



# CALLBOARD

SPRING 2025

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

SPRING 2025 CALLBOARD

## Points of Interest

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## In This Issue

### Spring 2025 Redwood Empire Division Meeting

Welcome to the Spring 2025 issue of the Callboard. We are happy to report that twenty five RED members attended the meeting. This was Doug Smith's first meeting as the new RED superintendent. A full review of the meeting starts on page five of this issue of the Callboard. I was not able to attend the meeting so I want to give a big "Thanks!" to everyone who provided pictures and commentary for this issue of the Callboard.

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- The Caboose

Past issues of the Callboard are available for viewing on the [RED website](#).

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

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**Superintendent's Report - Doug Smith**

Welcome to my first report as the new RED superintendent. Since I've only been on the job a short time this will be brief. Thank you everyone for the chance to help the Division in this capacity. I need to get up to speed on a few things, so please bear with me.

My first item of business as The New Guy was to present the Member of the Year award to Dave Grundman. Dave is our treasurer/paymaster and chief clerk. He has done the big and little things that enable all of the other officers and volunteers to do what they do. I got to make this announcement at the recent PCR2025 also.

Next a big thank you to Paul for his leadership over the past few years. We're in a good place as a Division thanks to his efforts.

This will be an exciting year for RED. The biggest effort underway is preparing for the 2026 PCR convention in Rohnert Park. Please see the more detailed report elsewhere in this issue. Cliff and Denni Baumer are leading a very talented team. Great progress is being made every month. Still there are chances for each of us to contribute. Have you ever given a clinic? Had your layout open for a tour or an operation session? Volunteered at a convention in any way? There are lots of opportunities and things to do. Time to try something new? Lots of good coaching is available. Teaming up for first-timers is encouraged!

One other change is that Al Merkrebs is assuming the RED webmaster role. He will be among other things working with folks to set up points of contact for round robin groups for layout work, operations, whatever you folks want.

That's all for now while I get a handle on things. This should be fun.

*Cheers, Doug*  
*RED Superintendent*

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**Chief Clerk's Report - David Grundman**

The current checkbook balance stands at \$2416.87.

*David Grundman, Chief Clerk and Paymaster*

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**Membership Report - Gus Campagna**

As of February 2025, the Redwood Empire Division has 105 members.

Continued on next page

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# Convention News

## 2026 PCR Convention



The **Redwood Empire Division** will be hosting the **2026 Pacific Coast Region Convention** on April 29 - May 2, 2026, at the Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park, California. Stay tuned for further announcements.

### Layout Tours

Tom Comyns is the Layout Tour Coordinator for the 2026 PCR Convention. He is looking for layouts of any scale to be included in the proposed layout tours. Please get in touch with Tom at [tcr@comcast.net](mailto:tcr@comcast.net) for further information.

### Operating Sessions

Hi everyone. I'm Doug Smith, and will be the Operating Sessions Chair for the 2026 PCR Convention. We are still in the very early stages of planning this activity but it's never too soon to get started. 2026 is closer than some of us think!

### Operating Sessions

The first thing that we need is a collection of operating layouts. There are many great layouts within easy driving distance of Rohnert Park. Many layouts have been flourishing recently with great efforts their owners. Many new projects completed, and with the rise of local operating sessions there is much to show off to our out-of-town friends. We expect great interest from operators for this event. So for the owners of our great layouts it's a time to show up and show off !!!

Continued on next page

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If you have a layout and would consider hosting an operating session please get in touch with me. It's actually easier to start with a big list than to try to add layouts later. Not to mention the motivation that a point on the calendar adds to the trips to the layout room. At this time Ops are penciled in for afternoons but a lot of things are possible. For everything else - stay tuned!

Thanks for considering hosting a session. The convention web site in the pre-launch process. Much to be released at SLO. We'll work the timing for the operating sessions into the schedule posted there.

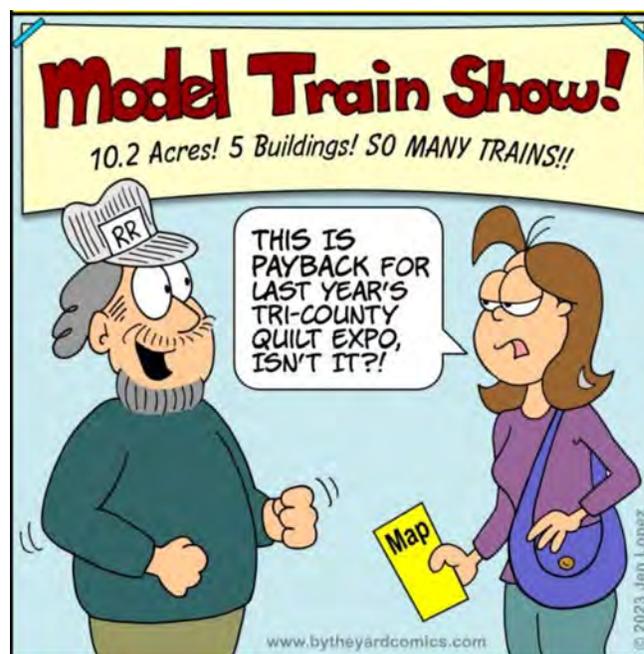
Please feel free to contact me with ANY questions.

Cheers, Doug

[funrun27@yahoo.com](mailto:funrun27@yahoo.com)

## Volunteers Needed

Please consider volunteering for the **2026 PCR Convention, Extra 2026 North**. Your participation ensures that we put on the best convention possible for PCR and NMRA members. Contact Denni Baumer to find out how you can help. Thank you! [pcr2026conv@gmail.com](mailto:pcr2026conv@gmail.com)



# SPRING 2025 RED MEETING

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## John Huckaby



The Redwood Empire Division and the model railroading community lost a long-time member, John Huckaby. In recent memory, we remember John for his whimsical models, which he shared with us during our Zoom meetings and in the Callboard.

John's interest in model railroading started while he served in the US Navy in submarine service with his first track loop and a battery-powered locomotive. On returning home, he continued his model railroading with the Humboldt Bay and Eureka Model Railroading Club. John is credited with laying the first track. He also built an area called "Hucksberg". It is a small switching yard in our Canyon Division. Of course, he built many (if not most) of the structures at the club and did a lot of the scenery as well. He liked to include whimsy in his structures - businesses like **Knotsafe Life Jackets, No Lite Match Company, Mortimer Stiphs Caskets and Headstones**, etc. John was a great fan of the Great Northern and often ran the Empire Builder. He was also skilled in electrical work, so he did a lot of the wiring of the club layout.

Due to health issues, he and his wife moved to Sonoma County, living with his daughter Donna. He joined the Coastal Valley Lines modular club, and with the help of his daughter, turned the module into a colorful and comical town of amusing businesses. In honor of John, Coastal Valley Lines will continue to use the corner module and the buildings (generously donated by the Huckaby family), keeping him always with us in spirit. Many thanks to Joan Fleck, Ron Fritzsche, and Tom Cockle for providing the memories of John for this eulogy.

Joan gave a Show & Tell presentation of some of John's buildings at the spring RED meeting. [You can view her presentation on page nine.](#)

# SPRING 2025 RED MEETING



Twenty-five RED members attended the Spring 2025 Redwood Empire Division meeting. Dave Croshere opened the meeting with comments about Ron Kaiser's status and thoughts on changes to meeting presentations before turning the meeting over to our new superintendent, Doug Smith. Members introduced themselves, followed by questions about notifying members about layout work sessions, how to communicate with each other, etc. Doug presented Dave Grundman with his RED Member of the Year award. The upcoming RED Summer Picnic was mentioned, with more information coming later. Dave Croshere suggested that meeting presentations be moved to the meeting room. The windows would be blocked with cardboard to make the room dark enough for presentations. There were seven Show & Tell presentations, which are described on the following pages. Wendy Moore brought a selection of model railroad buildings and equipment that belonged to Dudley Moore, a RED member who passed away last year. The models were offered for sale or given away to RED members. Lunch was held, show-and-tell, door prizes, and raffle winners were announced, and the meeting closed.

## Stay Tuned for Information About the Summer Picnic

Continued on next page

# SPRING 2025 RED MEETING



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# SPRING 2025 RED MEETING

## Dave Grundman - RED Member of the Year



Congratulations to Dave Grundman, our Redwood Empire Division Member of the Year! Dave has been an active member of the RED as Chief Clerk and Paymaster, overseeing the meeting raffles and table of model railroad items that he hauls to and from meetings for door prizes, etc.

Dave received his first train set while living in Alaska (Army brat and proud of it), a Lionel 027 with light and smoke. Moving to the Washington, DC area, his dad gave him a Gilbert Northern Pacific passenger train set in HO scale. He still has that set. That got him started in real model railroading. Added to that was the Boy Scout magazine (Boys Life) series with monthly plans showing you how to build several structures and a 4x8 layout.

He found that passenger trains on a small layout can soon get boring, and then discovered how freight trains worked... much more interesting. Over the years and several small layouts, he learned a lot about scale model railroading, and when asked by my fiancé, "Why do you do this?". My answer was "building my own world" along with the social aspects. As some of you know, Dave has a 12x18 room for his Great Northern layout, which sort of runs now but needs more buildings and scenery.

# Show & Tell

## Joan Fleck - John Huckaby's Models

"When I first joined CVL in 1996 with my son, I met John at the SRJC Day Under the Oaks. CVL was an annual display there as well as John bringing his portable layout down from Humboldt County. John's layout was very busy and full of humor. What I noticed right away was the red light district of the town, and the cult that existed at the time up in Oregon. It was hysterical!!! I thought to myself, this guy is really clever and funny. "



We would see him every year at Day Under the Oaks. More recently, he and his wife moved to Santa Rosa because of their health and mobility issues, living with their daughter, Donna. He found CVL and joined. That was our lucky day!!

I am grateful to have known him. He loved model railroading. He loved making people smile."



Continued on next page

# Show & Tell

## Gary Pischke - N Scale Maroon Train

"I presented or show and tell about the Maroon N scale train that I bought at the Kyoto railway museum. The Maroon train is a model of the private company train that runs in the urban area. I also have an associated book on the Maroon train. The train is four commuter style cars with one powered unit that also has pantographs.

I also brought an unpowered souvenir Shinkansen unit. This was also in N scale.

Generally, the Japanese love their train system, which is mostly passenger rail. Definitely not like most of the rail systems in the US."



Continued on next page

# Show & Tell

## Richard Mossholder

Rich brought a structure called VIGLICO (Very Important Generic Lineside Industry Company). This was built during the pandemic as a build-and-send with a friend Peter Loughlin who moved to Idaho. The idea was we would each build a section of the model and mail it back and forth without knowing what the other had done. Every time the package would arrive it would be a surprise and a challenge to add something creative. VIGLICO was the result of two people, 800 miles apart, sharing a project through a pandemic.



Continued on next page

## Show & Tell

### Giuseppe Aymar - Union Pacific Tank Car

UP training car for Hazardous Materials. UP would take it to different municipalities to train fire fighters and first responders in case of a Haz Mat accident. It had all different valves found in typical tank cars. TRANSCAER (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) events are multi-day, multi-modal training for multiple fire departments from the same geographic area that focuses on assisting communities to prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident. ([www.transcaer.com](http://www.transcaer.com))

The model features multiple open doors and hatches.

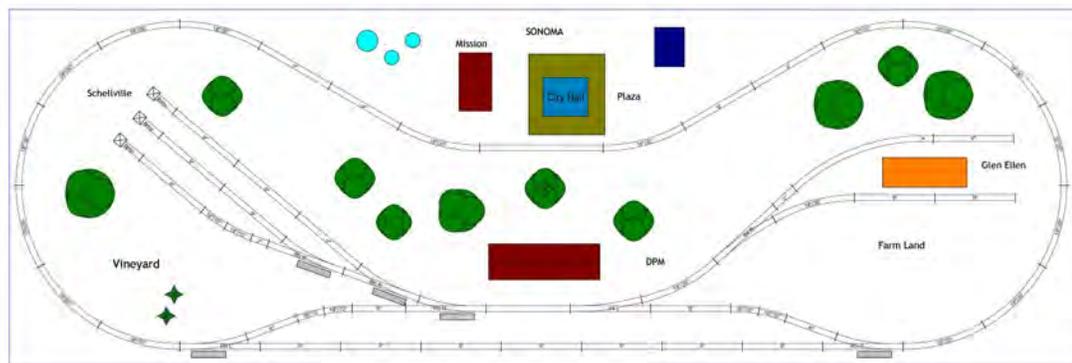


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# Show & Tell

## Steve Lewis - New Layout at the Depot Park Museum

Members of Coastal Valley Lines, a NMRA 100% Club, are supporting Steve Lewis and Tom Curran in building a public HO display to be installed at the Depot Park Museum in Sonoma. The layout under construction is a 40" x 10' table top with an 18" radius curve, simple dog-bone design. It will include static track displays representing Schellville and Glen Ellen Station. DCC and DC capabilities are planned with an enclosure designed by Tap Plastic. Scratch buildings include Sonoma Depot by David Ulmer, Glen Ellen Station constructed by the late Dudley Peters (1939-2021), and whimsical buildings by John Huckaby (1936-2025). Help with building the Sonoma City Hall and the Sonoma Mission is needed.



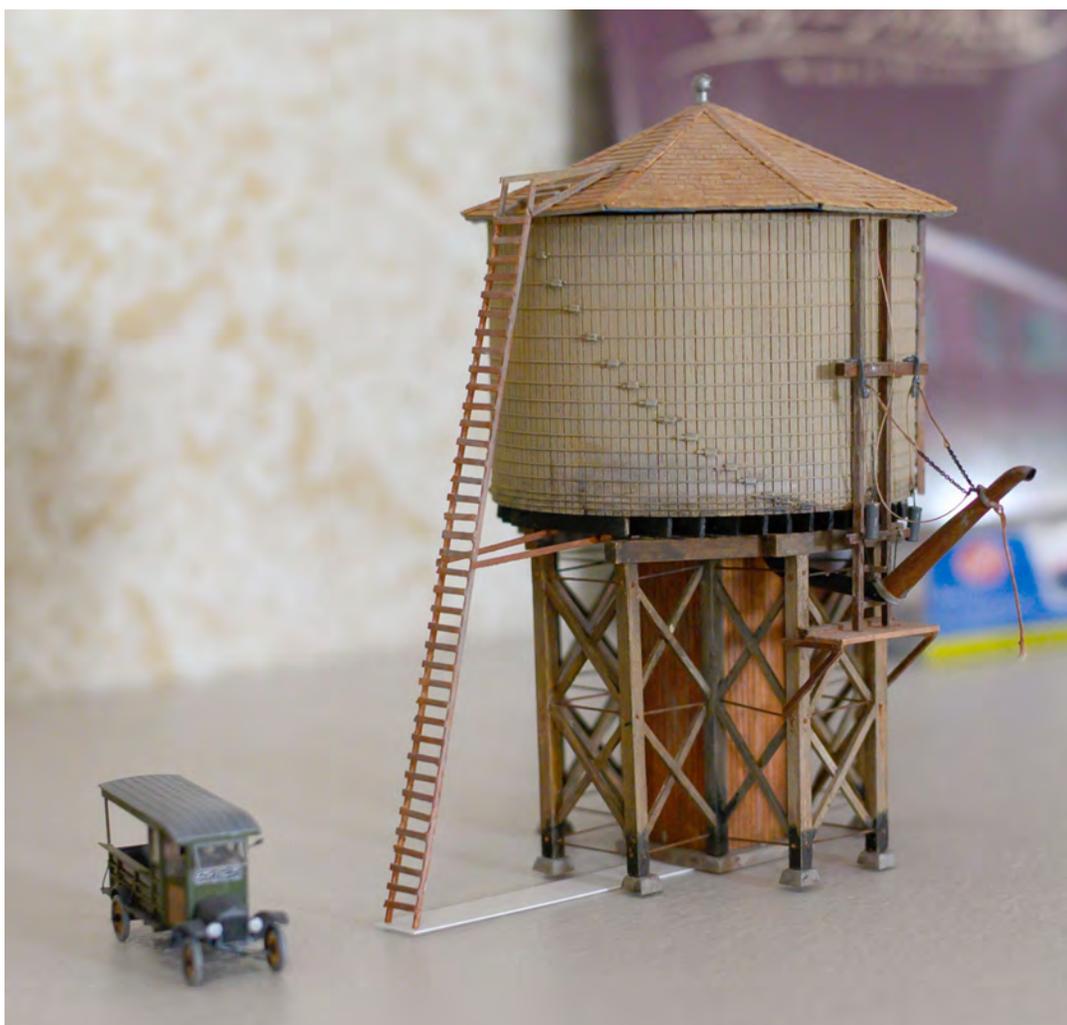
Dudley Peter's Depot

Continued on next page

## Show & Tell

### Dave Croshere - Campbell Water Tower Kit

“My Show and Tell was a Campbell Water Tower kit. I particularly enjoyed the look of the heavy timbers the water tower sits on. I added some Tichy nut and washers to the truss rods. I altered the down spout to a more prototype appearance per some pictures and the counter weights were added. This water tower has sat on my layout for a couple of years and after a closer consideration I felt it needed more weathering.”



Continued on next page

# Show & Tell

## Ed Merrin - Photos of Gus Campagna's Layout

Ed presented photos he has taken of Gus Campagna's California Western Pacific layout using his focus stacking technique to enhance images from Gus' layout. For more information about Ed's photo please check out the attached PDF on Focus Stacking using a cellphone camera.



Before



After



Continued on next page

## Raffle & Show & Tell Prizes

Every person attending the meeting received a door prize, with the first four raffle prize winners getting the first choice. Thank you to Dave Grundman for managing all the models, books, videos, etc., for each meeting. Dave said he would like more model railroad train equipment (engines, rolling stock, kits, etc.) to round out the offerings.

### Door Prize Winner - Al Merkrebs

### Show & Tell Winners

1st - Joan Fleck \$75

2nd - Rich Mossholder \$25



Continued on next page

## 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](mailto:bill@statebelt.org)).

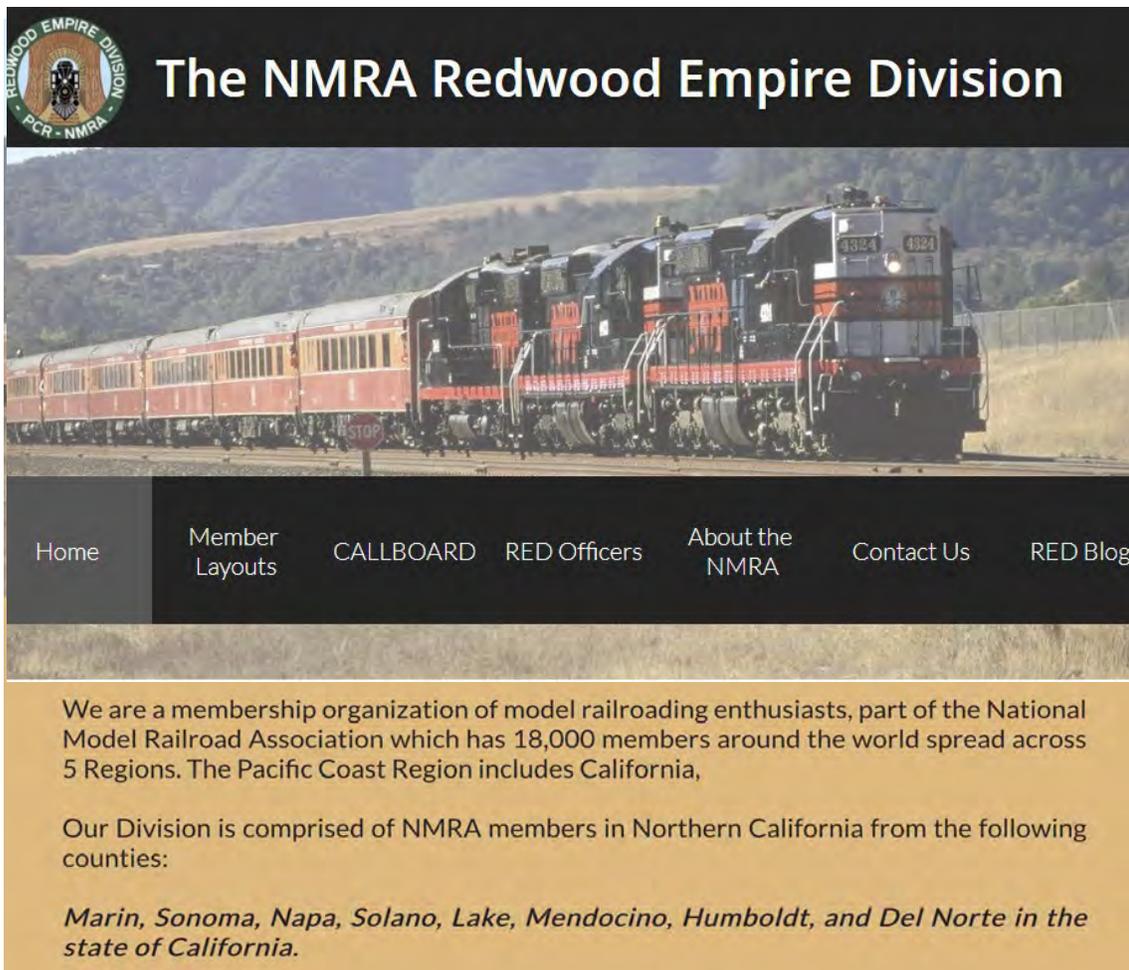
[Redwood Empire Division Facebook Page](#)



Photos by Ed Merrin

## Redwood Empire Division Website

[Redwood Empire Division Website](#)



**The NMRA Redwood Empire Division**

Home   Member Layouts   CALLBOARD   RED Officers   About the NMRA   Contact Us   RED Blog

We are a membership organization of model railroading enthusiasts, part of the National Model Railroad Association which has 18,000 members around the world spread across 5 Regions. The Pacific Coast Region includes California,

Our Division is comprised of NMRA members in Northern California from the following counties:

*Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte in the state of California.*

### 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](#)

**[Get Past Callboard Issues Here!](#)**

# Clubs in the Redwood Empire Division

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## **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 Sonoma County, California. 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**

The purpose of the Eel River Valley Model Railroaders is 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.

## **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 exact location for about 40 years. The large layout is a freelance operation 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 at 7th and A Streets in Eureka, CA.

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

## **Mendocino Coast Model Railroad and Historical Society**

See logging history brought to life at this walk-around large G-Scale layout representing a history of logging and the railroads 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 Historical Society](#)

## **North Coast Historical Model Railroad Society (NCHMRS)**

The club operates an HO-scale layout based on the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, which ran in the 1950s through Sonoma County to Ukiah. The club is building the layout as a display for the Depot Museum 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 in Sonoma and Marin Counties. Contact the club for public tours and shows. [The Redwood Empire Model Railway Society](#)

# Stay Tuned!



## The Redwood Empire Division 2025 Summer Picnic

Last year we had a great picnic at the Western Railway Museum in Rio Vista. Possible locations for this year's picnic include the Power Up event at the Penn Grove Power Implement Museum or the Roots of Motive Power Festival in Willits. Please let us know if you have other locations in mind for the picnic.

A few pictures from last year's picnic.



# 2026 PCR Convention

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**EXTRA**  
**2026**  
**NORTH**  
**PCR CONVENTION**  
**APRIL 30 - MAY 3**

The Redwood Empire Division of PCR invites you to experience the beauty of Sonoma Wine Country at **EXTRA2026 NORTH**, taking place April 30 – May 3, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Sonoma Wine Country in Rohnert Park, California

## Convention Site

<https://pcrnmra.net/conv2026/>



# 2025 NMRA Convention

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## 2025 NMRA National Convention

Station No. VI - hosted by the North Central Region of the NMRA

WELCOME to the 90th NMRA National Model Railroad Convention, STATION No. VI

July 14-19, 2025 – Novi, Michigan

**Convention Site: [https://  
nmra2025.com/](https://nmra2025.com/)**

**Register: [https://nmra2025.com/  
registration/](https://nmra2025.com/registration/)**



# 2025 NMRA Convention

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## 2025 NMRA National Convention

Station No. VI - hosted by the North Central Region of the NMRA

### Ladies and Gentlemen of the NMRA:

We want to let you know and ask you to let your members know that we have many videos posted to show what you wish to the NMRA National convention—STATION No. VI is all about.

- Some videos are showing layouts that will be open for tours and/or OP sessions.
- Some videos are great promo videos on what the convention activities will be.
- Some videos are aimed at first-time convention attendees.
- And there is ONE that shows our great PERSONAL ITINERARY, how to set it up, and how it works! (The personal itinerary is YOUR week-long schedule, on your phone or tablet!)

Please check these out on these YouTube channels.

<https://www.youtube.com/@StationNoVI2025NMRAConvention>

<https://www.youtube.com/@drbillsproductions>

# Coast Auction

## 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. Have too many models or kits, changing scales, downsizing, bring your extra items to the auction and turn them into cash.

If you would like to get auction cards ahead of time, please contact Craig Matoza at sandman2297@yahoo.com.

We really need volunteers to help with the auction. We need volunteers to manage the items through the bid process, do data entry, and help manage the sold items. If you can volunteer, please reply to this email so we can count on you. The last couple of auctions we had to beg at the auction for volunteers, if we cannot find volunteers, it is hard to continue having an auction. Note, you can bid and volunteer at the same time.

### Clinic

The morning clinic will be Phil Edholm detailing his build of the Agnew depot in O scale (the current home of the California Central Club). He is building it for the town of Pajaro on his On30 layout. It was built using traditional scratch building with custom 3D printed details and a photo based interior.



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# Coast Auction

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## Coast Auction June 1st in Alameda

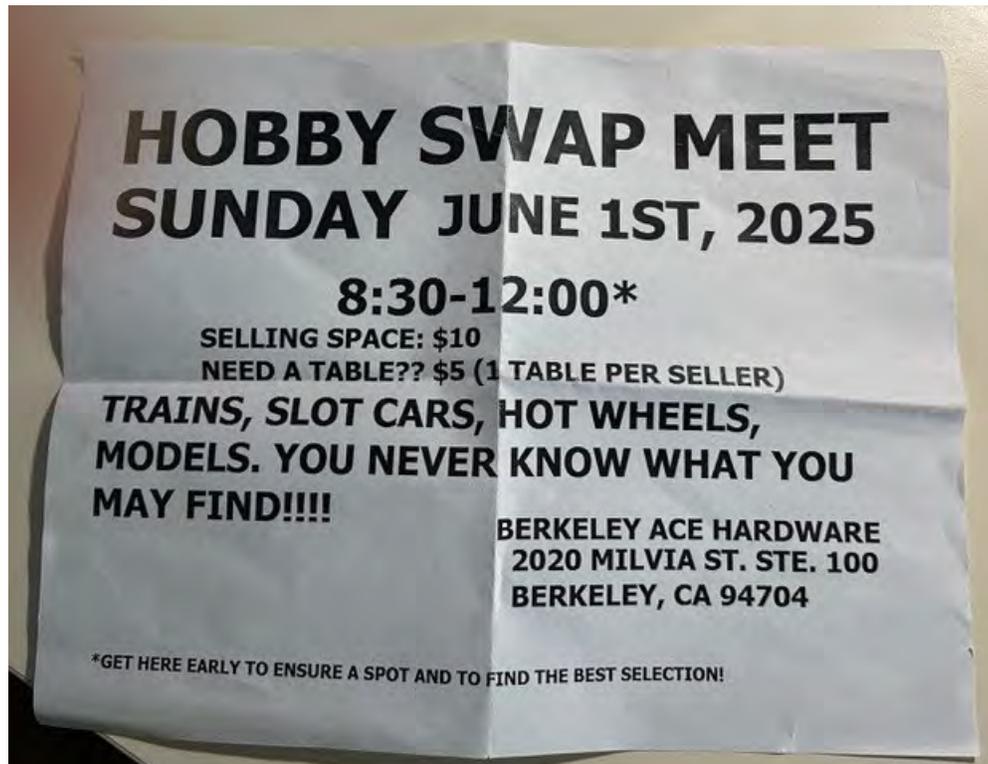
### Location

Mastick Senior Center  
1155 Santa Clara Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501  
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/wYLUxEXPQo6q3qeL7>

### 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 – Phil will do a clinic on building the Agnew/Pajaro depot in O scale.  
**11:50** Pizza Lunch  
**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.

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# The Caboose!

## Founding of the NMRA



The National Model Railroad Association was founded at this meeting held in Milwaukee on Labor Day weekend, 1935.



Al and a group of fellow model railroaders visit an unidentified layout. He recalled, "At these very early [NMRA] conventions we were a most closely-knit fraternity. All of us knew the intense creative satisfaction of model railroading."