



CALLBOARD

WINTER 2023

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

WINTER 2023 CALLBOARD

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2023 RED Callboard
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Welcome!

On Saturday, February 18, the Southern California: 1954-1963 Redwood Empire Division held its with Dick Donat" provided a second hybrid meeting. RED wonderful presentation about his members met at Monroe Hall with a railfanning experiences throughout California. The meeting closed with Zoom link set up for online viewing of the meeting. Unfortunately, the presentation of the cash prizes technical issues prevented useful for the door prize and Show & Tell Zoom experience. participant.

After opening comments, five RED Our Spring 2023 meeting will be members gave Show & Tell held at Monroe Hall, in Santa Rosa, presentations. Dave Grundman and on Zoom, on Saturday, May 20, presided over the raffle, followed by 2023.

lunch of sandwiches, snacks, and cookies provided by Mary Moore Past Callboards are available for Campagna. Dick Donat, author of viewing on the [RED website](#). the book "Trackside around

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RED Staff**PCR Director**

Giuseppe Aymar
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Programs/Zoom

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Director's Report - Giuseppe Aymar

As there is no information to report Giuseppe asked that we reprint his report from Oct 8, 2022

The Board recognizes the on-going membership situation and is working hard to improve participation and enjoyment in the hobby. This meeting was a lengthy one covering disparate agenda items all aimed at improving our membership's satisfaction. The following is a synopsis of the agenda items proposed and discussed

1. Treasurer report

PCR finances holding steady. As of Sept 30, 2022 - \$ 77,754.33

2. Conventions

- Looking into making Sunday a full Convention day to accommodate working members who have jobs Mon – Fri.
- Investigating how to lower the cost of meals which have gotten exorbitantly expensive threatening the financial integrity of Conventions.
- Developing an in-person/hybrid format starting with the Convention in Sacramento 2023.
- Introducing remote clinicians via Zoom to tap into a National/International base to deliver exciting and diverse topics.
- Denni Baumer, Lou Anderson, Chip Meriam's study group to look into various Convention formats and dealing with host venues such as Hotels, Convention centers or smaller facilities. Denni is experienced with Hotel contracts, making her an indispensable point person. (below).
- Set up a "Permanent Committee" instead of the current "Host Committee" structure to maintain a grounded "brain power", thusly not having to "reinvent the wheel" each time.

3. Net profit from NMRA National 2022

To be split as follows:

- \$ 2520.74 to go to PCR recruitment committee
- \$ 1000.00 to go to PCR Conventions reserve fund
- \$ 1000.00 to go to PCR headquarters
- \$ 1000.00 Coast Division
- \$ 1000.00 Daylight Division
- \$ 1000.00 Redwood Empire Division
- \$ 1000.00 Sierra Division

Each Division to use these funds at their own discretion.

4. Establish a committee on "Estate Appraisal and Estimation"

- a. Have Regional experts for each scale (O, S, HO, etc.) and

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subscales (On3, Hon3, etc.) to help the surviving spouse/ significant other with the disposition of Railroading artifacts.

b. Basically have a Directory of Experts.

5. Discussion at the National level moving forward for a new museum near the present train museum in Sacramento. The museum would hold the model railroading exhibits. The cost to the NMRA is estimated around \$2,000,000.
6. A proposal is on the table to amend the by-laws (article 4 sect 5) to reduce the Quorum at the annual business meeting from the present 35 to 25 members since the Region's membership has declined from 1500 members to 800 members. To be voted on by the membership at the Business breakfast in 2023. (Hopefully we'll have the Quorum to vote on it).
7. The Board is looking to set up the October mid-year Zoom meeting to start at 10:00 am while keeping the in-person meeting at the Convention site at 1:00pm
8. Each Director is responsible to submit a Certified list of Division Officers to be sent to NMRA to satisfy National's Insurance program.
9. Final thought
 It's important to remember that your Director is your liaison to the PCR Board. If you have any topic you want to see included as part of the Board's next agenda please feel free to contact me any time at giuseaymar@aol.com .

Giuseppe Aymar, DDS, MMR

Superintendent's Report - Paul Weiss

We had our first Meet of the year at Monroe Hall in February and enjoyed a very thoughtful and well put together presentation by author Dick Donat. This presentation was delivered in the hybrid zoom format so people who couldn't join in could at least be part of it via zoom. Your staff, particularly Al Merkrebs, worked hard to deliver a quality product but we now have learned it will be a tough product to deliver. That's because no amount of planning and hard work on Al's part could overcome the crappy internet available to us in the Hall. We all should thank Al for this valiant effort and hours spent on the attempt. We also need to thank Al for his years of service, because he is stepping down from his position on the RED staff. This leaves a big gap here, and we will put the idea of hybrid zoom calls on hold for now.

As always that means a call for volunteers to fill Al's big shoes, helping us find speakers or presenters approximately 3x per year and support our

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As always that means a call for volunteers to fill Al's big shoes, helping us find speakers or presenters approximately 3x per year and support our summer event which takes the form of a picnic. We have fun throwing these events, and maybe we can revisit a new way to get the hybrid zoom meets back some fine day. So please raise your hand, we won't ask much!

Otherwise, we all look forward to the Convention which will be upon us fast. You probably know by now that it's jointly being held by your PCR and the Feather River Rail Society. Browsing the list of offering I'm taken with the Siemens Factory Tour which sounds cool. We hope this is on your list, and don't dawdle.

Some rain, wind and cold has encouraged us to stay inside, as if we needed any encouragement. Our Central Vermont layout in Novato is advancing in leaps and bounds... How's your layout or your club's? We welcome blurbs here in these pages about how you're doing! Our friend and longtime RED volunteer Ed Merrin has been photographing some of everybody's work, the RED Facebook page has featured Ed's work recently. As to his work on our layout we have these pics available at www.cvrailroad.com, look for the "picture gallery". Thanks Ed! Dear readers, please send photos of your layout, we would love to include them in the CALLBOARD.

Have fun!

Paul Weiss

Redwood Empire Division Superintendent

Chief Clerk's Report - David Grundman

Our bank account shows a balance of \$7355.05.

We received four requests for official nametags. If you do not have a name tag, or lost yours, please contact Dave Grundman. His email is listed in the column to the left.

We could use more donations in terms of kits as most the raffle selection is framed pictures, books, and videos.

Membership Report - Gus Campagna

Based on the December 2022 NMRA report RED membership stands at 105 including two new Rail Pass members.

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Wanted: RED Program Chair

After three years as Program chair and Zoom meeting coordinator, Al Merkrebs has indicated it is time to pass this position on to another worthy RED member. Al did a tremendous job taking on the dual roles just as the Covid pandemic was starting. In addition to finding great programs he was instrumental in getting our meetings moved to Zoom as it became apparent that in-person meetings would not be possible. Our heartfelt **"Thank You!"** to Al for his exceptional work!

If you are interested in the Program Chair position, please contact Paul Weiss at paulbweiss@mac.com.

Frank George

We are sad to report the passing of RED member Frank George on January 18, 2023, at 82 years. Frank was a member of the CVL and modeled HOn3 at home. While living in Paradise, CA, having a basement allowed Frank to build a larger layout as well as help with a small layout at a local museum. He also worked on the layout located in the Healdsburg Freight Building. Medical issues halted his layout activity but he continued with model building with his models doing well at judging events and conventions.

2023 WINTER MEETING

The Winter 2023 Redwood Empire Division meeting took place on Saturday, February 18th, 2023 at Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa and on Zoom. Seventeen members took part in the meeting at Monroe Hall. Four members joined the meeting via Zoom. Thanks to Al Merkrebs for his efforts with the Zoom portion of the meeting and Lin Kaplan for providing coffee and water for members. Unfortunately, due to reasons beyond our control the Zoom connection did not work as expected.

Superintendent Paul Weiss welcomed everyone to the meeting and asking for business or club activity announcements. Show & Tell was next up with five presentations followed by the meeting raffle. Mary Moore Campagna provided a wonderful selection of sandwiches, snacks and cookies for lunch. After lunch the group moved to the main hall for Dick Donat's presentation. You can view a brief overview of Dick's presentation starting on page 13. Cash awards were picked with Giuseppe Aymar winning the \$100 Show & Tell prize and Gus Campagna winning the \$75 door prize.



A few pictures from the meeting.

2023 WINTER MEETING

Show & Tell

For Show & Tell, Dave Turner, Giuseppe Aymar, Dave Grundman, and Scott Lockhart showed a variety of model railroad projects. Verne Alexander presented a great collection of railroad based family heirlooms and Dick Donat a map and timetable.

Dave Turner

"I modified a Bachmann HO Model 4-4-0 lettered for the B & O to more closely represent SP&S Rwy No. 50. Major modification was to build an oil bunker to fit into the tender. I mixed paints to match the loco color and used it to paint out the lettering on the tender, dome, and cab. I decaled the tender, dome and cab with the SP&S herald and letters. I made a decal on clear decal paper for the number on the number board on the side of the headlight and the number plate on the smokebox front. For this, I made a rectangle and a circle the correct size, typed the number 50 into the space. Then in Photoshop Elements I changed the positive to a negative. That way I could use my ink-jet printer to print a black area with a blank space for the number. I painted the numberboard area white and the number plate area brass. Then, when the black decal was applied, it acted like a stencil to allow the number to show through."

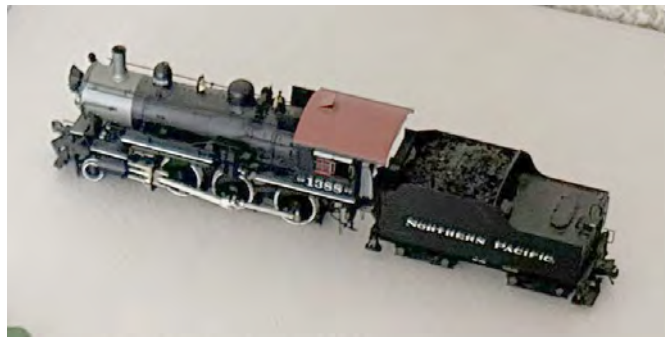


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2023 WINTER MEETING

Verne Alexander

"I made a tribute to my dad's 46 year career working for the NP/BN, using objects, documents, a photo and a model of the engine class that he ran 159 miles on the Elinor Turn for over 15 hours, for which he was paid the meagre sum of \$13.80! I wore a spare engineer's cap he kept in his grip, and pointed out how the circular hole at the end of his brass switch key, by which it was attached to his key ring, had been worn into an ovoid shape after his 46 years of carrying it around on the job. The aerial photo showed how our 1903 kit-built Homestead house was just three blocks from the NP roundhouse, showing why his first job out of High School was with the NP, and how his "commute," except in extremely bad weather, was a three block walk to pick up his engine! I also displayed a few of his time books, from which I shared a few interesting stories of his life, both on and off the job."

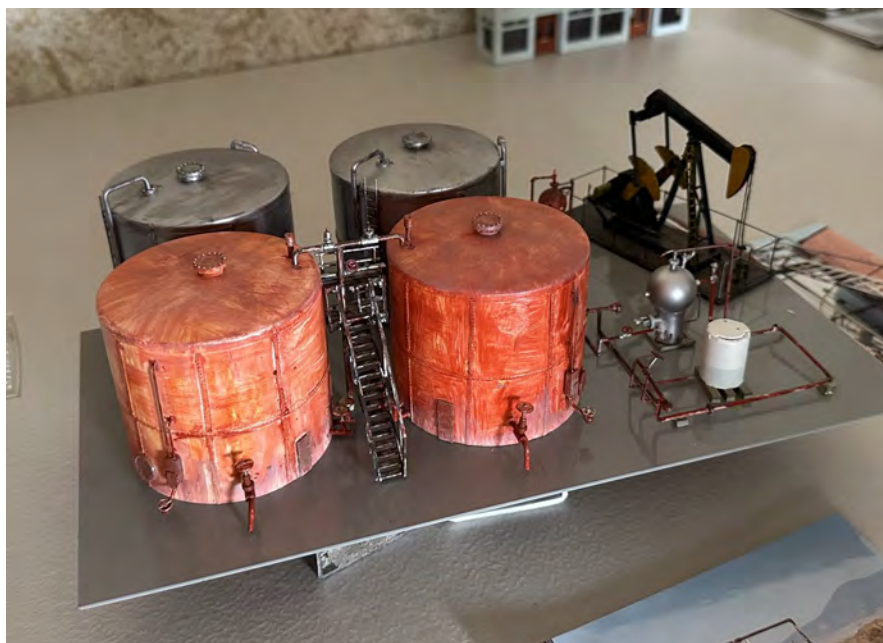


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2023 WINTER MEETING

Giuseppe Aymar

Giuseppe Aymar presented a model of an oil well as seen in San Joaquin Valley in and around Bakersfield. Any one who has traveled south on I5 or State Route 99 has seen the wells, pumps, and storage units in action. He discussed his on-site research and modeling and presented the almost completed the model. The model was built using hand crafted components, structural plastic and Walther's kit parts. The installed model will have an operating pump.



Continued on next page

2023 WINTER MEETING

Dave Grundman

"Over the years, I have collected way too many building kits, i.e. without a layout in mind. So, today I do not have the space on my layout for all of the buildings, which means something has to give. Since the real estate lady (wife) is not likely to provide an additional room, I have to make some changes.

I ran across one promising idea; that is to make the buildings along the back wall of the layout, not too thick. For the Show and Tell, I brought in a DPM model of the M.T. Arms hotel which is only about 1-1/2 inches thick now instead of 4-inches thick. I did this by cutting out most of each side of the original building. Looks good from the front of the layout today."



Continued on next page

2023 WINTER MEETING

Scott Lockhart

"Many, many years ago I came across an English company Backwoods Miniatures. Backwoods Miniatures designed and manufactured a large collection of On3/On30/0-16.5 kits. I've had an interest in Camelback locomotives and saw a 0-6-0 Camelback conversion kit to fit the Bachmann On30 2-6-0 Mogul. The kit was acquired and promptly disappeared in the far recesses of my hobby closet. Three years ago I pulled it out, purchased the Bachmann locomotive and went to work, off and on for the next three years. I came across an On30 Facebook group who gave me a few pointers and inspired me to finally finish the model as a 2-6-0. It is DCC powered with sound and lights."



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2023 WINTER MEETING

Dick Donat

One of Dick's favorite locations for railfanning is Cajon Pass. Dick became a good friend with Chard Walker, best known as an operator at the Santa Fe train order station at Summit, California in Cajon Pass. Dick obtained out of date employee timetables from Chard. Even though out of date, the timetables gave railfans information about meeting points, sidings, signaling systems, and speed limits.

AT&SF
Employee TT
FEB 1945

Santa Fe Employee Timetable

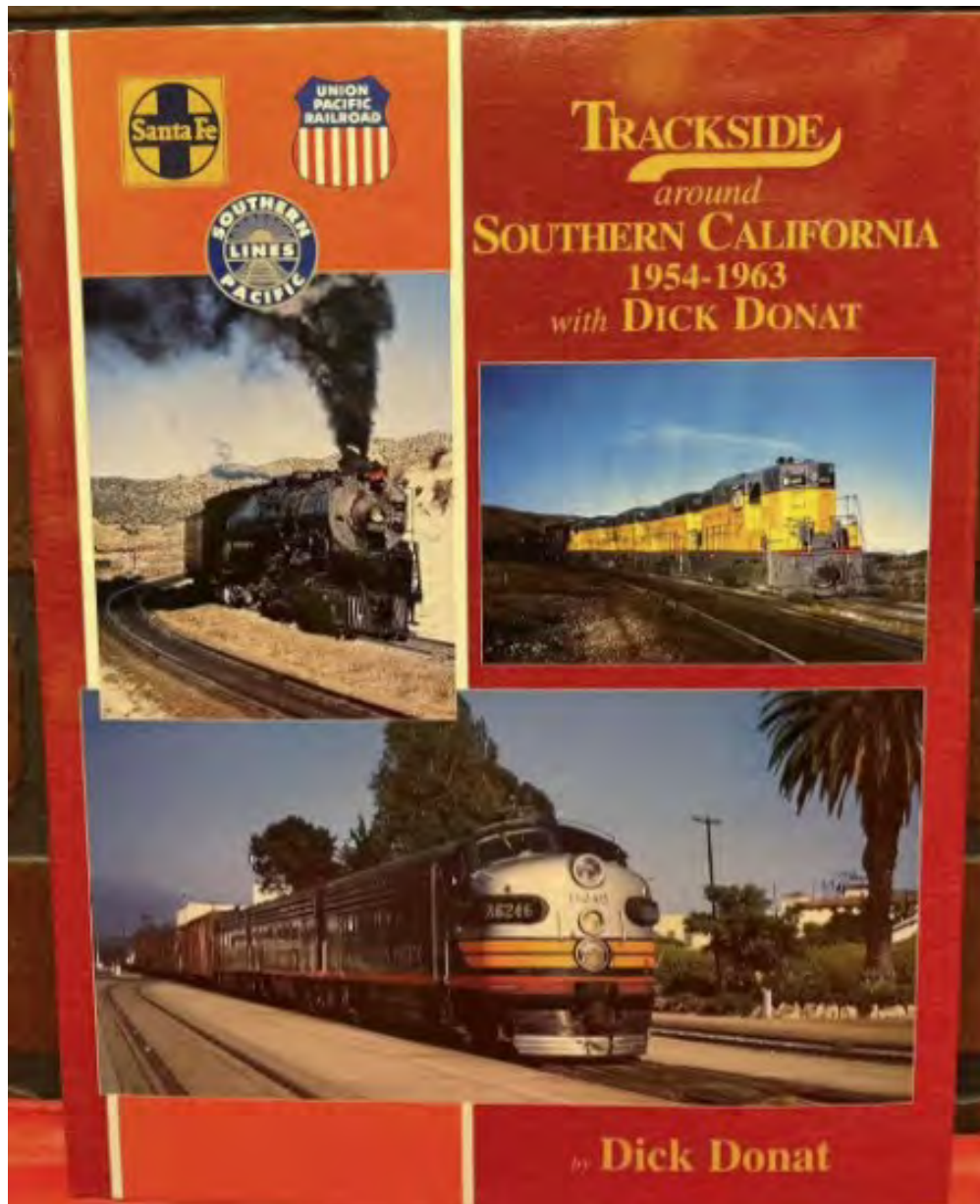


USGS map of Cajon Pass

2023 WINTER MEETING

Meeting Presentation by Dick Donat

Dick Donat is a member of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society. He grew up in Southern California and did a lot of railfanning with his father when he was growing up. He wrote and published book about all his experiences, entitled "**Trackside around Southern California, 1954 to 1963 with Dick Donat.**" Dick has encyclopedic railroad knowledge some of which he shared in his presentation based on his book and his personal experiences.



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2023 WINTER MEETING

Meeting Presentation by Dick Donat

The following pictures are from Dick's personal collection and from his book. Dick has run railfan excursions from the streets of L.A. to Wyoming. We want to thank Dick for his permission to use the following images.



Los Angeles - 1955



San Luis Obispo - 1954

Continued on next page

2023 WINTER MEETING

Meeting Presentation by Dick Donat



Willits - 1952



Eureka - 1952

Continued on next page

2023 WINTER MEETING

Meeting Presentation by Dick Donat

The following pictures are from Dick's book.

Double headed with #4440 the special has power to spare for the 20 mile climb to the railroad summit just east of the town of Tehachapi. About the same time I was reviewing these shots from more than 50 years ago, I happened to flip through the monthly pictures of the 2008 railroad calendar published by a major west coast building and home supply company. To my amazement September was a water color painting of #4202 on the point of Excursion #88 at just about this same trackside view.



Tehachapi



Manzanar - 1956

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2023 WINTER MEETING

Meeting Presentation by Dick Donat



ABOVE: Bay Area Electric Railroaders Association was among the charter groups on the last day of operations. Their charter, car #1706, met a regular service train at Wardlow Avenue. In true railfan fashion, all steps are occupied to get as close to the operation as possible.



ABOVE: Car #1536 leading a Long Beach bus train at Willow Street in North Long Beach.



LEFT: Fairbanks Yard in Long Beach hosts #1543 and #543 in MTA green. At the far right are the buses that will start replacement service the next day, Monday April 9, 1961.

Last Days of the Pacific Electric

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2023 WINTER MEETING

Meeting Presentation by Dick Donat



Sullivan's Curve - Cajon Pass



Cajon Pass - 1952

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2023 WINTER MEETING

Meeting Presentation by Dick Donat



UP helpers - Cajon Pass - 1950/1951



Riding the rails.

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John Huckaby's Models

John Huckaby interest in HO model railroading began in 1953 while in the Navy. He really got into model railroading after retiring in 1973 and helped form the Humboldt Bay & Eureka Model Railroad Club. John caught the modular railroading bug in the 80's and did shows up and down the west coast from LA to Seattle, Reno and Las Vegas for about 10 years. He now lives in Santa Rosa with his wife and two daughters. He has a small switching layout and, 50 to 60 buildings with more waiting to be completed.

John's models are not your ordinary constructions. They all have a backstory. Usually with a very humorous backstory as the signs clearly indicate. Here are a few of John's creative models.

Honest Karr's Used Johns



Continued on next page

John Huckaby's Models

Knot Safe Lifejacket Company & No Lite Match Company



Mr. Ree Meat Company & Sam & Nella's Cafe



Continued on next page

Redwood Empire Division Facebook Page

Please check out the RED Facebook page. The latest additions are outstanding photos taken by Ed Merrin of Ron Kaiser's Western Pacific layout. Ed's use of photo stacking with his smartphone yields almost lifelike images. For more information about the RED Facebook Page, please contact Bill Kaufman (bill@statebelt.org).

Redwood Empire Division Facebook Page

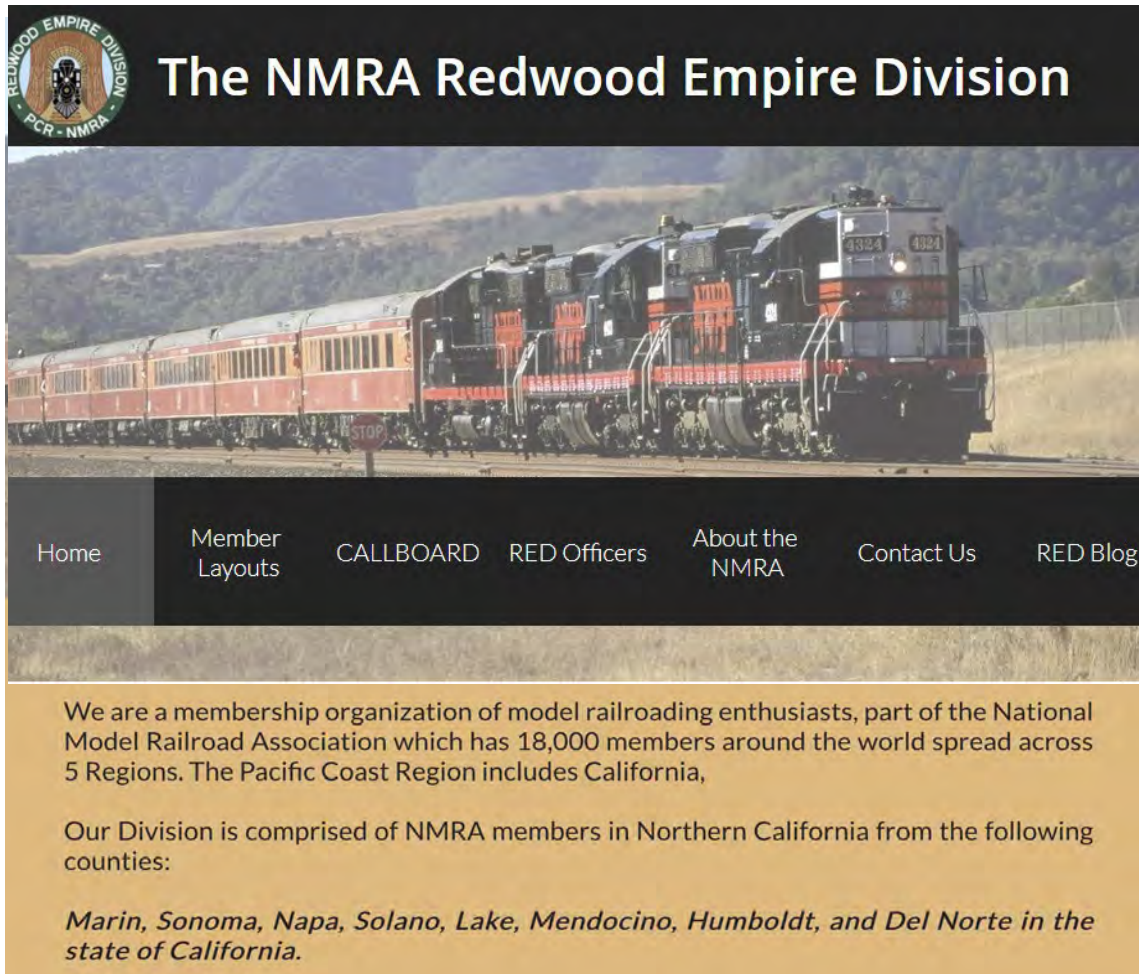


A few pictures from Ed Merrin's latest post to the RED Facebook page.

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Redwood Empire Division Website

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



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

Clubs in the RED

Please check the club's websites for information on holiday activities.
Please observe club's COVID protocols.

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](#)

Continued on next page.

Clubs in the RED

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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](#)



Mark Your Calendars!
Our Next Redwood Empire
Division Meeting
Saturday, May 20, 2023
Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa, CA



2023 PCR Convention



The 2023 PCR & FRRS/WPRM Convention

Rails by the River

<http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2023/>

April 26 thru April 30, 2023

Courtyard by Marriott

1782 Tribute Road

Sacramento, CA 95815

Features

- 40 Clinics (to date)
- Layout tours organized by Scott Inman
- Vendor room on Thursday & Friday
- Swap meet room on Saturday
- Extra fare activities
- Separate, secure contest room

Convention wearables by Daylight Sales

Volunteers Needed

- Registration Desk
- Company Store
- Clinic Hosts
- Contest Room
- Contest Judges
- Switching Contest
- Non-Rails Hospitality Room

Convention Registration



2023 NMRA International Convention



Welcome to the 2023 Texas Express

The NMRA International Convention
"Things are always bigger and better in Texas"

August 20 (Sunday) - 26 (Saturday), 2023

Hosted by Divisions 1 & 3 of the Lone Star Region

Convention Location

Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center
1501 Gaylord Trail
Grapevine, TX 76051
Phone: (817) 778-1000

Online registration

<https://www.2023texasexpress.com/registration.html>

Printable mail-in registration

[https://www.2023texasexpress.com/forms/
Printable Registration Form-v5A.pdf](https://www.2023texasexpress.com/forms/Printable%20Registration%20Form-v5A.pdf)