

The Branch Line is published quarterly to inform members of Region activities and to provide educational articles for the advancement of railroad history and the art and science of model railroading. It is distributed to members of the Pacific Coast Region. Electronic versions are posted on the website, www.pcrnmra.net.

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All comments about materials contained in the BRANCH LINE should be mailed directly to the PCR Publications Manager, 1915 William Drive, Penngrove, CA 94951.

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 2024/25

JUL-AUG-SEP 2025 issue

Articles due by

June 10, 2025

OCT-NOV-DEC 2025 issue

Articles due by

September 10, 2025

JAN-FEB-MAR 2026 issue

Articles due by

December 10, 2025

APR-MAY-JUN 2025 issue

Articles due by

March 10, 2026

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

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PCR Call Board

PCR Callboard

Updated April 22, 2025

Send any updates to webmaster@pcnmra.net



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• President	Chip Meriam	president@pcnmra.net
• Vice-President	Phil Edholm	vicepresident@pcmmra.net
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• Audit Committee Chair		
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PCR Call Board

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- Cliff Baumer conv2026@pcmmra.net

CONTEST DEPARTMENT



- Manager Paul Deis contests@pcmmra.net

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM DEPARTMENT



- Manager (see Div. chairs below) Earl Girbovan, MMR® achievement.program@pcmmra.net

NON-RAIL ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT



- Manager (vacant) ---

Continued on page 6

DAYLIGHT DIVISION



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By Frank Markovich, MMR
President

This will be my last report as PCR president.

It has been an honor to serve the PCR. I want to thank all of you for your support!

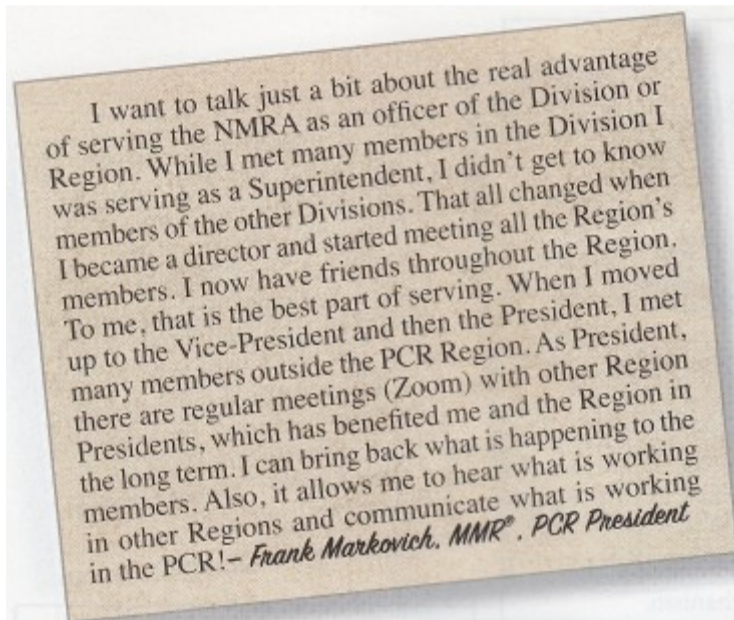
Highlights:

1. Saxon estate has brought in a little over \$5,000 so far.
2. All divisions are meeting regularly. Most have Zoom events also.
3. Membership is slightly dropping.
4. Talking to the National it is confirmed that membership overall has declined but the decline is slowing down.
5. Train shows are back big time!
6. This convention should at least break even.
7. Having Companion free has really helped.
8. Election completed – Chip will be new PCR President.

A JOB WELL DONE

As the incoming president, I want to express my thanks to Frank for his hours “at the throttle.” A large part of this hobby and, indeed, this association, is the business of people—let’s call it “peopleness.” Frank has certainly been adept at peopleness.

Here is what Frank had to say about this in the June 2023 *NMRA Magazine*:



So, Frank, on behalf of all the members of the Pacific Coast Region, NMRA. **THANKS!**





**Phil Edholm,
Vice President**

Chip and I plan to move the region forward on multiple fronts over the next couple of years. Personally, I am focused on communications, recruiting, and member engagement. If you have ideas and would like to discuss or volunteer, please contact me. I can be reached at coastsup23@gmail.com or by phone at 408-832-5618.

As we begin 2025, there are some new focus areas for the PCR

First, we need to reduce the number of contacts in our Constant Contact email application. Due to conventions and others, we have accumulated almost 2,500 contacts and our account is limited to 2,500 and the next step is very expensive. To resolve this, we are going to ask all of the non-members to sign up to receive PCR (or divisional emails). This will let us have a member mailing list and a separate list of those that have subscribed for PCR emails. Look for emails about this. If you are not a PCR member, make sure you register for the “Friends of the PCR” email list.

Let your friends outside the PCR know.

Second, as many of you know, the recruiting campaign the PCR started a couple of years ago has been successful in signing up over 100 new members through RailPasses. We are focused on recruiting as, with over 750 members in the PCR, our annual attrition of 7-10% means we need to recruit 60-100 new members each year to maintain an active roster level (depending on how many stay after the RailPass trial). However, our recruiting efforts are limited by the small number of events and hobby shops where we can meet other model railroaders. One suggestion is to have a program to encourage current members to sign up their modeling friends to the PCR. This program is currently being developed. If you have interest in being on the committee, please contact Phil Edholm at coastsup23@gmail.com.

Finally, several members have suggested that facilitating smaller local meetups would be great. In a recent PCR groups.io survey, local coffee meets were suggested as a way to build local contacts and modeling.

While each of the Division Superintendents can parse the current NMRA member roster for geography, we do not have any other modeling demographic information. We are considering a program to allow all PCR members to register their modeling scales and interests. This will enable the Divisional teams to connect modelers both based on geography and their interests. For example, all of the N scale modelers in an area could be connected to see if they would like to do an activity. If you are interested helping define the demographic parameters we should be seeking or would like to get involved in the process, please contact me at

coastsup23@gmail.com.

Finally let us know what is working and what is not. If you have an idea for a program, event or whatever, please contact me and let's build more together.





Cydney George-Abatecola
PCR Secretary

Our Board of Directors Annual Meeting was held at the annual PCR convention in San Luis Obispo March 28, 2025. All voting and non-voting members of the board were present as well as at least 17 guests (mostly virtual attendees). We:

- Approved the April & October 2024 Board of Director meeting minutes
- Accepted the Treasurer's report
- Received the President's report and Frank's thanks as outgoing President
- Received the VP's report on National's Regional Advisory Committee meet held Jan 2025
- Got updates from our 4 divisions
- Were updated on the 2025 Daylight Limited Convention - 36 first time attendees!
- Discussed the 2028 convention in Coast Division that will be looking for alternatives to hotels
- Were introduced to our new historian - Mary Moore-Campagna. She requested ideas for people to do spotlight articles on from each division.
- Received the membership report that indicated those leaving are about equal to new people joining
- Approved the purchase of projectors
- Approved purchases by board members under \$250 without prior approval from the board of directors. This will make it easier to purchase less expensive items necessary for the running of the region or conventions.
- Heard about our constant contact account that needs the email database cleaned up. Phil, our new VP, will oversee this.
- Heard that all PCR members will get an email inviting them to join our [group.io](https://www.pcrnmra.net/) account - another great method for connecting with fellow members!
- Discussed the many first time attendees at this convention and brainstormed ways to specifically include them at the conventions

We thank our board and many committee chairs and managers for all their work this past year. Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held in October 2025. Minutes for all meetings are accessible online on our website <https://www.pcrnmra.net/> under the Meetings & Docs tab.

Continued on page 11

Our Annual Members' Meeting was held at our convention's breakfast in San Luis Obispo on March 30, 2025. For those that did not attend the convention breakfast, a virtual option was available. A quorum was met with 66 PCR members in attendance - 52 in person and 14 virtually. We:

Received the Treasurer's Report

- o made under \$2000, revenue total \$8K, \$1400/yr from nat'l, the rest is conventions and the sig event.

Received the President's Report

- o thank you to this year's convention host committee
- o regional membership is approximately 750, down significantly from 7 or 8 years ago but holding steady around 750
- o it's been an honor to serve as president
- o asked for and got no questions

Witnessed the installation of new board members

New officers officially installed in their positions
Based on regional elections
Chip Merriam now takes the President position
Phil Edholm now takes the VP position
Chip acting as President recognized other members of the board
Bob Osborne - Treasurer
Cydney George-Abatecola - Secretary

Heard a short message from our new VP, Phil Edholm

- o Our email database needs to be cleaned up. If you are NOT a PCR member but a "Friend of the PCR" and like receiving our emails and newsletter, watch your inbox for an email to make sure you stay signed up.
- o Membership
 - We need 50-70 new members per year to make up for members loss
 - We are encouraged to invite a friend to our division and regional events
 - Phil is putting together a committee to work on developing an invite a friend program - stay-tuned for more information on that.

Got an update on next year's convention from the hosts, Cliff & Denni Baumer

- o 2026 Convention - "Extra 2026 North"
- o Dates: April 29-May 3
- o Website is in the works
- o Hosted by Redwood Empire Division
- o Location: Rohnert Park, CA - Doubletree Hotel
 - ✦ \$169/night
- o Free companion fare
- o Lots of layouts already signed up for tours
- o There will be non rail events
- o Registration will open in July 2025

Thank you to our members! Our next members meeting will be during next year's convention at the end of April 2026. Minutes for all meetings are accessible online on our website <https://www.pcrnmra.net/> under the Meetings & Docs tab.





Chip Meriam,
Branch Line Editor



No excuses....but, with plenty of good reason, this issue of the **Branch Line** is delayed this quarter. We're publishing thirty days later than normal in order to accommodate full coverage of the Daylight Limited, 2025 PCR Convention. You see, this convention was held a month earlier — actually during the week this newsletter is normally scheduled to go to press. Nonetheless, here is the Spring 2025 issue with convention-related stories throughout:

Page 2 - A few recap shots

Page 18 thru 22 - exclusive convention coverage

Page 23 - PCR Contest Results

Page 35 - 2025 PCR Honors (bestowed at the convention)

A few other items of note:

The PCR Call Board has been reconfigured for legibility, phone numbers have been omitted, and personal emails have been replaced (pages 4-7).

Frank Markovich has completed his tenure as PCR President (page 8)

Phil Edholm is now our Vice-President (page 9)

We have 42 new members. That's right, **42!** (page 13)

The dates and location for the 2026 PCR Convention, "Extra 2026 North," have been set (page 17).

Mary C. Moore Campagna has taken over the job of PCR Historian, a position long held by Dave Connery, MMR. Our heartfelt thanks to Dave, and good luck to Mary going forward (page 47).

And now, I must dust off my suitcase, gather up my papers, and head for the depot (I hope the train isn't delayed) where I'll catch the next train for the commute to my new office of PCR President.

I'll remain editor of the **Branch Line** for as long as you'll allow me, but I'll only spout off in the "From the Editor" column if something really special pops up.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chip Meriam'.



Welcome Aboard ! PCR's Newest Members

Member	City, Sate	Date Joined
Daylight		
Stefan Anderson	Santa Ynez CA	12/2/2024
Raymond Olivares	Fresno CA	12/3/2024
Logan Bertollette	Atascadero CA	12/12/2024
Kenneth Stillwell	Merced CA	1/6/2025
Will Kastner	Arroyo Grande CA	1/7/2025
Paul Patterson	Nipomo CA	2/7/2025
Christine Horn	Goleta CA	2/24/2025
Coast		
Ed Heldebrant	San Jose CA	12/3/2024
John Goldstein	Gilroy CA	12/9/2024
Stephen Controulis	Orinda CA	1/11/2025
Ellen Lahey	Burlingame CA	1/16/2025
Edward Pancoast	Danville CA	1/21/2025
Greg Earley	Clayton CA	2/7/2025
Bruce Cesar	Fremont CA	2/7/2025
Dallan Schowe	Mountain View CA	2/7/2025
Eric Kastner	Palo Alto CA	2/7/2025
Allen Gravelle	Alameda CA	2/7/2025
Lance Storm	Pescadero CA	2/7/2025
Bryant Duong	San Jose CA	2/7/2025
Tom Stone	Walnut Creek CA	2/7/2025
Larry Brickell	San Ramon CA	2/7/2025
Jan Potts	Livermore CA	2/7/2025
Rahul Joshi	Pleasanton CA	2/7/2025
Edward Thelen	San Jose CA	2/7/2025
Eric Norris	Santa Clara CA	2/26/2025
Sierra		
John Bacher	Elk Grove CA	12/3/2024
Calin Harden	Sacramento CA	12/3/2024
Jonathan Michaels	Davis CA	12/3/2024
Bob March	Sacramento CA	12/3/2024
Ricardo Huante	Stockton CA	12/17/2024
Jaclyn Duncan	Lincoln CA	1/6/2025
Ly Duncan	Lincoln CA	1/6/2025
Ey Duncan	Lincoln CA	1/6/2025
Desmond Powers	Reno NV	1/6/2025
Terry Johnson	Manteca CA	2/7/2025
John O'Brien	Sparks NV	2/7/2025
Thomas Montgomery	Gold River CA	2/10/2025
Loren Giesbrecht	Tracy CA	2/27/2025
Redwood Empire		
Scott Gamba	Rohnert Park CA	1/21/2025
Riley Gamba	Rohnert Park CA	1/21/2025
David Wallis	Napa CA	2/7/2025
Mike Alexander	Oakville CA	2/27/2025

Continued on page 14

**Membership,
continued**

IMPORTANT !!!!

**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**

<u>Division</u>	<u>#Members</u>
Coast	338
Sierra	234
Redwood Empire	103
Daylight	<u>84</u>
TOTAL	759

**PCR Membership
Gauge**

February 28, 2015--998

February 29, 2024—776

March 30, 2024—790

April 30, 2024—814

May 31, 2024—818

June 30, 2024—822

July 31, 2024—817

August 31, 2024—813

September 30, 2024—801

October 31, 2024—794

November 30, 2024—759

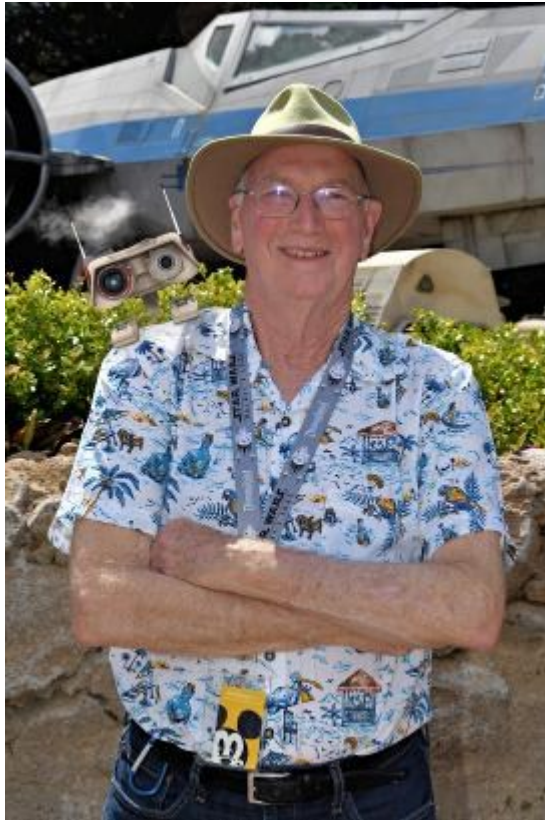
December 31, 2024—741

January 31, 2025—750

February 28, 2025—758

In Memoriam

<u>Member</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
	Coast	
Gary Schrader	San Jose CA	1/1/1982



Hi Everyone,

I'm Doug Smith, and I'd like to throw my hat in the ring for the Superintendent / Director office for the Redwood Empire Division. I've been an active RED member since moving to Santa Rosa in 2019. Before that I kept busy in Coast division as Superintendent from 2017 to 2019, Chief Clerk before that, and co-chair of the 2020 PCR convention. (That was the one we had to cancel at the last minute due to Covid. It would have been great.) Redwood Empire Division has a great membership with many things happening. The big upcoming event is the 2026 PCR convention in Rohnert Park next Spring. We're working to make that as successful as the recent San Luis Obispo gathering. I appreciate the chance to represent RED over the next few years.

Cheers, Doug

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

Joining the NMRA Interchange

Speed Muller

IT Manager, NMRA

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

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





EXTRA 2026 NORTH

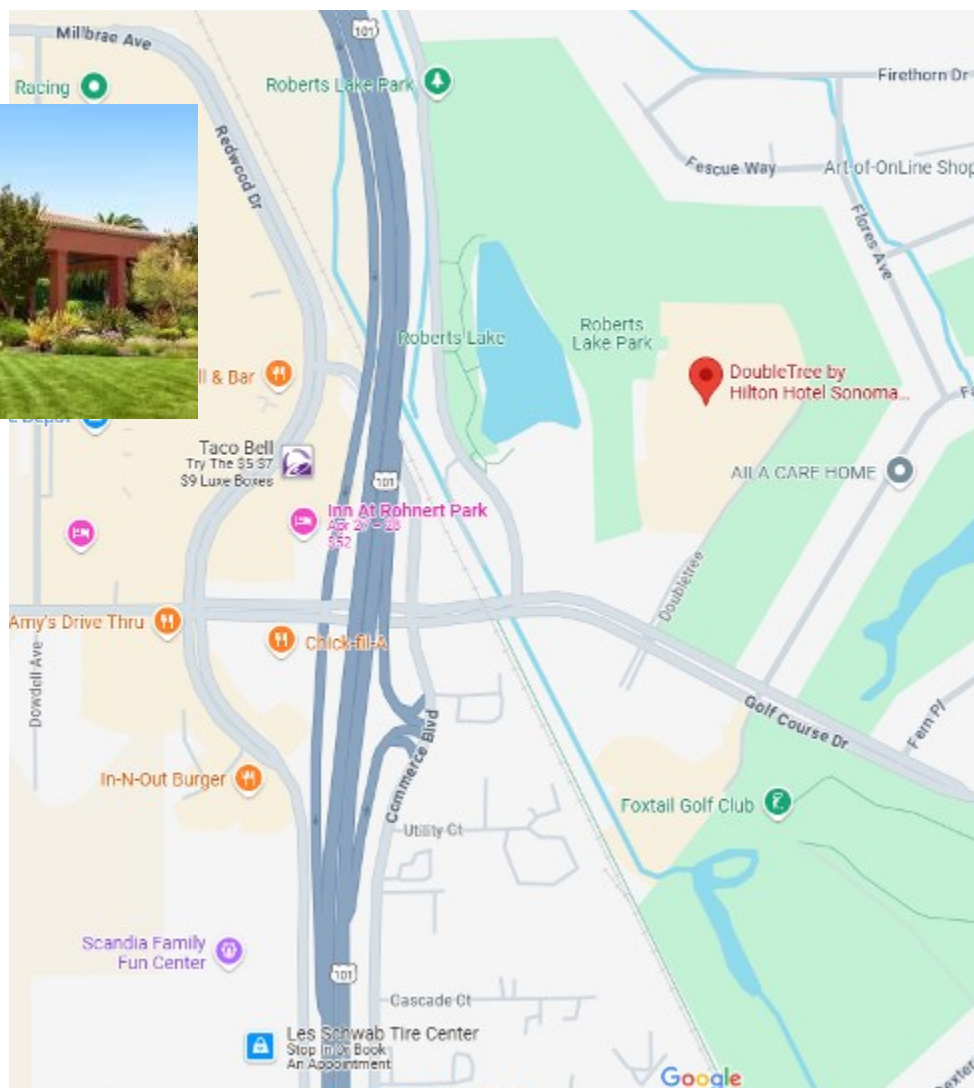
PCR Convention

April 29 – May 3, 2026

Doubletree Sonoma Wine Country, Rohnert Park

Stay tuned for more information!

- Full three-day program Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- Over 40 clinics
- Layout Tours
- Operating Sessions
- Contests
- Excursions
- Member Swap Meet
- **FREE Companion Fare with Full Fare registration**





The Campagna Companion

Daylight Limited
**PACIFIC COAST REGION
 CONVENTION**
CANDIDS
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.



One Of MANY Happy Hours

From, lower left, clockwise: Susie Markovich, Grumpy Scott, Frank Markovich, Chip Meriam, Lorri Meriam, Gus Campagna, Mary C. Moore-Campagna, Lou Anderson, Carol Skold, Steve Skold, Larry Champlin, Judy Champlin



**Modeling Concentration During
 A Make & Take Clinic**



**A Very Relaxing (and beautiful)
 Train Trip Over Cuesta**



**Denni Baumer, Cliff Baumer, and
 Grumpy Scott Enjoy A Libation**

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Daylight Limited
PACIFIC COAST REGION
CONVENTION
CLINICS
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.



Frank Markovich, MMR
Builds A Narrow Gauge Caboose



Neil Fernbaugh On Weathering Powders



Michael Eldridge
Enhancing Paper Structures



Tony Thompson, MMR
Operations On An SP Layout



Paul Hobbs, All The Way From New Zealand
Streamlined Passenger Trains in California

Continued on page 20



**Bruce Morden Explains
Poles and Pockets**

Daylight Limited
**PACIFIC COAST REGION
CONVENTION**
CUESTA
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.



**Friendly
Baggage Attendant**



**Different Train,
But Still Photogenic**

Today, March 27th
14 Coast Starlight
San Luis Obispo, CA
Amtrak Station

Estimated Arrival	Estimated Departure
4:09pm	4:18pm
Delayed 1 hr, 17 mins late	Delayed 1 hr, 13 mins late
Scheduled 2:52pm	Scheduled 3:05pm

Los Angeles, CA - Union Station

Scheduled Departure	9:51am
Departed	10:56am
Van Nuys, CA	
Scheduled Departure	10:18am
Departed	11:40am
Simi Valley, CA	
Scheduled Departure	10:49am

**Just When Does This
2:52 Train Arrive?**



View From The Train Over Cuesta



Collapsed Tunnel #10 On The Cuesta Route

Continued on page 21

Daylight Limited
PACIFIC COAST REGION
CONVENTION

FREE-MO



SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.



FREE-MO In The Ballroom



Critter



San Luis Obispo In HO Scale



That's Right. We're In Earthquake Country

free-mo.org



This year's convention committee elected to offer a virtual option for attendees. The virtual team was made up of John Abatecola, Cydney George-Abatecola, Rick Anderson and a great crew of room host volunteers. Special thanks go to Hilding Larson for set up help and equipment loans. As the core of this team had worked on virtual events before and embraced the goal of improvement with each virtual event run, new procedures and events were added to this year's virtual event to further the mission of making a virtual convention feel like an in person convention. We even entered the arena of social media promotion which resulted in good registration numbers. Thirty one of our attendees attended from out of state with 17 states being represented as well as Ontario. Shout out to Arizona, Florida, Ohio and Oregon for providing most of our out of state virtual attendees!

In the effort to improve virtual events, we added a few changes that ended up working well:

- We added a Zoom registration requirement to get the meeting link and then pared down the whole conventio's activities to one meeting code.
- We highlighted a different Special Interest Group each clinic day and included a special Meetup during the afternoon for attendees to learn more about them and ask questions. We focused on Women in Model Railroading SIG, Layout Design SIG and the Operations SIG. We got exciting updates on new activities within the OPSIG which included their new Facebook discussion group - "OPSIG".

PCR members were invited to virtually attend the General Member Meeting that is always held at the convention banquet or breakfast - we had 14 members attend on Zoom!



We brought back features like:

- Voting on which clinics would be on the virtual schedule
- Prototype tours (aka the "Virtual Excursion")
- The "New" schedule (clinics in the morning & evening with all the extra activities held in the afternoon)
- Layout tour of the modular group at the convention
- Contest room tour led by Earl Girbovan
- Vendor Meet & Greet
- Links to the clinic recordings to watch for 4 weeks after the convention and handout links.

Door prizes - big thanks to our sponsors MRCS, TSG Multimedia, Train Shop, Showcase Miniatures, Hot Wire Foam Factory, and RailMaster Hobbies!

Many thanks to our convention sponsors!



Feedback during the convention from the virtual attendees confirmed that they were grateful for the virtual option so that they could attend or they wouldn't be able to attend at all. Most of our out of region attendees were there because they had attended virtual events we have done and loved it so much they came back. The new procedures and programs we tried worked well and the committee hopes they will be included in events going forward. The bottom line is that with no extra net cost, we were able to serve **50%** more people, fulfilling the NMRA mission of advancing the global scale model railroading community through education, advocacy, standards, and social interaction. Although, one of our virtual attendees said it best,

"I value all events where we can learn and have fun -- I wish more regions had a virtual option!"

Contest Room



By Paul Deis,
Contest Chair

The Daylight Limited, 2025 PCR Convention has completed its run. It was a fun convention throughout including the Celebration of Models.

This year saw 39 entries across many categories, including 4 entries in the Novice category. We were able to enjoy the first Modular entry in many years. 18 entries scored high enough to earn a merit award.

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



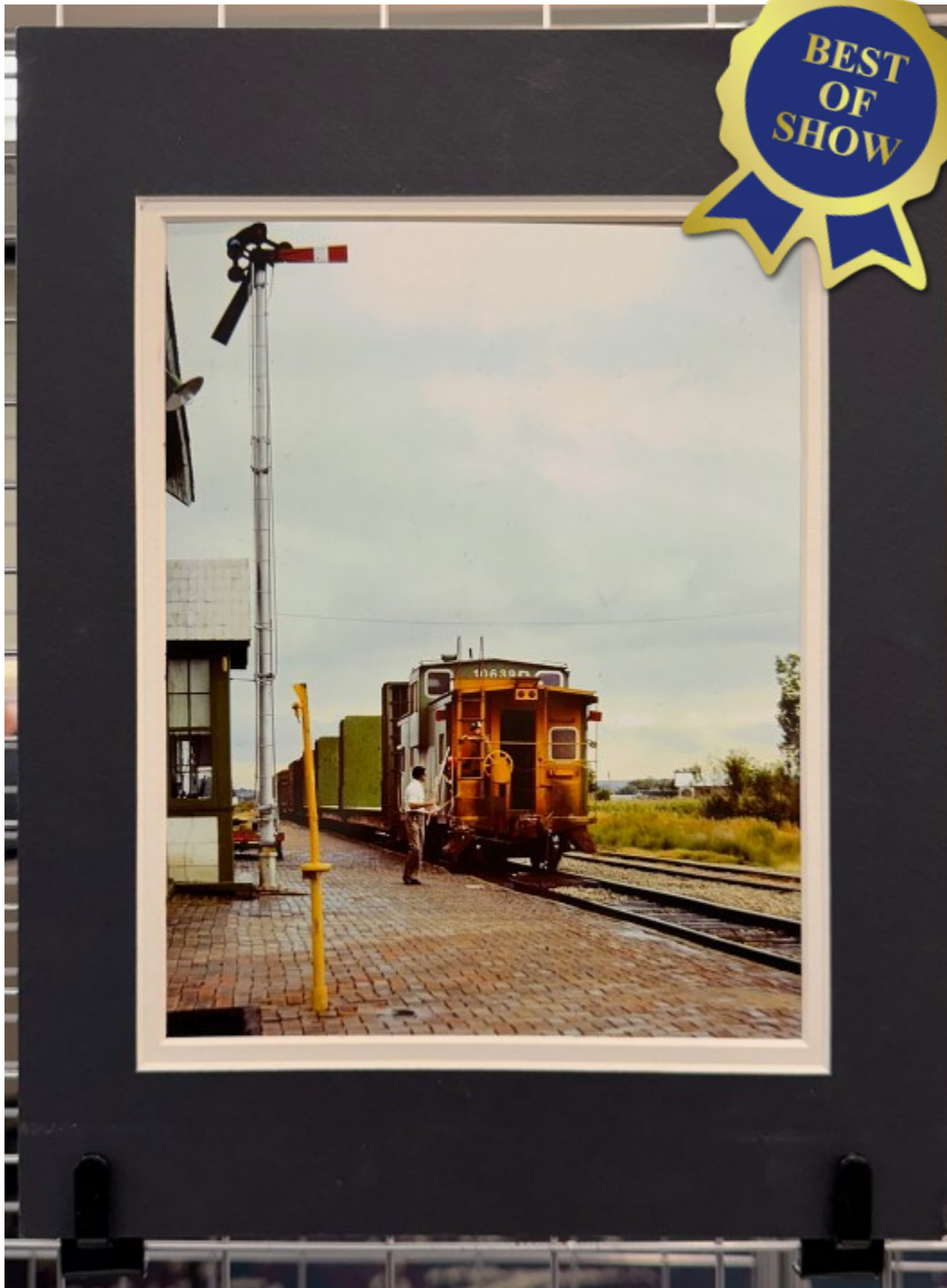
Best of Show, Model

Larry Tidball

West Side Lumber Company, Boiler House

Continued on page 24

**Contest Room,
continued**



Best of Show, Photography

Ken Martin

Handing

Continued on page 25

**Contest Room,
continued**



Best of Show, Needlework Pattern

Susy Madsen

Out and About Backpack

Continued on page 26

**Contest Room,
continued**



**First Place
Steam Locomotive, Open
Thomas Knapp
TTn3 PC Ry #110**



**First Place
Steam
Locomotive, Kit
Adam Palmer
Sierra Central 2-8-2**

Continued on page 27

**Contest Room,
continued**



First Place
Diesel Locomotive, Open
Thomas Knapp
Nn2 PCRy Plymouth Diesel
#120



First Place
Diesel Locomotive, Kit
Adam Palmer
CP Rail ALCO/MLW RS-18U

Continued on page 28

**Contest Room,
continued**



**First Place
Passenger Car, Open
Thomas Knapp
PCRy Coach #101**



**First Place
Freight Car, Open
Thomas Knapp
Ttn3 PCRy Tank Car**

Continued on page 29

**Contest Room,
continued**



**First Place
Caboose, Kit
Adam Palmer
CP Argus Van**



**First Place
Maintenance of Way, Open
Thomas Knapp
Nn3 PCRy Marion Steam
Shovel**

Continued on page 30

**Contest Room,
continued**

**First Place
Structure, Open
Ingenuity Award
Doug Bragg
Coaling Tower**



**First Place
Structure, Kit
Earl Girbovan
Deer Creek Mine**



Continued on page 31

**Contest Room,
continued**

First Place
Structure, Novice
Angel Garrido
San Luis Obispo Depot



First Place
Traction, Open
Doug Bragg
On3 RDC Copper Creek Rail-
car



Continued on page 32

**Contest Room,
continued**



**First Place
Display
Favorite Model
Earl Girbovan
Town of Deer Creek**

Continued on page 33

**Contest Room,
continued**

**Levity Award
Lou Anderson
Decisions, Decisions**



**First Place
Module
Angel Garrido
San Luis Obispo Module**



Continued on page 34

Contest Room, continued

Favorite Model
Square Foot Challenge
Earl Girbovan



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



Dave Connery, MMR
Acting PCR Honors Chair

The Pacific Coast Region recognized some of its excellent contributors during the Awards Breakfast in San Luis Obispo. Outgoing President Frank Markovich, MMR Presented the President's Award to PCR Convention Chair Denni Baumer. Denni played several key roles in the 2025 Convention. Division Member of the Year Awards were presented as follows: Daylight Director Walter Mizuno presented the Daylight Award to Bruce Morden. Sierra Director Lou Anderson announced the recipient David Fryman. Coast Director Phil Edholm announced David Gibbons as the winner from Coast and Doug Smith, sitting in for Director Paul Weiss, announced he RED award this year goes to Dave Grundman.

This year's awards were beautiful California railroad artwork by artist Patrick Karnahan. These prints were beautifully matted and framed by Bill Scott and are awards to be treasured.

This years John Allen Memorial Award (a gorgeous harp switch-stand mounted on a wood base) went to PCR President Frank Markovich, MMR. Frank has accepted the position of PCR Honors Chair going forward.



Coast Member of the Year, David Gibbons



Sierra Member of the Year, David Fryman



Daylight Member of the Year, Bruce Morden



**Redwood Empire Member of the Year,
Dave Grundman**

Continued on page 36

PCR Honors, continues



**2025 PCR President's Award,
Denni Baumer**



**2025 John Allen Memorial Award,
Frank Markovich, MMR (r)**



**John Allen Memorial Award Winners, Past & Present
(left to right) Lisa Gorrell, Earl Girbovan - MMR, Grumpy Scott, Steve Skold,
Carol Skold, Seth Neumann, Frank Markovich - MMR, Doug Wagner, Mary C Moore-Campagna, Gus Campagna**



Achievement Program



By Earl Girbovan, MMR®
Achievement Manager

David Adams achieves MMR 780.



Three Master Model Railroaders
Earl Girbovan, MMR (left) - David Adams, MMR (center) - Frank Markovich, MMR (right)

In addition, Dave was elected to the Narrow Gauge Hall of Fame in 2024. This is quite an honor, as one does not apply to achieve this award. Rather, a committee looks at the accomplishments of individuals, and makes a determination based on their contributions over time. This award is not necessarily given every year.




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Pacific Coast Region SIG Report

by Seth Neumann



Seth Neumann,



The annual PCR Layout Design & Operations Weekend was held in Sacramento at the CSRM January 31-February 2. The event started with a tour of CSRM focusing on the NMRA's "Magic of Model Railroading" exhibit hosted by Charlie Getz on Friday the 31st followed by a no host dinner at a Mexican Restaurant in Old Town. Saturday was "Clinic Day" with clinics, panels and a design challenge, followed by evening layout tours and Sunday Op Sessions. The Saturday program was available virtually for those who couldn't attend in person and we many participants from all over the world join us.

BayRails, our every-other-year invitational ops meet in the Bay Area (with bonus sessions in the Sacramento and Central Valley areas) was held March 22-24 2025 with a twist: OPSIG members were invited to request an invitation along with attendees of the PCR Daylight Express Convention. We held bonus sessions before and after Bay-Rails including Dave Loveless SP Coast Division, Monterey Branch in Watsonville on Tuesday the 25th which left our guests only 2 hours drive from San Luis Obispo, this let our more ambitious guests operate and participate in Ops and Convention Activities for 9 straight days! We'll certainly do this again if the combination of PCR Convention dates and BayRails align!

PCR Operators attended the RailGroup Meet in Chicago in February and some joined the La Mesa 3-day Tehachapi Pass Timetable and Train Order (TT&TO) meet at the La Mesa Club in San Diego's Balboa Park.

Did you know that the OPSIG Leadership leans heavily on the PCR? Departing President Bruce Morden of the Daylight Division, Vice President Paul Weiss of the RED and Director Tony Thompson of the Coast Division are/were on the board! (so was I, years ago!) OPSIG has created a new Facebook group and it has been very active, you can see a lot of great operating layouts, learn about Ops Events and ask questions at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2508886722776038>

As I mentioned in the BayRails summary, we rolled right into the PCR Daylight Express in SLO! Bruce Morden and the team did an excellent job with clinics, tours (I especially enjoyed the Cuesta Amtrak trip and Santa Maria Valley Shops Tour) and Op Sessions. I participated in the first public Op Session at the SLO Railroad Museum by the depot and they did a great job. This layout is already a "must see" and is heading towards "must Op" status. Thanks to Andrew Merriam and the group for a great afternoon!

NMRA will be holding its annual convention "STATION No. VI", in Novi, MI July 14-19 (note it starts on Monday – NOT Sunday) and the major SIGs are planning to put on their usual programs of Design, Operation, Electronics, and "Birds of a Feather" groups. Hotel space is limited, so make plans now: <https://nmra2025.com/registration/>

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



Women In Model Railroading



Cydney George-Abetacola

The Women in Model Railroading Special Interest Group has had a busy spring!

You could find our members across the US and around the world:

- Railroad Hobby Show, Amherst - Cynthia Priest, Michelle Kempema and Nancy Workman presented a clinic about our special interest group. Then the Dry Hill Model Railroad Club worked with Michelle Kempema from the Colorado Model Railroad Museum and Greg Maas of the Amherst Railway Society to put together another great operating session for our members. Lots of ladies stepped up and tried an op session!
- Rocky Mountain Train Show, Denver - members were able to meet up with each other and Michelle Kempema, Jennifer Howell and Diana Gasior, the voice of the Crossing Gate podcast's ads.
- Suncoast Model Railroad Club train show and open house, Florida - meet & greet plus info table hosted by member, Vicki du Mée
- Layout Design & Operations Weekend, Sacramento, CA - informal meet & greet, info flyers and stickers hosted by Cydney George-Abetacola
- Pacific Coast Region's Daylight Limited convention, San Luis Obispo, CA & virtual - the WIMRR SIG hosted one of the virtual event clinic days as well as a virtual clinic/meet & greet hosted by Cydney George-Abetacola. We got to meet up with members and new friends and have a good time.
- WIMRR Zoom hangouts, virtual - you can find many of us hanging out once a month modeling, showing off recent work, asking questions, brainstorming and just generally having a nice time. Become a member of the SIG for free and come hang out with us!

Women in Model Railroading Member Group on Facebook - we have been busy sharing, activities, modeling adventures, rail trips, train shows and meet ups. Join our 470 members on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/769365970927091/> We hope you will join us in welcoming more women into the hobby and that we can meet up at a show or event near you soon. To officially join the Women in Model Railroading Special Interest Group (for FREE!) and get all the emails: <https://forms.gle/aKPhcXU1sthKW1MQ8>



The Answers Are Out There

By Robert Pethoud

A Portable Cannery: Part 4



This time we finish the cannery's brick structure with its rooftop water tank and the sign identifying it as Plant No. 7 of the California Packing Corporation.

Sign

Del Monte was a brand of food products wholly owned by CalPak (the California Packing Corporation) in the 1940s and '50s. I decided that a name like this would suggest a cannery near the west coast in the time period that I model.

I used my computer to search for the well-known Del Monte logo and prepared my sign using a word processing program. The sign was printed on paper, cut out, and attached with rubber cement to a thin piece of plastic cut to the same shape. Finally, the plastic was attached to the façade with rubber cement.



Water Tank

My ITLA Industrial Building "D" (HO4152) came with a staircase exit and two chimneys as rooftop detail parts. I decided to add a water tank to those details and, to avoid some scratch-building, ordered ITLA's HO 4154WT Roof Water Tank. This kit comes with parts to construct three identical water tanks, so I have two extras for future projects.

Construction begins with a drainpipe, which runs all the way from the top of the tank to the bottom of its trestle support, and it attaches to three circular wooden disks to which a wrapper is fastened to form the cylindrical tank. Unfortunately, this "pipe," which is provided in the kit, is a length of square-section laser-cut wood.

Continued on page 41

Answers, continued

Since I did not relish the thought of sanding the bottom portion of this into a cylinder, I replaced it with a 3/32"-diameter plastic straw, which is commercially available as a stirring stick for coffee. Surprisingly, it turned out to be a perfect press fit without modification.

I made a second change to the water tank: a more complex replacement to the roof. The roof ought to be octagonal, as attested by the kit's roof supports, but the covering supplied in the kit has only seven sections and comes with curved eaves. I chose to make my roof have eight sections and straight eaves. To make the roof conical, the kit's roof piece is a complete circle from which a 28° sector is to be removed. If you subtract this 28° from a full circle's 360° and divide the result by 8, you get 41.5° or about 42° as the apex angle for each of the eight isosceles-triangular sections of the roof.

Contrary to the written instructions ("It is possible, but not recommended, to fit the roof panel sections as individual pieces onto the roof . . ."), I cut eight little triangles from thin styrene to sit on the roof supports supplied. Each triangle is isosceles, with a 42° apex angle and two matching 69° base angles. I fastened these to the wood roof supports with Zap Canopy Glue Formula '560'.

Unightly gaps between the plastic triangles were unavoidable, so I decided to top them with a piece of paper cut and folded to cover the roof. On a piece of ordinary printer paper, I used a compass to draw a circle considerably larger than the roof and then used a straightedge to draw a line from the circle's center to the circle. From this point on the circle, I used a protractor to mark angles measuring 42°, 84°, 126°, and 168° clockwise from the line. Then, I repeated those measures counterclockwise from the line.

The next step is to use the same center point to draw a circle of the size needed for the roof and then to draw the eight chords which form the eaves of the roof. Use scissors or and X-acto knife to cut out and discard the ninth sector of your circle—it should measure 24°. Then, cut along the eight chords to remove your roof in one piece. Now, fold the paper down along the seven remaining radius lines. Finally, bring the edges of the missing 24° sector together and tape the underside to form a conical roof that should fit on the plastic triangles. I attached mine to them with Elmer's 'No Wrinkle' Rubber Cement.

You may finish your roof with acrylic craft paints, PanPastels, or Bragdon Enterprises weathering chalks. At this point the cannery is ready to receive shipments of tin to form cans, paper for labels, cardboard for shipping boxes, salt and sugar used in canning, occasional replacement machinery; and to ship cans of fruits and vegetables to hungry buyers across the continent.

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



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
2025 National Convention

STATION No. VI

Hosted by:
the NORTH CENTRAL REGION

July 14-19, 2025

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend! **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

Our location – Sheraton Detroit-Novi, MI
A suburban location with FREE parking!



CONVENTION GOALS and HIGHLIGHTS -

Our main objectives are to provide events of value, items attendees will see as worth their money, all at the lowest possible cost. ** We will honor the traditions of past conventions but at lower cost and with greater flexibility. ** This convention will be shorter, starting at 1 PM on Monday and continuing through Saturday afternoon with a banquet Saturday evening. ** Note that registration includes all layout visits and operating sessions, and all activities at the hotel except Modeling with the Masters, and admittance to the National Train Show. ** We will support all the traditional activities of the SIG's. ** The National Contest will be fully supported. The contest will be in a prominent room and will be run by the National Contest team. There will be space for model displays, modular layouts and other functions. Those putting their models on display will have the option of entering the People's Choice Contest. ** We will have several prototype tours which may include a Ford plant tour and a cruise on the Detroit River with an emphasis on the industrial aspects of the waterfront. ** We expect to have at least 90 clinics. The clinics will be varied, and each will be given twice. ** We expect to have at least 60 layouts open for visit. Most layouts will be at least 900 sq. ft. in size running to over 3,000 sq. ft. in one or more cases. All layout visits and op sessions will be self-guided so you may take your time.

<https://nmra2025.com/>



33rd Annual Model Train Show

O Scale West

PO Box 60574

Palo Alto, CA 94306-0574

650-218-5762

oscalewest.com

May 23-25, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Santa Clara, California

2025

May 23-25, 2025

Friday - Saturday - Sunday

O Scale West is on track for May 23 - 25! O Scale West includes S scale and all gauges, including narrow gauge. Make your plans to come! There will be the usual swap meet, clinics, contest, O Scale West's own company store, and visits to the following local home and club layouts:

- Dave Adams D&RGW (On3)
 - Bob Brown (On30, On3)
 - California Central (HO)
 - Matt Covington D&RGW (Sn3)
 - Golden State Model Railroad Museum (O, On3, N, HO, HOn3)
 - Don Harper D&RGW (Sn3)
 - Jack Burgess' phenomenal HO model of the Yosemite Valley - last chance to see it
 - Jakl Family Layout (O) in Mariposa, CA - call to schedule your visit
 - Jim Dias' WP (HO)
 - Rod Miller SP (O)
 - Silicon Valley Lines (HO)
- South Bay Railroad Historical Society (HO, N)

Use the O Scale West web site O Scale West to register on line for the meet and for hotel rooms.

Optionally you can contact the meet hotel, the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054-1118. The phone number for national registration is 1-800-421-1442 or call the hotel direct at 1-408-200-1234 and ask for the O Scale West group rate of \$169 plus tax per night. After May 4 the group rate may not be available! You can also use the Hyatt On-Line Reservations.

So plenty to do, make your plans to attend and register for O Scale West now!

Questions? Email info@oscalewest.com

Tales of the Santa Cruz Northern

By: Jim Providenza

The Maintainer at Home, or The Revenge of the Electrons



Lest you think too highly of the Santa Cruz Northern, and its truly exemplary and skilled management, let's take a look at... the Maintainer at Home. Understand, the Maintainer himself eventually did just fine. But the messes he had to clean up after, well, those are a different story.

We start with a disaster of epic proportions. No really, hyperbole aside, it was. There is nothing worse for a host to have than the railroad melt down so badly that you have to call an op session to a halt. My op session in early December ended that way. The only blessing was that things crashed and burned late in the day so folks had a pretty good session all told.

(Murphy, on the other hand, was laughing his butt off in anticipation...)

If I drew a straight-line schematic of the western 2/3 of the upper level of the SCN you would see the station of Zayante (aka: Santa Cruz staging) on the left or west end, followed by Bridge 5A, the station and yard at Laurel, the siding at Sergeants and the station and yard at Fallon. This area is divided into 4 power districts, each with its own circuit protection. The SCN is equipped for the most part with the first-generation Tony's Train Exchange circuit breakers. They work; I've never had a reason to have to replace any of them.

So, the stage is set... About 4:00 in the afternoon, 7:00 PM railroad time, the crew on the Mountain Local, working at Fallon, yells for help. "We have a short we can't get rid of!" As I am walking over to Fallon, the crew working the Mill Job at Beroldingen Lumber, the major industry at Laurel says, "And there is no power at Laurel – we've stopped running." Hmmm. The crew of the Cementipede, whose power is at Sergeants, are happily bashing hoppers back and forth without a care in the world...

No power to the left of me, happy campers in the middle, a dead short to the right... all happening at the same time. Are the problems related? Is it one big problem? Not?

Fallon asked for help first. Yeah, dead short. Take locomotives off the track. Short. Take all rolling stock off the track. Short. Center all switches. Still shorted. Start visually checking all gaps in the track. No luck. Look under the layout at the three Tam Valley Depot frog juicers involved in controlling the switches and crossings at Fallon. All seem to have the correct LEDs lit.

Well maybe I can at least get Laurel back running and limp along to the end of the session. Nope. The circuit breaker has not popped. But there is no power to the rails even though there is power at the booster.

Ah, bad words my mother never taught me... like I said, at least things were going well, mostly, up until the end. Of course, there had been a report of power loss at Bridge 5A at one point during the session...

A week or so after New Year's Day I tackled the problems. Laurel seemed like the easiest. And it was simple to fix even if I have no idea how the problem occurred. With the NCE system turned on I confirmed that the NCE booster was putting out track power. Tracing the bus wires I found no problems until I got to the circuit breaker.

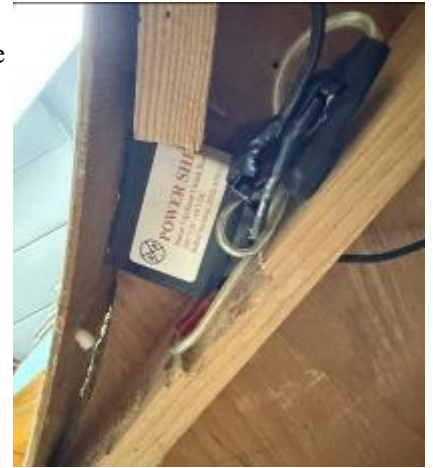
Notice the spade connectors – they are almost 1/4" wide and more than that long. And one of the connectors had fallen off.



Continued on page 45

Tales of the SCN, continued

What was amazing (given the size of the components involved) was the circuit breaker was not only mounted in the fascia, but was in a space



so tight that it should have been impossible for either of the wires to have ROOM to fall off.

But one did.

The problem at Fallon was much more difficult to troubleshoot. Once isolated, the cause was extremely easy to understand (unfortunately for my ego). Also pretty easy to fix. But follow along:

The trackage at Fallon is complicated enough, with 16 switches, 2 crossings, and a scissors wye, that I use 3 frog juicers. It didn't seem likely, but I disconnected all three. It was unlikely.

So, I went in and started cutting the bus wire to isolate small sections of the power district; maybe 3 – 5 linear feet each with 4 or at most 5 switches. Cut wire – short. Cut wire again. Short. And again – ah. No short. With the problem area narrowed down I began a rail by rail, frog by frog examination both visually and with a volt meter. And finally found the problem.



When I installed the frog juicers at Fallon about two years ago I had to replace a throw bar on one switch. I cut a new one from a piece of PC board and nicely ran my MotoTool cutoff disc through the top of the new throw bar between the point rails to isolate the copper cladding. Except... I didn't. I somehow cut a nice slot on the wrong side of the PC board, leaving the copper cladding intact on what became the underside of the throw bar. I then very carefully soldered tabs to the point rails, drilled clearance holes in the tabs for 00-90 screws, drilled and tapped the throw bar to accept the screws and installed same.

For the better part of two years there were no problems because of this mistake. Somehow one of the screws was not contacting the copper cladding on the underside of the throwbar. Until it did. After 2 years. At the exact same time that a spade lug on a circuit breaker 20 feet away fell off.

(Murphy is, undoubtedly, hysterical!)

Of course, here I am crawling around under and over Mac St. Yard to make new connections to knit the bus wires for Fallon back together after fixing my mistake, and I just happen to notice that the power indicator LED on the wall wort that provides power to the only 5 switch machines on the SCN is flashing. Not steady. Like shorted. Uh-oh.

At least this problem I could trouble shoot without wire cutters! The leads from the wall wort go to a terminal strip. About 15 minutes of testing (loosen this terminal screw, remove that wire, plug the wall wort back in, unplug the wall wort, now go back and remove another wire...). I determined the problem was with one of the two switches controlled by LB tower at the east end of Mac St Yard.



Continued on page 46

Tales of the SCN, continued

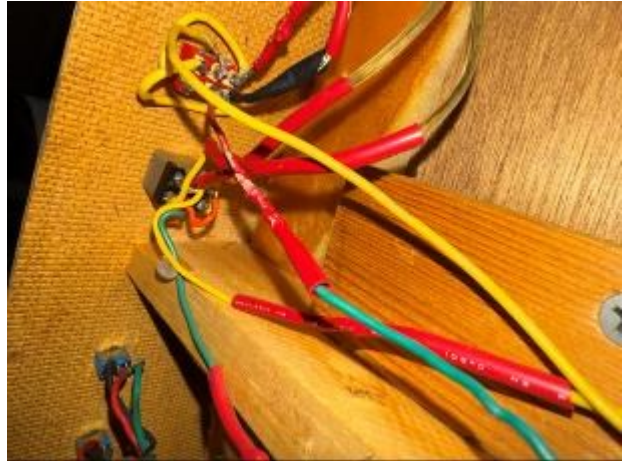
I found that what looked like two identical toggle switches controlling the two switch machines were in fact not identical internally. One was three position ON-OFF-ON. The other was an ON-ON-ON switch and when left in the center position was shorting. This pair of switches have been in use for maybe a decade or longer. And only NOW??

(Murphy is rolling on the ground...)

After some testing I was able to wire in a used replacement switch from the spare parts drawer and the wall wort was happy.

And so, as the sun began to set, the maintainer cursed as he stumbled when setting his motor car back on the track. He is headed west for Bridge 5A. His only solace? The thought of all the over-time pay he would be due next pay check.

A tale of woe for another day, I'm afraid.



Murphy smiles.



By Mary C. Moore-Campagna, PCR Historian

Voices – “Behind The Scenes” with Dave Connery, MMR



(After a long and distinguished career as the PCR Historian, Dave has passed the reins on to yours truly. It seemed only fitting that after having interviewed so many other people, Dave himself should be the subject of this article so that everyone can know and admire his accomplishments. –MCMC)

From the very beginning, Dave was destined to be a railroad enthusiast. He grew up in a railroad family near the New York Central 4-track mainline between Albany and Schenectady, New York. His grandfather and an uncle by marriage both emigrated from England and went to work as a blacksmith and blacksmith's helper, respectively, in the Rensselaer Shops of the New York Central (the end of the Boston & Albany subsidiary). He also had an uncle who was a clerk in the West Albany yards, an uncle who was a freight conductor and an uncle who was a Railway Mail Clerk on the run between Albany and Springfield. In addition, one cousin was an assistant trainmaster, another was a locomotive engineer and head shop steward, and still another eventually became Assistant Chief Engineer (Civil) for the Delaware and Hudson. Family holiday get-togethers were always interesting, as the men eventually started talking shop and dealing with issues they were involved in on the job.

When he was about 7 or 8 years old, Dave got a toy train set for Christmas. Unlike several of his friends who had 3-rail Lionel O-27 trains, Dave's were American Flyer 2-rail in S scale. Subsequent holidays provide him with added track and switches, but he soon learned there were certain rail arrangements that would not work (they shorted). At the time, he had neither the equipment nor knowledge to deal with these reversing loops; so he avoided those configurations. Instead, he focused on constructing several simple buildings; and he even built a simple mailbag "pickup and dropoff" system on the side of a boxcar. (While in retrospect it might seem somewhat rudimentary, it still provided plenty of play value.)

One of his early memories is of being taken, when he was a Cub Scout, to visit an adult O-scale train club in the upstairs of a building in the downtown area of Albany. When he saw the club layout, he was blown away by the complexity of the track work and the extensive amount of scenery work that had been done; and it is a place he says he has never forgotten.

Another time, he visited a downtown hobby shop for the first time and was completely captivated by the many shelves of amazing things that were available. He purchased a kit for a Santa Fe caboose (one of the few he could afford) and built it up, but he soon realized it would never work on his Flyer layout, as the kit was HO. Not to be deterred, he did enter it in the Arts and Crafts Fair sponsored by the PTA - and won first place in his category.

However, sports, work, cars and girls soon took precedence in his life over toy trains. As time went on, the trains were boxed up and stored in the damp East Coast cellar, never to see the light of day again.

After graduating from high school, Dave attended Union College in Schenectady and graduated with a BS in Psychology. After completing his undergraduate degree, he spent three years in the Air Force as a Personnel Officer. Following his time in the Air Force, Dave worked for five years as a District Scout Executive in the San Jose area while earning an MBA at San Jose State; and he then went to work for the local telephone company.

Nearly a dozen years later, Dave once again had the opportunity to work on Cub Scout projects – this time as an adult, working with his stepson. One month the group had "railroading" as their focus; and one rainy Friday night, Dave took a car full of Cub Scouts to visit the East Bay Model Railroad Engineers at their Emeryville location. It brought back memories of his own layout visit as a boy... and soon Dave was reliving his experiences by preparing a space in his attic to build a model railroad with his stepson.

Continued on page 48

Looking Back, continued

However, this activity was not without peril: one Saturday morning, as he was wrestling a sheet of $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood into place on the future floor, Dave met with an accident. His foot slipped off the joist and he fell, resulting in his straddling the joist with his leg sticking through the ceiling of the

kitchen, all the way up to the thigh. (He ruefully recalled that this event was not good for the kitchen ceiling, not good for the floor of the layout space and not at all good for the marriage.) However, he was undeterred and his first adult layout was a 5' X 9' tabletop layout from the Kalmbach book "An HO Model Railroad that Grows".

In December of 1980, Dave joined the NMRA and PCR, with a plan to attend the 1981 PCR Convention in Sacramento. This turned out to be a watershed event for Dave, opening up a plethora of ideas, suggestions for equipment and materials and a pathway to many lifelong friendships. (It is definitely worth mentioning – and commending – the fact that Dave has attended every PCR Convention since then.) Several changes in residences caused several starts and stops to a second, more expansive layout as Dave was exposed to new layout concepts (especially those of Jack Burgess.)

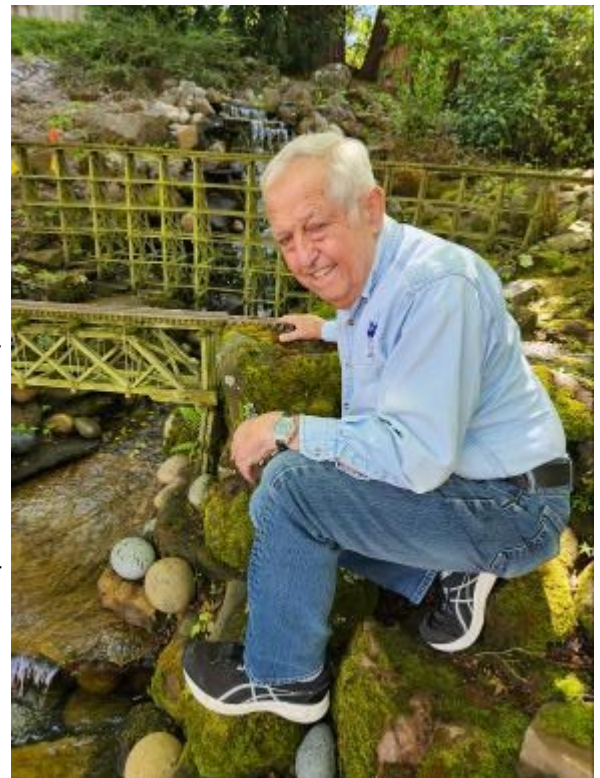
During the ensuing years, Dave acquired and read books on the Sierra Railway and the Virginia and Truckee. His immediate reaction was that here were two railroads which screamed to be modeled, particularly since at one time the Sierra suggested a possible second crossing of the Sierra Mountains and connection between these two short line railroads. That became his modeling goal: a two level layout with the V&T on the top and the Sierra on the lower level, connected by a helix. (As his skills and imagination progressed, he eventually added an HOn3 helix connecting the West Side Lumber on the lower level with the Carson & Colorado on the top.)

At this point, Dave and his supportive wife, Emma, purchased a home in San Ramon with a two-car garage. To hold the layout, Dave built a separate room in half of their garage. Bringing this concept to life allowed Dave years of modeling of equipment for the two railroads and numerous structures. The Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette, and in particular the excellent drawings by Gary Caviglia, provided inspiration and information.

One year at a PCR Convention in Sacramento Dave was chatting with the attendee next to him and they discovered they only lived about a mile apart. This led to Al Massi and Dave becoming good friends; and Al's ability to re-motor, re-gear and paint cranky old brass locomotives turned Dave's layout into a well-running and accurate model. In the early 1990's Brad Lloyd, Denise Showalter, Rich Brennan, Rod Smith, Jim Long, Al and Dave started a Wednesday night Round-Robin modeling group. Over the years Bill Baker, John Marshall, Jerry Littlefield, Chuck Mitchell, Darrell Dennis and Mike O'Dorney also became part of this group. Although various home moves, deaths and changes in modeling interests have changed the makeup of the group over the years, it still continues to flourish; and currently Pete Birdsong, Dan Rom, Wayne Floyd, Ray Davis, Brian Booth, Doug Smith, Steve Lane and Dave are active participants in the group.

In 1992, Dave became active as a docent at Railtown 1897 in Jamestown, California, mostly serving as a Car Host and Shops Tour guide. Dave was active there once or twice a week until 2019; however, he realized that after his 27 years of service, the lengthy driving distance had gradually become exhausting. As a result, after the COVID Pandemic shutdown ended and Railtown 1897 was once again open for business, he decided to retire from his service as a volunteer docent.

In 1998, Dave and Emma joined the Bay Area Garden Railway Society (BAGRS) and attended the National Garden Railway Convention. That was the start of a four-year project to rebuild the back yard and incorporate a garden railway. A key element of this plan was the inclusion of a waterfall (an 8-foot cascade) and several West Side features such as the Bourland Trestle (this turned out to be 19' long and 48" tall in Fn3 - 1:20.1 scale).



Dave Connery, MMR With His Garden Railroad

Continued on page 49

Looking Back, continued

He built a second West Side trestle, West Side water tank and the Crumline Oil tank, along with a number of generic structures; and the railroad became known as the South West Side Lumber Co. Activity with BAGRS led to Dave becoming the initial Superintendent of the Tri-Valley

Division. In 2006, Dave & Emma served as Co-Chairs of the National Garden Railway Convention, which was held in Santa Clara and hosted nearly 2,000 garden railroaders from around the world. Once the onslaught of COVID had changed everything, Dave decided to remove the garden railway; and he donated the track and equipment to Railtown 1897 SHP early in the COVID shut down.

Throughout the years, Dave stayed active in Coast Division and PCR, holding many offices and positions and serving on numerous committees. In 1991 he became Coast Division Membership Chair under the direction of PCR Chair Tiny Carstens. He did this until early 1995, when he became Editor of the Branch Line, a position he held until 2000. He worked on a number of PCR convention committees, and in 2000 he was the Outside Activities Chair for the National NMRA Convention in San Jose. He also helped the 2011 Outside Activities Chair during the planning and preparation for the National Convention in Sacramento. Dave served four years as Coast Division Director; and during Gene Mayer's time as President, Dave also served four years as PCR Vice-President. In recent years, Dave has been PCR Historian, PCR Nominations Chair and acting PCR Honors Chair.

Nor were all of his activities limited to NMRA-related events: in 2004, Dave worked on the committee that conducted the National Narrow Gauge Convention. It was a great committee and put on a wonderful convention, one of the largest ever held. In late 2002, Dave realized that there would be no local portable layout at the convention; so he invited group of modelers - several on the Convention Committee - to his house, and they decided to build a portable layout for display at the convention (in the beginning, the group consisted of Scott Maze, Ken Lunders, Ron Kolodziejczak, Jim Long, Dave Biondi, Richard Brennan, Jim Eckman, Brad Lloyd and Dave). Ultimately, this became the Yosemite Short Line Railroad; and it was displayed at several Narrow Gauge Conventions, a PCR convention and many O-Scale West shows. Modeling in O-Scale turned out to be a lot of fun, resulting in a very enjoyable project with a great group of friends, until the layout was retired in late 2024.

After dismantling the garden railway in the early Pandemic days, Dave also decided to dismantle his HO Sierra, Carson & Truckee Railroad. He first found homes for his structures and rolling stock, most of which went to several young modelers who were modeling the Sierra and the V&T. Then the room came down in July 2020, and once again the Connery family had a two-car garage. Dave then decided to try his hand in N scale by building a model of the



Southern Pacific type #18 depot based on the existing building in Danville. Soon Pete Birdsong suggested that he and Dave could model several of the towns along the San Ramon Branch. Before long, they had roped Wayne Floyd into helping with the bench work and they were building a section of the railroad. Then Brian Booth, Steve Lane and Paul Ingraham agreed to help out, and the San Ramon Valley Branch of the SP was being built in N-scale. This layout has been exhibited at two PCR Conventions, the Concord History Museum, The Museum of the San Ramon Valley in Danville and the Harrington Art Gallery in Pleasanton. (Additional help during these displays was provided by Lisa Gorrell, Doug Smith and Ray Davis.)

Dave's service to the hobby and to PCR/NMRA has not gone unrecognized. In 1995, Dave was chosen as Coast Division Member of the Year; in 2000, he received the PCR President's Award (Regional Member of the Year); and in 2003, he received the coveted John Allen Memorial Award. Dave also joined a select group when he met all the qualifications and became an NMRA Master Model Railroader in 2015.

He is an excellent example of a friend, mentor, teacher, advisor, and willing participant in multiple railroad-related activities, and the PCR is very fortunate that he ended up in our neck of the woods.



News from the Nicasio Northern

Not Just “Playing With Trains”

by Jon Schmidt

I have two friends with whom I meet for lunch monthly. Our common interest is music. One is a superb pianist, and the other is a fine baritone. (I’m a tenor.) Those aren’t their “day gigs.” One is in real estate and the other is a retired US Corps of Engineers general.

They understand art in its many forms. The general is also a fine landscape artist. So as part of our lunch last month I took them to the two railroads that I work on: My Nicasio Northern, and Paul Weiss’ Central Vermont.

Paul gave them the tour of the CV. A comment he made about operating the railroad being an “immersive simulation game” inspired this note. He is absolutely right and it is a great way to state it. Our operating sessions bringing the railroad to life present a collaborative, role-playing challenge to be worked out by our participants. It’s a puzzle in four dimensions.

Moving trains and placing cars properly with one eye on the clock is fun. Each town is a puzzle. How does one place a car at its designated industry with the fewest number of moves? Which cars in town need to be lifted, re-spotted, or replaced in their original position after cars around them have been moved?

How does the work in a town happen without affecting other trains, shown either in the timetable or for which the participant has orders? The fourth dimension, time, is a big factor in this game.

Playing with trains? Yes, but it’s not that simple.

While we were at the CV I pointed out Jim Provenza’s model of the Yantic Product Mill in Norwich, Conn. My friend the general was taken with it, and Jim showed him pictures of the original and the architectural drawings that Dave Clemens had done of the structure for Jim. If you haven’t seen the model, suffice it to say it has lots of roof angles and a variety of building styles that the prototype grew into. Jim’s model is a work of art.



**Yantic Product Mill on Paul Weiss’ Central Vermont
Model by Jim Provenza**

Continued on page 51

Nicasio Noodlings, continued

And then I showed them the trestles by Ray Lorber, the Palmer and New London stations by Doug Nelson, the backdrop paintings by Tom Swearingen, and more. This is as valid a form of art as sculpting, painting, composing music, etc. It requires skill, pa-

tience, and vision.



Trestle on Paul Weiss' Central Vermont
Model by Ray Lorber



Bew London Station
On Paul Weiss' Central Vermont
Model by Doug Nelson



Frankly, I am tired of seeing model railroaders depicted in TV and the movies as maladjusted loners. We could be called compulsive, yes, but no more so than other true artists.

Model railroading gives us the ecosystem within which we each can express our art in all its many forms.

Jon E. Schmidt

Central Vermont Railway in Northern California: <https://www.cvrailroad.com/>

Facebook CVRR in Northern CA <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176772406404383>

Nicasio Northern Railway: <http://nnrwy.trxnndesign.com/>



Daylight Division Report

From The *Daylight Observation*
By Walter Mizuno



Between holiday celebrations and the excitement of the Bakersfield train show, Daylight Division members gathered in Woodlake, CA, for a special pre-convention quarterly meeting on January 25.

Hosted by Dave and Sandra Theis, the event brought together hobbyists eager to refine their skills and share their passion for model railroading.

Former Daylight Superintendent, Neil Fernbaugh and yours truly were the clinicians for the day. Neil led the tree-making clinic, a preview of the clinic that he will be presenting at the Daylight Limited 2025 PCR convention.



Neil demonstrates expert tree modeling techniques, showing attendees how to bring realistic foliage to their layouts.



Enthusiastic participants jot down notes on crafting lifelike trees using affordable, everyday materials.



A hands-on experience! Neil provides personalized guidance to help attendees perfect their tree-making skills.



Success!

Participants showcase their newly crafted trees, ready to enhance their layouts with realistic scenery.

Continued on page 53



After wrapping up the tree-making clinic, attendees switched gears to tackle another essential skill - soldering.

Soldering is a fundamental skill in model railroading, essential for wiring layouts and assembling components. The hands-on clinic introduced attendees to key techniques, from tinning wires to creating durable joints. Participants had the opportunity to bring their own equipment, ensuring they left with practical, real-world skills.



Soldering 101: Attendees receive expert tips on making strong, reliable soldering connections in their layouts.

(photo: Dave Theis)



Attention to detail: A participant carefully cleans his solder joint before applying heat for a secure bond.

(photo: Dave Theis)



Practice makes perfect! Attendees refine their soldering skills under expert guidance.

(photo: Dave Theis)

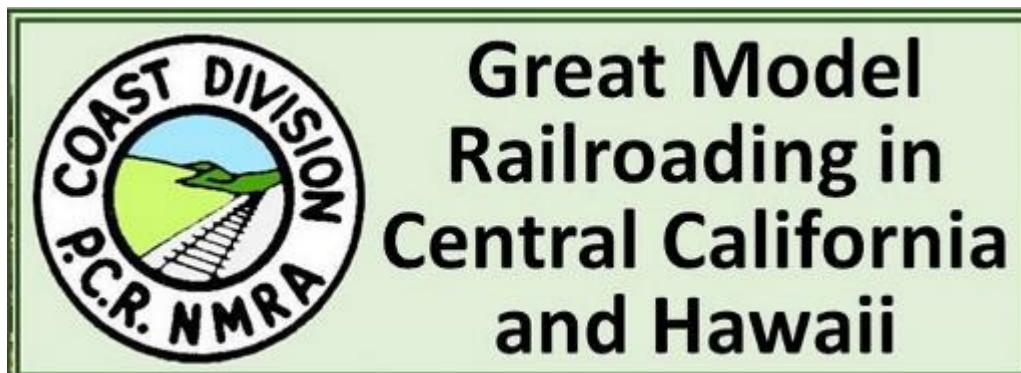
With full bellies from a super-sized burrito lunch, attendees wrapped up the event discussing upcoming modeling projects and the highly anticipated PCR convention. Neil and I truly enjoyed sharing our knowledge and connecting with new faces in the hobby. We look forward to seeing you at the next Daylight Division meeting—join us and keep the creativity rolling!





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



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!!

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The Coast closed 2024 with an auction at the Alameda Senior Center on December 8th. Attendance was about 50 members, and the bidding action was fast and furious.

Coast Winter Meet was Great!

The Coast Winter Meet was held at the Golden State Railroad Model Railroad Museum in Richmond on Saturday, February 15th, 2025. It was a great event attended by about 30 members. Many thanks to the GSRMR team, Ed Slintak, our clinicians, Jere Ingram, Earl Girbovan, and Richard Brennan, and the four layout owners that were open, Jack Burgess, Jim Dias, Don McKenney, and Steve Van Meter. They all made it a great event. We are trying to do a South Bay event in the Fall and a North Bay event in the Winter at the SBRHS and the GSRMR facilities respectively. These are great venues. If you attended and have any comments, please reply to this email. The clinics were great and the space was outstanding. We had room for a few more. Getting more modeling at the event would be good.



**The clinics were excellent.
Amazing modeling and we
know how to build trees.**

**The Square Foot table was
somewhat light, but the
modeling was great.**



We had four great layouts open to visit in the afternoon. Many thanks to our layout owners who open their layouts and homes.

Continued on page 57

Coast Division continued



We had great open layouts – thanks again!!!!



Both at the GSMRM and during the layout tour there were many opportunities to greet old friends and meet new ones. And there was a range of great topics. Having the layouts essentially in a row meant most of us saw each at multiple stops.

There were a lot of discussions during the event.



Welcome New Coast Officers

At the February 15th meeting Jesse Walden was elected as the Coast board member of the PCR. Stephone Lorde was elected as PayMaster replacing Bob Ferguson. Many thanks to Bob for an outstanding job for the past 30+ years as both the Coast Paymaster and the Coast Auction coordinator. Without Bob the Coast would not be in the great position we are financially today.

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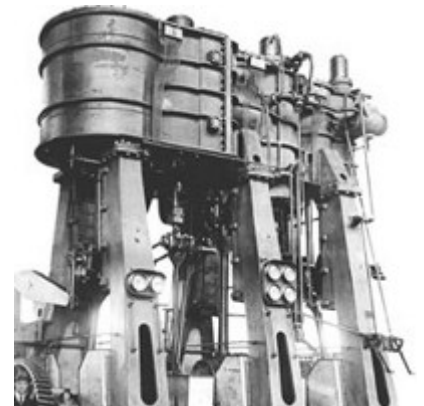


Upcoming Coast Events

As always, check the PCR calendar for the latest information about events, but the Coast has a couple upcoming that any NMRA member can attend.

Hendy Iron Works Museum Tour – Saturday May 3, 2025

Join the Coast Division for a tour of the Hendy Iron Works Museum (also known as the Iron Man Museum) at 10 AM on Saturday May 3, 2025. The Iron Man Museum is at the Northrup Grumman plant in Sunnyvale and features exhibits about iron and steel processing based on the huge Hendy Works that existed at the site. We will have a special guided tour of the museum and facilities. Additional details will be provided in future Coast Extras.



Coast Auction June 1st in Alameda

Join us on June 1, 2025, for the Coast Auction. With around 300 items, and many bidders, the Coast auction is a great place to sell and buy items.

Mastick Senior Center - 1155 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda

Auction Day Schedule

9:00 – 10:00 – Set-up – Drop in early to help us get the tables and chairs set up.

10:00 – Noon – Item drop off and buyer item perusal, check out the goodies

11:00- 11:50 – Clinic – If you would like to do a clinic contact Phil Edholm, Coast Superintendent, at coastsup23@gmail.com

Noon – 12:15 – Coast business Meeting and Division Update – discuss potential future activities

12:15 – Close – The Auction -Please stay and help clean up the chairs and tables.





Twenty members attended the Fall 2024 Redwood Empire Division meeting. Superintendent Paul Weiss opened the meeting by welcoming everyone before moving on to the RED business. There was a brief discussion about the opening for a new superintendent as this was Paul Weiss' last meeting as RED superintendent. Dave Croshere will be acting superintendent until the new superintendent is elected at the Spring RED meeting.

There were four Show & Tell presentations. Joan Fleck showed a gas station diorama from her layout. Cliff Baumer presented a water tower he built for his layout. Guiseppe Aymar showed two scratchbuilt models: a fractioning column flatcar load and a DoD (Department of Defense) heavy flat car load. Dave Croshere showed a scratchbuilt brass gear frame for a brass 0-4-0 locomotive he is redoing. The presentations are available on the following pages.

Lunch was held, raffle winners announced, and the meeting closed.

Spring Meeting - Saturday May 3rd Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa

Continued on page 60



Show & Tell



Joan Fleck - Gas Station

"I don't remember the kit manufacturer but I picked up at an estate sale (all model railroad stuff). It only included the 1930ish main building so I added everything else, built the wooden fence around it and gave it a metal roof. It was a project I worked on during the 2020 covid isolation."



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Show & Tell



Cliff Baumer - Water Tank

"The Branchline Water Tank was a challenging kit. Keeping the bents, sides and frost box all in square was paramount. There are four bents, all have to be equally spaced, making sure there was room for the frost box. The tank was made up of four sides, each made up of 8 horizontal boards and either 7 or 3 vertical posts. The vertical posts must be square and equally spaced with the opposite side posts. Missing were instructions to drill holes from post to post for positioning the rods in the corresponding vertical posts. This should be done prior to gluing the horizontal boards on the posts."



Continued on page 62



Show & Tell



Giuseppe Aymar - Fractioning Column

"For this model Roundhouse Quaker oil tank cars' center portions were glued end to end (without the round ends), elephant style.

To maintain trueness for a straight line I glued tabs inside each tank thus allowing the next tank to slide over the tabs and be in exact alignment. The completed column measures 240 scale feet requiring 3 sixty footer flat cars and 2 forty footers end cars to cover the overhangs. The column pivots on brackets welded to the flat cars' deck and secured by a pin so it can navigate curves with a minimum 38 degree radius. All details scratch built. Painted with red primer."



Continued on page 63



Show & Tell



Giuseppe Aymar - DOD (Dept of Defense) Heavy Load

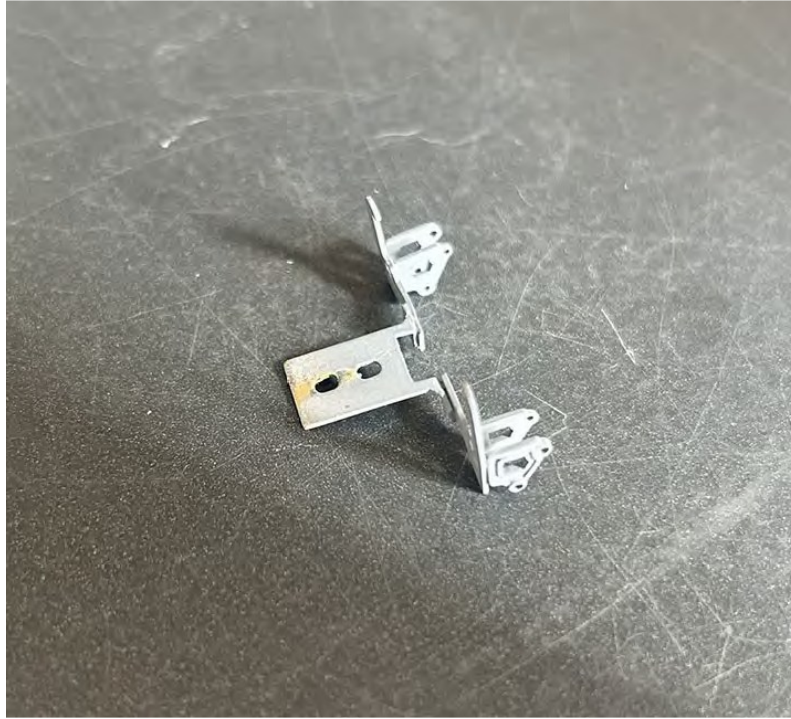
"This load is likely part of a reactor or a rocket. It rides on a 12 heavy duty axles flat bed.

Entirely scratch built in styrene excluding the trucks. Looks simple at first glance but complex in having to keep entire platform flat and true. The end platforms are attached to the end trucks at a lower level than the main platform. The tarps are "dental dams" and are secured via surgical sutures as the needle is thin and cuts through the latex tarps without ripping them as there is no knot on the interface between the needle and the suture itself."

Continued on page 64



Show & Tell



Dave Croshere - Gear Frame to Baker Valves

"Dave brought in a gear frame to the Baker valves located on a brass 0-4-0 locomotive he is redoing. The problem with brass locos is soldering small pieces and not unsoldering everything close to it. I managed to do it with multiple heat sinks around the Gear Frame. It worked so well I wanted to share it after I painted it.

I found a good YouTube video on how baker valves gears work. With Baker valve gear I never understood what the levers were doing."

Real Railroading: The Baker Valve Gear

<https://youtu.be/DXn6P9KTFBA?si=pnSCBuTHWPVhSnsW>



Sierra Division Report

The Sierra Division winter meet was held in the spring. Scheduling conflicts precluded our typical early February gathering. But, we managed to arrange an op session



and a meeting for April 12 at the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society clubhouse in Sacramento. This is our usual location for the first meet of the year, and has taken place annually except for during the COVID mitigation period.

Tremendous thanks to SMHRS for hosting us and allowing us to operate their Sierra Central Railroad.



Sacramento Roundhouse



**Local "Crawler" Entering Sacramento's
12th Street Yard**



Dave Putnam Making A Stop At Oroville



**Michael Eldridge (l) works the Oroville Switch Job
As Brandon Salas (r) Eases A Road Freight Out Of
Sacramento**

Continued on page 66

Sierra Division.
continued



Chip Meriam (l) and David Fryman (r)



**Lunch For All, Courtesy Of
The Sierra Division**



The next in-person meet is being planned for August at the Tidewater Southern Model Railroad Club at the San Joaquin Fair Grounds in Stockton,



2 MAY, FRI

- 11am Coast Division Hendy Iron Works Museum Tour

10 MAY, SAT

- 10am Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Assoc Open House 9707 Cook Riolo Rd, Roseville, ...

23 MAY, FRI

- O Scale West (Day 1/3) Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054,...

24 MAY, SAT

- O Scale West (Day 2/3) Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054...

25 MAY, SUN

- O Scale West (Day 3/3) Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054...

1 JUN, SUN

- Coast Auction Alameda Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA 94501, USA
- 9am Coast Auction Alameda Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA 94501, ...

14 JUL, MON

- NMRA Convention 2025 Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375, USA

15 JUL, TUE

- NMRA Convention 2025 Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375, USA

16 JUL, WED

- NMRA Convention 2025 Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375, USA

17 JUL, THU

- NMRA Convention 2025 Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375, USA

18 JUL, FRI

- NMRA Convention 2025 Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375, USA

19 JUL, SAT

- NMRA Convention 2025 Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375, USA

Continued on page 68



EXTRA 2026 NORTH

PCR Convention

April 29 – May 3, 2026

Doubletree Sonoma Wine Country, Rohnert Park



HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

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

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

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

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



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

Then, get that popcorn ready.



Convention HQ is the Sheraton Hotel
21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI 48375

Continued on page 69

Monthly Activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Saturday 3:00 - 6:00 PM / California Central Club (HO & 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@slomra.org or 805-929-3062

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Enjoy the fellowship and learning experiences of a club near you

Alameda County Central Railroad Society

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

Contact: Gary Lewis 925-455-8135

Email: glgslewis@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} branchline 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 Plies, 208-229-7107, 12818 N. 11th Ave., Boise, ID 83714.

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

European Train Enthusiasts

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

Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society

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

Golden State Model Railroad Museum – East Bay Model Engineers Society

900-A Dornan Drive in Miller-Knox Regional Park at Point Richmond. Weekly public hours are on our website. To meet members, inquire about membership and behind the scenes tours come 1st & 2nd Friday evenings of the month between 7:30 and 10 PM.; behind the scenes tours also available most Wednesdays 11 AM to 3 PM. New members are welcomed in all Scales – O, HO and N, including narrow gauge and traction. For general information check the website or call (510) 234-4884 (recording); for membership inquiries call 1st or 2nd Fridays 8-10p.m. (510) 236-1913. For other information or to schedule special events, Email info@gsmrm.org. Website: www.gsmrm.org

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

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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 HOn3 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: memberhip@sacmodularrailroad.com

Sacramento Valley Live Steam Railroad Museum (SVLSRM)

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

San Joaquin Valley Garden Railway Society

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

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

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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 weekly operations and work sessions at member layouts, as well as occasional club field trips. We meet every 3rd Tues. at 7:30 PM, at Woodglen Hall, 3010 Foothill Road, Santa Barbara. Junior members welcome. Contact: Secretary David Kuehn, email: davidkuehn@cox.net. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=163470062239>

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

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.ning.com and facebook.com/wbmrra. Or e-mail westbaylines@gmail.com.



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chipmeriam@comcast.net

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