



CALLBOARD

FALL 2023

RED Website: <https://www.nmra-red.org/>

FALL 2023 CALLBOARD

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In This Issue

Welcome to the Fall 2023 issue of the Callboard and our coverage of the Fall 2023 RED meeting held November at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. Please enjoy, and feel free to get back to us with comments or suggestions. A big "Thank you!" to Ed Merrin for taking photos!

- **Officers Reports**
- **Fall RED Meeting Report**
 - **21 people attended the meeting**
 - **6 Show & Tell participants**
 - Ben Sochacki- \$75 cash prize winner
 - Ed Merrin - \$25 cash prize winner
 - **Free lunch for everyone!**
 - **Tom Comyns update on Verne Alexander**
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- **The Caboose**

Past issues of the Callboard are available for viewing on the [RED website](https://www.nmra-red.org/).



RED Website: <https://www.nmra-red.org/>

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Superintendent's Report - Paul Weiss

Hi RED Membership,

Well covered in this issue of the Callboard is our Fall Meet that was held at our regular venue, Monroe Hall. I'd like to use the success of that event to remind our membership that these robust local events are one of our key offerings to you, and as you've read we have changed up the format to make them fun and engaging. It's true that Mother Nature had her own ideas that day, and expressions such rained like cats and hogs would apply. Some chose to nest at home, while the good sized group that joined had a great event. From a big picture perspective 3 aspects of the event are noteworthy and perhaps will help get some of you who haven't been in a while to commit to our Winter Meet in February on Saturday the 17th.

- Lunch is catered and the cost is nothing to you, and we know free food is a crowd pleaser.
- We have been teeing up worthy programs in an effort to get you in person content that you won't see elsewhere. This time we mobilized 3 neighbors from the Coast Division to come over and speak out their layouts and their modeling journey. These well know chaps; Tony Thompson, Jim Radkey, and Clif Linton, each prepared unique presentations just for us. We will continue to emphasize great keynote speakers from our Division and beyond.
- Our new show and tell format is a blast. I call it Bang Bang Show and Tell, which is a reference to me keeping the pace moving. Simply put, it isn't a modeling contest it's more of a presentation contest, and it isn't about your speaking skills it's about sharing heartfelt content. And get this: our new member, Ben Sochacki, made the substantial trip to join us from the Mendocino area to his first Meet (Wow!) and told the story of his adult onset, full commitment love story with the hobby. He won the \$75 cash first prize! Ed Merrin, always a crowd pleaser, bagged \$25 in second place.

We'd like to see you. Happy modeling and holidays (in that order?) and mark up Saturday, February 17th, as another chance to come aboard.

Paul Weiss
Superintendent

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Membership Report - Gus Campagna

As of November 2023 Redwood Empire Division membership stands at 111 members.

Chief Clerk's Report - David Grundman

The current RED bank balance is \$6362.03.

Wanted: RED Program Chair

Do you want to take a more active role in the Redwood Empire Division? The Program Chairperson position is open and looking for someone to help put together program presentations for three meetings. You would work with other staff members to find interesting topics and people for meetings. If you are interested in the Program Chair position, please contact Paul Weiss at paulbweiss@mac.com.

Verne Alexander

Tom Comyns gave an update on Verne Alexander who suffered an accident at his home last month. He is now in a rehabilitation center, is in good spirits, and can't wait to get home. He is accepting visitors - Vineyard Post Acute, 101 Monroe Street, Petaluma. His direct phone is 707-559-5274 .

John Huckaby Model

Another of John Huckaby's whimsical models.



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**Member Representative
Lawrence (Larry) Domansky**

Like so many of us in the hobby my interest in trains started with a Lionel set under the Christmas tree around 1953. When we moved from Chicago to the western suburbs my father set up the train set on a permanent table in a corner of our basement. That corner became mine until college and military service. I was around ten years old when we were visiting some friends of my parents. They

had two sons who had an 8' x 8' HO layout with buildings and some scenery. That hooked me on HO and eventually the 4' x 8' Lionel layout was replaced with a 5-1/2' x 9' HO layout. After college, six years in the Navy (Vietnam era), meeting my wife in the Bay Area and the early years of marriage and kids, I picked up the hobby again, becoming an NMRA life member in 1989.

As we all know, living in California means no basement. That meant that I had to be creative when it came to building a layout. Over the next 35 or so years I built small transportable and modular layouts in HO, N, On3 and O27. During that period, back in 2012, I became a member of the California State Railroad Museum and a couple years ago I joined the team that maintains the NMRA display at the museum. When we moved into our present house in 2017, I immediately claimed the third garage stall for my "dream" HO layout. In order to help subsidize the new layout, I sold off the N and O27 stuff. Construction of an approximately 11' x 13' layout started early 2020. It was one good thing that resulted from the COVID period. Construction has been slow but there is enough track that I can operate trains.

During the past several years, life changes have allowed me to have more time to devote to the NMRA, the PCR and particularly, our Redwood Empire Division. So, I decided to throw my hat in the ring for one of the new Member Representative positions. My intent is to get to know my fellow members, hopefully making some lasting friendships, and to give back to the organization and hobby.

2023 FALL MEETING

Twenty one model railroaders braved the stormy weather to attend the Fall 2023 RED Meeting at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. The meeting started with comments from Superintendent Paul Weiss, followed by short introductions of all attendees, Show & Tell, lunch, and three presentations by Tony Thompson, Clifton Linton, and Jim Radkey on their layouts. The meeting closed after the awarding of Show & Tell prizes and distribution of door prizes to everyone who attended the meeting.



Winter 2024 RED Meeting
Saturday, February 17, 2024
Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa CA

Show & Tell

Six people participated in the Show & Tell part of the meeting. Cash prizes of \$75 and \$25 were awarded based on voting for the best presentation by members. Congratulations to Ben Sochacki (\$75) and Ed Merrin (\$25).

Ed Merrin's Shamrock Cement Plant

Ed Merrin described the research and building of his model of the Shamrock Cement Plant located in Petaluma and being modeled on his layout.



Show & Tell

Ben Sochacki

"I'm Ben Sochacki from Ft Bragg club MCMR&HS. I brought my G Scale locomotive and track to demonstrate its conversion to RC powered capability. Also mentioned our video car that will take an iPhone for a 4 minute ride around our club track. Thanks for letting me share. Enjoyed meeting you all."



Show & Tell

Ron Kaiser

This little ramshackle warehouse is another in a series of RV trip projects to occupy the new landscape around the town of Portola on my layout. In telling about the board by board construction process, I mentioned the glue I used - canopy glue. There was surprising interest in this little known glue, for it's rubbery quality after setting which allows the modeler to cut through it to make changes later. Good stuff.



Show & Tell

Dave Croshere

Dave talked about an incident that he had read about between Cornelius Vanderbilt (New York Central RR) and Jay Gould (Erie RR). Each lowered their competitive price of shipping cattle until they weren't really charging anything! From the book "Dark Genius of Wall Street" by Edward J. Renehan .



Show & Tell

Clifton Linton

Clif talked about a quick project for his layout.



Tony Thompson

Tony talked about his work at correcting lettering styles on his PFE models. “The PFE car I’m holding represents part of my efforts to correct wrong lettering styles on some of the PFE models from InterMountain. For more information, visit Tony’s blogspot.

<https://modelingthesp.blogspot.com/2019/04/small-rant-manufacturer-lettering.html>



Lunch Courtesy of the RED

The Redwood Empire Division provided a delicious free lunch to everyone at the meeting, A big "Thank You!" to Mary-Moore Campagna for providing and serving the lunch.



Presentations

We were very fortunate to have three well known Bay Area model railroaders, Tony Thompson, Clif Linton, and Jim Radkey, attend the meeting and talk about their modeling experiences and their layouts.

Tony Thompson

The layout represents an imaginary branch line, leaving Southern Pacific's Coast Line in the Central Coast area in San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria, at a junction named Shumala. The branch is imagined to serve the agricultural production of the area north of Santa Maria, largely row-crop vegetables, with some tree fruit.

Mainline trains, whether through freights or passenger, simply pass by on the main. The only interchange with the branch is by means of local freights. On this part of the Coast Line (the Guadalupe Subdivision), there were two. One was a turn, called the Surf Turn, which operated roughly halfway from San Luis Obispo toward the next division point, Santa Barbara, to the south (railroad east) and then returned. The turning point was the station called Surf (well south of Guadalupe). But there was extensive traffic closer to San Luis, often too much for the Surf Turn, so the other local operated to handle that traffic. It was called the Guadalupe Local, for the town at which it turned back to San Luis.



Figure 1. Location and arrangement of the Santa Rosalia Branch of SP's Coast Division. Water courses and ocean are blue.



On the layout, a switch crew at the mainline junction, Shumala, switches both inbound and outbound cars there, and the branch train crew switches the towns of Ballard and Santa Rosalia. The branch is shown in Figure 1, in a map adopted from SP's division map. The timetable provided at the session includes a schematic map of each town on the branch, showing track names and industry locations.

The largest amount of switching on the layout is at Ballard, the track arrangement for which is modified from Terry Walsh's

Continued on next page

Presentations

Tony Thompson

“West Agony & Inchoate” layout, published in *Model Railroader* in July 1960. The other two towns have simpler track arrangements.

The main line staging is accomplished in a “transfer table” arrangement underneath Ballard, where 12 staging tracks permit ample train selection. Because it is important to understand how the SP main line is arranged on this layout, I have shown it in somewhat simplified form below, as Figure 2.

Operating sessions rely on a layout clock, which operates 1:1. The SP timetable is in force, and crews working at Shumala must ensure the main line is clear for passing trains. My interest in prototypical waybills for model use has resulted in the following system. Crews obtain local waybills and agent messages when they begin work at Shumala or at Ballard. The crew at Ballard collects additional bills from the agent at Santa Rosalia when they arrive there to switch. Ordinarily crews also receive a message of some sort from each local agent, giving them information they need about cars not fully described in the waybills, for example, icing requirements.

There are no pockets for waybills on the fascia; completed waybills are returned to the agent or the depot bill box when leaving town, while outgoing bills travel with the branch crew back to Shumala.

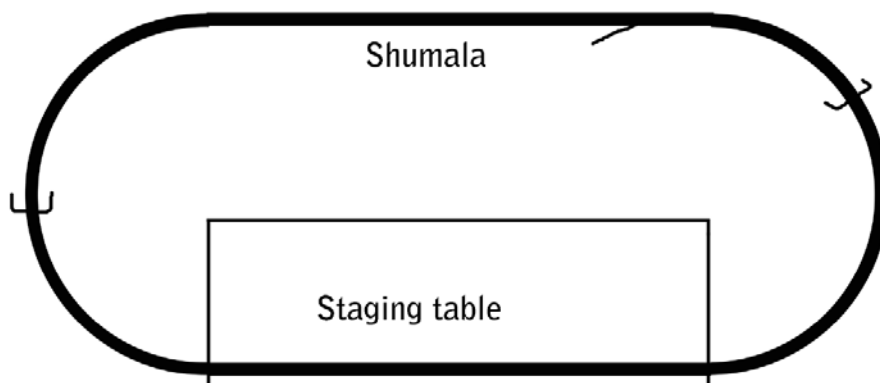


Figure 2. Arrangement of the SP mainline on my layout. Most of it, concealed; it is only visible where it passes the town of Shumala, between the two “tunnel” symbols.

Continued on next page

Presentations

Tony Thompson



This is the ice deck at Shumala, an important part of switching the layout since loaded reefer from any of six packing houses have to be iced before departing on their journeys. An SP Consolidation is picking up a freshly iced load.



This photo shows men unloading boxes to be shipped from the freight platform of the depot at Ballard. At right is a reefer being loaded at Guadalupe Fruit

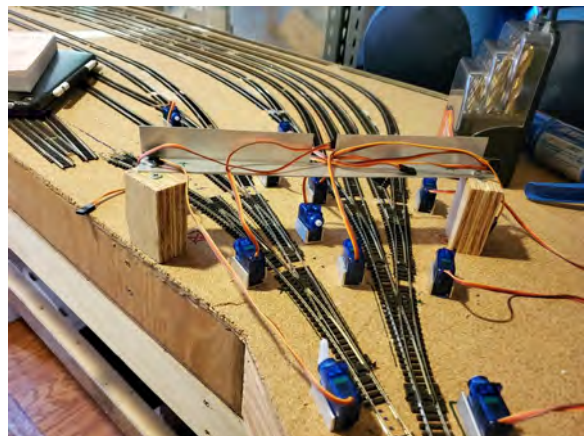
Presentations

Clif Linton

Clif Linton, of Alameda, reviewed the four layouts he either built or is contemplating in his adult life. His primary modelling scale is N. But, he also built an HO scale logging layout. He has interest in modelling the B&OCT in the late 1960s and Japan in the current day. He sees model railroading as an opportunity for life-long learning. He appreciated the opportunity to speak to RED. Thanks for the interest.



A picture from Clif's HO scale logging layout.



A picture from Clif's B&O CT layout.

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Presentations

Jim Radkey

The presentation showed the destruction of the 2nd iteration of the BNSF PLSD(Pink Lady Sub Division). The first iteration was extremely modified after the 1st op session, which was held a long, long, long, time ago! The 2nd iteration was fun and hosted over 60 op sessions with a regular round robin group meeting once a week. These session were in tight quarters (WW2 submarine type) Showering and deodorant were highly recommended before participating in operations. Operators and trains compromised



each other while performing their duties. The planning of the 3rd iteration started immediately while operating the 2nd Iteration. But time marched on and operating was fun.

Then one day, with much help and support from my round robin group, was able to add 8 feet onto my monstrosity in the garage. Now the room was 21ft by 25ft. The initial plans of just extending the existing layout into the new area bit the dust with about 50 hours of intense design and lots of dreaming. Then an issue of Model Railroad Craftsman had a layout in it that used the footprint of my dream layout. So I decided to cut the 2nd iteration up and create the 3rd!

This required a lot of work! But that is what dreams and round robins are for, right? Then Covid hit!!! Well destruction is just so much fun to do alone I started in. It is amazing how you start to save a lot and then you start tossing almost everything.

The new plan was amazing. Thank goodness I shared it with many other people. They started tearing holes in it right away. Most of them had to do with access! There was one idea to have staging about 6 inches off the floor and work my way up. Thank goodness people were brutally honest when they stopped laughing. After many modifications and changes I have held my first op session. The biggest complaint on track work was one switch (success), electrical worked, (Yeah), Trains only met head to head) (Yippee) crew space was excellent! (yes).

Redesign is a success and I am looking forward to many op sessions in the future! Please come join me.

Raffle & Door Prizes

The meeting closed with the raffle and door prizes. Every person attending the meeting received a door prize with the first four raffle prize winners getting first choice. **Ben Sochacki won \$75 for his show and tell of his G-scale locomotive. Ed Merrin won \$25 for his show and tell of the Shamrock Cement Plant on this Northwestern Railroad layout.** A big thanks to Dave Grundman for storing and bringing the door prizes to the meeting. Feel free to bring surplus model railroad train equipment (engines, rolling stock, kits, etc.) to round out the door prize offerings.



Redwood Empire Division Facebook Page

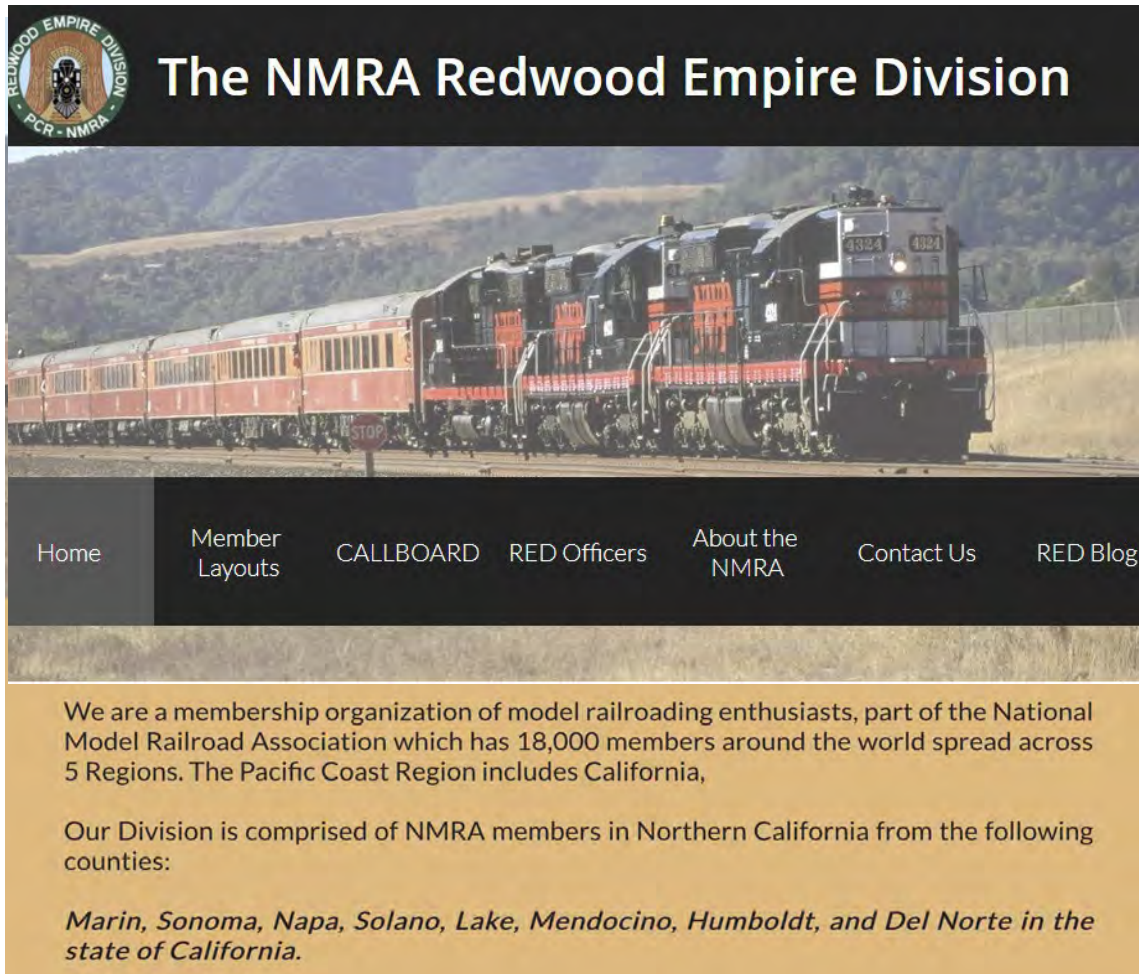
Please check out the RED Facebook page. For more information about the RED Facebook Page, please contact Bill Kaufman (bill@statebelt.org).

Redwood Empire Division Facebook Page



Redwood Empire Division Website

[Redwood Empire Division Website](https://www.nmra-red.org/)



Webpage Contents

- List of RED clubs, member's layouts, and nearby attractions
- Access to past issues of the Callboard
- RED Officers and Staff
- About the NMRA
- Contact Us [Redwood Empire Division Website](https://www.nmra-red.org/)

[Get Past Callboard Issues Here!](https://www.nmra-red.org/)

Clubs in the RED

Coastal Valley Lines Modular Railroad

The Coastal Valley Lines Model Railroad Club of Sonoma County, LTD (CVL) is an association of novice-to-expert model railroaders from around the Sonoma County, California area. We operate our HO modular railroad at public and private events and gather for clinics, work sessions, and regular monthly meetings. Visit the website for additional information. [Coastal Valley Lines Modular Railroad](#)

Eel River Valley Model Railroaders

It is the purpose of the Eel River Valley Model Railroaders to preserve the rich history of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad and the history of the North Coast of California. The club has a series of modules depicting several areas of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad between Schellville and Eureka, California. Our goal is to

The Humboldt Bay and Eureka Model Railroad Club

The Humboldt Bay and Eureka Model Railroad Club is the largest, most active model railroad club in Humboldt County. It has existed in the same location for about 40 years. The large layout is freelanced but with many scenes based on NWP locations. The club typically meets each Saturday at 7:30 pm. Visitors are welcome. Open house occurs during Veteran's Day and Rhododendron Days Weekends. The club is located at 7th and A Streets in Eureka, CA.

[The Humboldt Bay and Eureka Model Railroad Club](#)

Mendocino Coast Model Railroad and Navigation Company

See logging history brought to life at this walk-around large G-Scale layout representing a history of logging and the railroads located in the Redwood Empire. Over 1300ft of track - equivalent to 6 miles - with views of a mill, logging camp, town, pier, bridges, and trestles.

Hours: 10:30 - 2:30 pm: every day except Tuesdays and Thursdays.

[Mendocino Coast Model Railroad and Navigation Company](#)

North Coast Historical Model Railroad Society (NCHMRS)

The club operates an HO scale layout based on the Northwestern Pacific Railroad as it ran in the 1950s through Sonoma County to Ukiah. The club is building the layout as a display for the Depot Museum and will be located in the historic Healdsburg Freight Depot. Stop by on the 3rd Saturday of each month as we open the doors to the depot. [North Coast Historical Model Railroad Society](#)

Redwood Empire Live Steamers Interactive Museum

The Redwood Empire Live Steamers is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Sonoma County's Railroad history through re-creation, railroad equipment, and historic landmarks in miniature.

[Redwood Empire Live Steamers Interactive Museum](#)

The Redwood Empire Garden Railway Society

The REGRS is a loosely knit club of garden railroad enthusiasts from areas north of the famous San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge who share an interest in model trains. Our members are primarily located in Sonoma County and Marin County. Contact the club for public tours and shows.

[The Redwood Empire Model Railway Society](#)



2024 RED Winter Meeting

Saturday, February 17, 2024
Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa, CA
Bring stuff to Show & Tell!



Door prizes for everyone!
Free Lunch!

PCR San Francisco Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Weekend Meet

February 2 - 4, 2024

**Finley Community Center, Santa Rosa CA.
and online via Zoom**

Sponsored by:

**Pacific Coast Region - NMRA
Layout Design Special Interest Group**

**We're in the North Bay this year!
Finley Community Center, 2060 West College Ave.
Santa Rosa CA 95401**

The Important Stuff

Welcome to the 2024 S.F. Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Meet! This will be our 31st annual meet!

The Bay Area Layout Design and Operations meet is a model railroading event for modelers interested in model railroad design, model railroad operations, railroad and local history, or any related topic.

The event is a mix of clinics and talks, in-person events, and tours of model railroads in the San Francisco Bay Area. We also invite attendees to participate in operating sessions on local model railroads, and especially invite folks who haven't done operations before to join in. If you've like feedback or advice on model railroad design, you can sign up for a layout design consulting session where you can brainstorm or seek advice from other modelers about your future layout design.

This meet is open to ALL model railroaders, regardless of club affiliation or membership. NMRA, PCR, or LDSIG membership is NOT required!

The 2024 meet will be a hybrid event. You can attend Saturday clinics in-person at Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, CA, or you can participate in the clinics via Zoom.

Friday's tour and dinner, Saturday night layout tours, and Sunday operating sessions are in-person.



2024 PCR Convention

Join us in the heart of Silicon Valley for The Tech Line, PCR Convention 2024

The 2024 PCR convention will be held April 24-28, 2024, at the Sonesta San Jose hotel in the middle of the golden triangle in Silicon Valley. Room rates are only \$139 per night.



Amazing Layout Tours

The layout tours will feature some of the most recognizable layouts in the country as well as some new entrants. We currently have over 20 layouts committed to be open and expect have at least 30 open by the time of the convention.



Where the Art of Modeling Meets Technology

THE TECH LINE

PCR Convention 2024 - Silicon Valley, USA

The Best Clinics

Learn from some of the best modelers in the country at an array of clinics. There will be a Tech Line focus on new technologies in model railroading.

Daily Special Event Options

Clinics will be in the Morning and Evenings with the afternoons held open for special activities;

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| ✓ Layout Tours | ✓ Vendor Room | ✓ Modular |
| ✓ Special Clinics | ✓ Swap Meet | Layout in |
| ✓ Prototype Tours | ✓ 3D Printing Demos | the Hotel |

Don't miss this great opportunity to experience all the Bay Area has to offer for Model Railroading.

April 24-28 2024

www.pcr2024.com



Convention Website

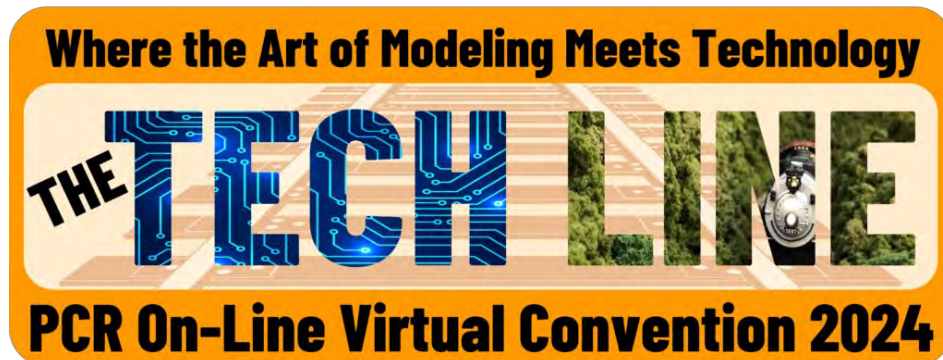
<https://www.pcrnmra.net/conv2024/>

Registration

<https://pcrnmra.regfox.com/pcr-2024-convention>



2024 PCR Convention



2024 PCR Virtual Convention Announced

For many NMRA members, getting to a convention is a significant challenge. Whether because of work, travel, cost, or health issues, it is often impossible to make the trip to a convention. For 2024, the PCR is presenting an on-line virtual version of the convention for those members that cannot attend in person.

While it is never possible to replicate the in-person experience of a live convention, the PCR 2024 Virtual Convention will provide a part of the experience for remote attendees. But, if you cannot attend the in-person convention, you can get a great on-line experience with both clinics and other on-line activities. Registration for the PCR 2024 Virtual Convention costs \$20 before January 15, 2024 and \$30 after that date.

On-Line Virtual Experiences Currently Planned

- Clinics - one of the three clinics rooms will be equipped with cameras and microphones to enable remote participants to see the clinician, presentations, and demonstrations in a special video workspace. The room will have active moderation and clinics will be followed by on-line meeting time with clinicians.
- Contest Room Reviews - PCR Master Model Railroaders and Contest Judges will take you on a video tour of the contest room. They will discuss the models and, for those that were judged, a bit about the contest judging process. Learn about contests in a very unique way.
- On-line discussions and Birds of a Feather - there will be opportunities to meet with the other virtual participants for discussions and sharing.

Check out the On-Line 2024 PCR Convention [HERE!](https://www.nmra-red.org/)

The Caboose!

