



# CALLBOARD

Redwood Empire Division PCR/NMRA

Website: [www.pcrnmra.org/redwood/](http://www.pcrnmra.org/redwood/)

Winter 2020

CALLBOARD

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## Winter 2020 Issue

Welcome to the Winter 2020 issue of the RED Callboard. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and there were a few model railroad goodies under the tree. This issue will cover the Winter 2020 RED meeting which included a great program presentation by The Redwood Empire Garden Railway Society. In three months the annual

PCR Convention, Clear to the Coast, will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord co-sponsored with the Western Railway Museum. There is an article by Verne Alexander about a bear that wanted to go railroading and a report on the Sonoma Short Line Christmas Show at the Depot Museum in Sonoma.



Show & Tell presentation



Doug Lodge's garden railroad



Sonoma Short Line at the Sonoma Depot

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 Dave Grundman  
 Scott Lockhart  
 Steve Skold

**Director's Report - Steve Skold**

This is my last article as Director as my term ends at the PCR Convention in April. I have enjoyed being Director for 4 terms; two in the 1970's and the two most recent terms. Giuseppe Aymar will be taking over at the Annual Membership meeting at the end of the Convention and you will get to meet him at the next RED meet in May.

I now look forward to being a POM (plain ordinary member) in my 80th year. My modeling skills have deteriorated along with my health the last couple of years. I have built an HO scale layout in the 1970's and started an On3 layout beginning in 1980, both with the road name Whiskeytown & Shasta. Both layouts were mining in orientation with a connection with the Southern Pacific. The mainline started in Old Shasta and ran along Clear Creek to Whiskeytown and ended in French Gulch all in Shasta County. There was also a connection with Harold Mentzer's two railroads, the Bellena Bay Ry and the Lorraine City and Williamsburg. Alas, the last W&S was torn down three years ago due to failing legs and I now dabble with two modules as part of the Sonoma Short Line module group. My thanks go to all the members of the Sonoma County Hi-Ballers for all the time and effort they have given over the years to my railroads.

Here's a list of Steve's amazing model railroading activities over the past forty one years.

- Joined NMRA/PCR/RED in 1968
- 1969 Life Member of NMRA and PCR
- 1970 Editor of Callboard
- 1970 Founding member of the Sonoma County Hi-Ballers
- 1972 Chairman of 1972 PCR Convention in Santa Rosa
- RED Director from 1974-1978
- 1979 John Allen Award winner
- 2011 Chairman of the PCR mini-convention I Santa Rosa
- Various jobs in RED including Contest Chairman, Program Chairman, Callboard Editor, Membership Chairman
- 50 year member of the Sonoma Hi-Ballers
- Current member of the Sonoma Short Line modular group
- 2006 RED member of the year
- 2011 PCR member of the year
- 2011-2014 RED Chief Clerk
- 2014- 2017 RED Superintendent
- 2017-2020 RED Director
- Attended numerous NMRA National Conventions and National Narrow Gauge Conventions

**Superintendent's Report - Scott Lockhart**

First, my thanks to Steve Skold for his past four years of service as Director of the RED. He richly deserves his new status as POM (plain ordinary member).

Based on the current weather it looks like Spring is in the air although a bit more moisture would be welcome. With our RED meeting program featuring the Redwood Empire Garden Railway Society, the sunny weather was especially welcome during the tour of Doug Lodges' garden railroad. Next up, the PCR Convention! I hope to see many of you during the convention.

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

The RED currently has \$5488 in the checking account and \$121 cash on hand.

**Membership Report - Gus Campagna**

Based on the December 2019 report the RED membership stands at 133. We have one new member registered with the RED.

## Winter 2020 RED Meeting

The Winter 2020 RED Meeting was held Saturday, February 16th, at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa, California. We hosted the Redwood Empire Garden Railroad Society. Thirty five people attended the meeting including five from the REGRS. Doug Smith provided an update on the 2020 PCR Convention, Clear to the Coast, and Steve Skold spoke about his time as RED Director and his model railroading activities with the PCR and RED, starting in 1968. Meeting attendees were then asked to give a brief comment on their model railroading background.

### Show & Tell

One of the most popular parts of RED meetings, Show & Tell allows modelers to share information on a wide variety of topics. If you have a model railroading or prototype railroad topic you would like to share, please plan taking part in the Show & Tell segment of the meeting.



Steve Skold talked about a frog named Killer.



Dave Croshere talked about building a ladder for his caboose.



Above: David Ross talked about his "antique" HO scale metal box car. It was one his model train purchases many years ago.

Left: Dave Turner's scratch built HO scale flat car hauling prefab parts for Liberty ships being built in Vancouver, WA.



# Winter 2020 RED Meeting

## Show & Tell

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Bob Battles talked about the need for model railroads to have a business car and showed his excellent Ho scale model.



Ron Kaiser extolled the virtues of having a great team of volunteers to help him keep his model railroad in good running order.



David Lightfoot's scratch built antique model steam engine. If memory serves it's not digital.



This is a scratch built model rail bus that is battery operated with sound and lights. The pictures in the windows are members of the Redwood Empire Garden Railway Society.

# Winter 2020 RED Meeting

## *Raffle and Door Prizes*

With Dave Grundman officiating, the raffle followed the Show and Tell part of the meeting. After a break for a wonderful lunch, courtesy of Mary Moore Campagna, the raffle and presentation of door prizes continued. If you have items that are gathering dust on your layout or closet please consider bringing them to meetings to add to the raffle. The items in this meeting's raffle included books, hobby kits, locomotives, rolling stock and parts.

We give away cash awards at every meeting: \$100 for the winning raffle ticket, \$75 for the winning door prize ticket and \$50 for the winning Show & Tell ticket.



David Lightfoot accepts his \$50 prize for Show & Tell



Giuseppe Aymer accepts his raffle prize of \$100.00



Unfortunately, the photographer wasn't fast enough to catch Peter Barnes accepting his \$75 door prize award.



Dave Grundman and a few of the raffle prizes.



# Winter RED Meeting

## *Garden Model Railroading*

Members of the **Redwood Empire Garden Railroad Society** gave a very informative presentation on the history and status of garden railroading at this year's winter meeting. Meeting attendees were invited to visit Doug Lodge's garden railroad layout after the presentation. Invitations were given to visit to garden railroad layouts. A big "Thanks!" to Al Merkrebs for organizing this program.

- Don and Becky Herzog will host an open house at their layout on Sunday, July 26, 2020, from 11:00am to 3pm (lunch about 12:30 pm). RSVP required and contact information will be sent out at a later date.
- **Lucky Mojo Curio Company**, in Forestville, has a garden railroad that is open to the public. To find out more information please visit their web site at [www.luckymojo.com](http://www.luckymojo.com).



Al Merkrebs introducing Terry Strom and Ken Brody and their presentation to the RED meeting.



Terry Strom doing his excellent presentation on garden railroading.



A great visual presentation of the various size models found in G scale model railroading.

# Sonoma Short Line Module Group

## *Annual Christmas Show at the Depot Park Museum*

The Sonoma Short Line Module Group setup it's modules for the seventh season at the Depot Park Museum in Sonoma, CA. Visitors, especially children, were encouraged to try their hand at running a train or two. Group members provided training and guidance in order to avoid possible cornfield meets. Model demonstrations and switching exhibits are also part of the exhibit.

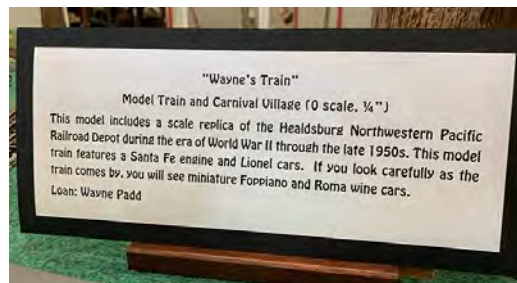




# Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society

## *Holiday Model Trains Spectacular*

This year's annual holiday exhibition featured spectacular Lionel scale-model trains in small-town winter settings from the mid-1940s to the 1960s with a replica of the Healdsburg Train Bridge. Trains and scenes are from the collections of Wayne Padd and the Museum.



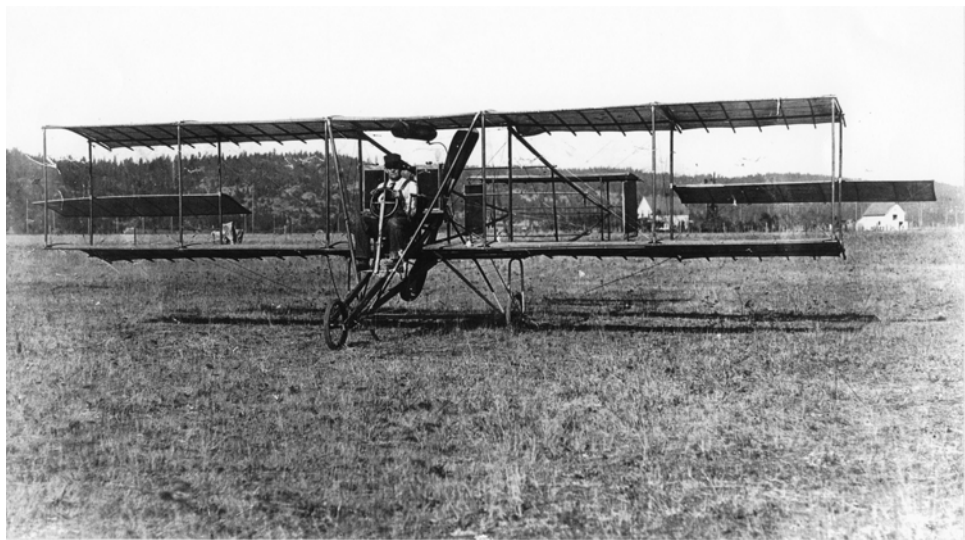


# The Bear Who Nearly Went Railroading

by Verne Alexander

This story is excerpted from a lengthy article I wrote about the history of the second house built on my family's Homestead preemption in 1903. 2124 is its address. There were eight girls in my family. Several years after the youngest was born a caboose was added to the roster, my dad. The land between 2124 and the Spokane River to the North was mostly flat and was a cow pasture at first. My grandfather made a deal with the city of Spokane, which turned the pasture into a golf course. Toward the end of the teens it was decided to convert the golf course into an airfield. In 1916 grandma Bertie divorced Grandpa Elmer. Things got very difficult financially. One of the many things Bertie did to keep food on the table was to take in boarders, most of whom were railroad men from the Northern Pacific which in 1915 had move its roundhouse and shops to a location just to the South of 2124.

The establishment of the air strip brought a new bunch of boarders to 2124—and a bear! There are multiple versions of just what took place when the bear entered 2124. I will relate what I believe to be the most plausible one, dictated by my Aunt Erma to her daughter Pauline at Pauline's insistence. Erma was there when it happened. The back story is that two of the early aviators, Nick Mamer and Claude Messer, kept a small young bear at the air strip as an attraction.



This 1907 photo shows the bleakness of the area around our homestead, and a very cool airplane. The Parkwater School and a few scattered houses were in place at the time of the bear incident. The area was flat, and occasionally a plane would set down there. Our house can be viewed between the middle wing and the box tail on the right of the plane, and the barn under the wing on the right. Our well was behind (to the right) of the house, as was the tub in which the bear was bathed. The NP roundhouse is behind the photographer about 150 yards, and the photo was taken from a spot the bear may have crossed on its frantic dash to seek RR employment! The bear's return route to the barn would have been more to the right. Photo courtesy of the Valley Heritage Museum

Erma said it was their practice to bring the bear over to 2124 periodically, on a chain leash, draw a tub of water from the Alexander well and let the bear bathe in it. They also carried five-gallon cans of water back to the air strip for drinking and for the cooling systems of some of the aircraft, as in its early days there was no source of water at the air strip. On a June day in 1922 the bear somehow got away from Mamer and Messer.



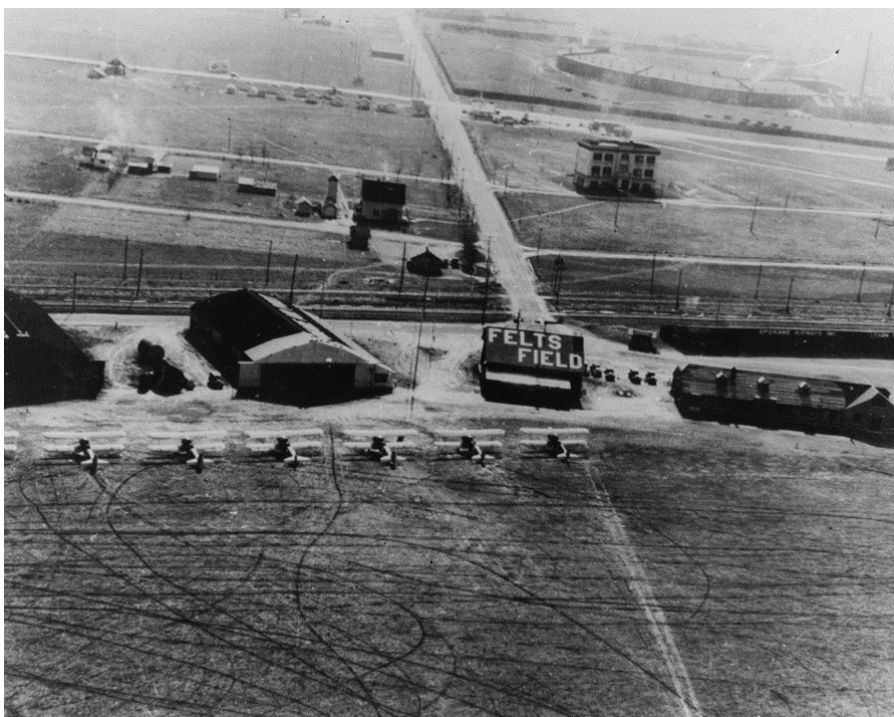
This 1919 photo of the Flying Circus Air Show shows how undeveloped the area was when the conversion of the golf course at the top of the picture between the train and the hills to an airfield began. Those lighter spots in the land beyond the festivities may be as-yet-unfilled sand traps. The cars are parked willy-nilly. There are no hangers. Our house and the school from which the photo was taken are the only permanent structures. The bear, which probably had not yet arrived, was lodged somewhere in the area to the left of the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane electric train. He would have gotten his baths to the right of the house where the well was. Note the well-worn path from the front of our house to the school. Grandma Bertie worked there as a janitor and some of her daughters attended as students. The re-purposed school still stands, but our house was razed about three years ago

Erma had been married to Paul Staeheli for two years, and her son Glenn was about two months old. She and Paul had moved back into 2124 because it made the construction of their "little house" more convenient. The "little house" was located on the two lots Bertie had sold them at the South East corner of her property, fronting on Knox. Paul could work on the house between his runs on the railroad. His commute was about 100 feet to the house! Erma was inside 2124 when she heard a noise in the bedroom. She entered to see what it was. There was the bear, with its paws up on the dresser, staring at that other bear in the mirror! Erma says the bear took fright—she was not specific about whether the source of the fear was the bear in the mirror or her own presence. The frightened bear scampered out of the house and up onto the porch roof, where it appeared that it would be content to live out its days.

Mamer and Messer, after much fruitless effort, were finally able to get the bear down off the porch roof. However, they failed to get a grasp on the chain leash, and the bear took off cross country toward the Northern Pacific roundhouse. It being summer, the roundhouse windows were open, and the bear jumped into the roundhouse through one of them. Very shortly the roundhouse work force was seen jumping out of others of them! Finally, the bear also jumped back out of the roundhouse. One can only speculate what prompted the bear to take its unlikely heading toward the roundhouse. It is conceivable, bearly, that the goal was to escape its current unpleasantness by hiring on with the Railroad—much like those furless, bipedal mammals would run away and join the circus!



However, the bear headed back the way it had come. By this time Paul Staeheli had joined Mamer and Messer in the chase. The bear sought shelter through the open door of the Alexander barn some distance south of 2124. Inside was the family cow, tethered to the manger. It is unclear whether the cow or the bear was more afraid. There was plenty of fear to go around, some of it belonging to Mamer and Messer, who wouldn't enter the barn to retrieve their bear. Now my Uncle Paul was Swiss. He did have a fine dry sense of humor, but when matters of work or duty came up, he was all business. I can readily imagine the look of disdain he must have shot in Mamer and Messer's direction as he entered the barn and got them their bear! And after all this excitement, they took the bear back to the back yard of 2124 and let it complete its bath!



This ca. 1931 photo looks south and shows the general layout of the area at that time. The Air National Guard planes are in the foreground, behind which are three hangars and the administration building. The tracks of the (now) Spokane, Coeur d'Alene and Palouse and Spokane International railroads are next. The bear would have had its quarters near the tracks somewhere in the area of the structure alongside of the tracks in the middle right. Our house at 2124 is just left of the upper middle, with the tank house and garages. The Parkwater School with the path to 2124 is at the upper right. The 1903 barn where the bear took refuge on its return trip from the roundhouse stood across the wide vertical street from the school. The Northern Pacific roundhouse and shops are in the upper right corner. It was not fenced at the time of the bear incident. If this photo were to have been taken in 1912, 2124, the barn and the railroads would be the only structures in it. It can be seen from the distance involved that the bear really wanted to go railroading!

One does wonder why the bear so quickly rejected the railroad as a career. Some of the engines in the round house would have been hot. Maybe a safety valve went off and hissed it back out the window. Or maybe the bear found the stink of steam and oil and smoke to be more objectionable than the stink of castor oil and aviation gas at the airstrip. In any case, the Northern Pacific lost the opportunity to add the bear to its collection of oddities: the dog in Bozeman who helped in the yard, and the girl from Grangeville whose parents sent her to Lewiston by US mail because it was cheaper than a passenger ticket!

*Verne Alexander is an HO scale model railroader and models the Colville, Republic and Palouse (CRAP) .The CRAP is a proto-freelance railroad based in Spokane, WA.*

## 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 also gather for clinics, work sessions and regular monthly meetings. Visit the website for additional information. [Coastal Valley Lines Modular Railroad](#)

### **Eel River Valley Model Railroad**

It is the purpose of the Eel River Valley Model Railroad to preserve the rich history of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad along with the history of the North Coast of California. This is done through a series of modules depicting several areas of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad between Schellville and Eureka California. It is our goal to preserve the rich heritage of the railroad and the North Coast through these representations of the past. Please go to the club's website for information on visiting the layout.

[Eel River Valley Model Railroad](#)

### **Lake County Model Railroad Club**

The Lake County Model Railroad Club runs trains on a 60'x25' layout, double track HO scale, a dual gauge branch line and a HO<sub>n3</sub> mining branch line. The theme is California in the transition period and is reflected in rolling stock and in the layout scenery. The club is located at the Lake County Fairground, 423 Martin St, Lakeport, CA 95453

*Hours: Noon - 4:00 to 5:00 PM, every Wednesday. Summer hours extend to 8:00 PM.*

### **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 night 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](#)

### **Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society**

The Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization which operates a 4600 square foot model scale railroad exhibit that represents the agricultural and industrial heritage of the Napa Valley. Check their Facebook page for open house dates and times.

[Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society](#)

**Continued on the next page.**



## Clubs in the RED

### **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 1950's 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 Counties Railroad history through the re-creation, in miniature, of railroad equipment and historic landmarks.

[Redwood Empire Live Steamers Interactive Museum](#)

### **Sonoma Short Line Modular Group**

The Sonoma Short Line modular group that is loosely based on the Southern Pacific branch line from Sonoma through Glen Ellen and Melitta Station to the old Santa Rosa Depot on North Street. They are currently looking for new members. Contact Steve Lewis for more information. Phone: 707-527-0396, Email: [sdlewis@cds1.net](mailto:sdlewis@cds1.net)

### **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](#)

### **Photo from The Redwood Empire Garden Railway Society**

Doug Lodge, Ken Brody and Terry Strom at Doug Lodge's garden railroad.



# Comin' Down the Line

## 2020

**February 28, 2020 – Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society**, 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, 2751 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA. Phone 925-937-1888. \$3.00 adults, \$2.00 Seniors and children (6 - 12 years old), children under 6 are free.

**March 7 & 8, 2020 - Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society's Annual Model Train Show**, Sat: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sun: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Horace Massey Building, Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street, Bakersfield, CA.

**March 14 - 15, 2020 – Weekend Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society**, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, 2751 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA. Phone 925-937-1888. \$3.00 adults, \$2.00 Seniors and children (6 - 12 years old), children under 6 are free.

**March 1, 2020 - Coast Division Meet** - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, BPOE Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. Come meet other local model railroaders during our free quarterly meet and enjoy free clinics, model, photo & switching contests/displays, videos, etc.! Bring YOUR questions to modeler's roundtable for answers. You may win a door prize! Enjoy our lively auction of model railroading items & more!

**March 21 & 22, 2020 – Great American Train Show**, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue, Pleasanton, CA. Tickets are \$10 if purchased at the door. \$9 on Sunday. Kids under 12 are free.

**March 27, 2020 - Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society**, 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. Phone 925-937-1888. \$3.00 adults, \$2.00 Seniors and children (6 - 12 years old), children under 6 are free.

**April 4, 2020 - 16th Annual Pacific Model Loggers' Congress**, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Camp 18 Restaurant and Museum, U.S. Highway 26, Elsie, Oregon. For general information, phone Lon Wall (971) 265-1060, or Jeff Johnston (541) 914-1152. E-mail us with questions or for more info. Admission: \$15.00 per person at the door. There is no pre-registration.

**April 18, 2020 - West Side Reunion presents the 32nd Annual Logging & Mining Modeler's Convention**, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, at the Sonora Elks Lodge, 100 Elk Drive, Sonora, CA. Admission is \$25.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door (this year your spouse is included). Dealer tables are available for \$35.00 for the first table, which includes one pass. Contact: Frank Markovich, E-mail: [frank@frankmarkovich.com](mailto:frank@frankmarkovich.com), Phone: (408) 505-2727.

**April 19, 2020 - Sierra Seminar**, 8:30 am, Sonora Senior Center, 540 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA. Presentations on the history and modeling of the Sierra and other Tuolumne County railroads. Pizza lunch included for \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Contact Glenn Sutherland at [glennsutherland@sti.net](mailto:glennsutherland@sti.net) for more information.

**Continued on the next page.**



## Comin' Down the Line

**April 18 & 19, 2020 - Black Diamond Lines Model Railroad Club**, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Spring Train Show 2020 and Swap Meet, , 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd, Antioch, CA. Info: [info@blackdiamondlines.com](mailto:info@blackdiamondlines.com), Phone: (925) 779-1964.

**April 24, 2020 - Monthly Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society**, 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. Phone 925-937-1888. \$3.00 adults, \$2.00 Seniors and children (6 - 12 years old), children under 6 are free.

**April 30 – May 3, 2020 - Clear to the Coast 2020, Pacific Coast Region Convention, co-sponsored by Western Railway Museum, Crowne Plaza Concord / Walnut Creek**, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, CA. <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2020/>

**May 2, 2020 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, San Luis Obispo Train Day**, San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1940 Santa Barbara Avenue (Just south of the SLO Amtrak Station), San Luis Obispo, CA. Admission is FREE with Museum admission (Adult, \$5.00; Child 4-15, \$3.00); Kids 3 and under, free. Members are always free. Contact [info@slorm.com](mailto:info@slorm.com) for more information.

**May 16, 2020, RED Spring Meeting**, 10:00am, Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA.

**May 16 – 17, 2020, Weekend Model Train Show, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society**, in Larkey Park, 2751 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA. • MAP • Phone: (925) 937-1888

**May 16 & 17, 2020 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Model Railroad Open House, Carquinez Model Railroad Society**, 645 Loring Ave (across from C&H Sugar), Crockett, CA. Admission: \$5.00; children under 16 free when accompanied by an adult. Info: [davetateosian@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davetateosian@sbcglobal.net)



**April 30 - May 3, 2020 - Clear to the Coast 2020, Pacific Coast Region Convention**, co-sponsored by Western Railway Museum, Crowne Plaza Concord / Walnut Creek, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, CA.  
<http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2020/>



**July 12 - 18, 2020 - Gateway 2020 NMRA National Convention, St. Louis, MO**  
<http://www.gateway2020.org/>



## Pacific Coast Region NMRA Annual Convention

### **CLEAR to the Coast 2020**

Co-sponsored by Western Railway Museum

**April 30 – May 3, 2020**

**Concord, California**

The Pacific Coast Region - NMRA and Western Railway Museum cordially invite you to attend the Clear to the Coast 2020 PCR & WRM Joint Convention in Concord, California, at the Crowne Plaza Concord / Walnut Creek, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, California. (MAP) Plans and preparations are well under way by a dedicated team of PCR and WRM volunteers working together to ensure you will have a rewarding and enjoyable experience at the Clear to the Coast 2020 PCR Convention.

Clear to the Coast 2020 runs from Thursday, April 30 through Sunday, May 3, 2020, starting at 8:30 AM for registration check-in and ending with the Sunday morning PCR Annual Business Meeting.

Sandwiched between the two will be a veritable smorgasbord of model railroading activities you've come to expect at PCR conventions, including clinics, contests, prototype tours, layout tours, operating sessions, breakfasts, banquet, and more!

Mark your calendars now, figure out how to get to Concord, then get ready for some real model railroading fun and enjoyment. • BART and Amtrak bus schedule

Be sure to read the Convention Hotel Information page for important Parking and Car Pooling information.

Click on the links below for specific information about the conference and visit the convention website for the most up to date information. [www.pcrnmra.org/conv2020/](http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2020/)

<a href="#"><u>Schedule</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Contests</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Operating Sessions</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Layout Tours</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Prototype Tours</u></a>		<a href="#"><u>Forms</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Photos</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Modules</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Entry</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pickup</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Models</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>NEW! Square Foot Challenge</u></a>		<a href="#"><u>Arts &amp; Crafts</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>NEW! Popular Vote</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Non-Rail Activities</u></a>			<a href="#"><u>Switching Showcase</u></a>
			<a href="#"><u>Company Store</u></a>

Click here for more information about the Western Railway Museum

[Western Railway Museum](#)

# San Francisco's Fourth Railroad

by Roger Rudick

Muni, BART, Caltrain--and then there's the **San Francisco Bay Railroad**.

San Francisco's economy is surging. Construction is booming. But whenever a building goes up, huge holes have to be dug for the foundation. So where does all that dirt go? "This load is from the project at 1066 Market," explained Nick Kendall, Manager of Rail Operations and an engineer at the San Francisco Bay Railroad in Hunters Point, pointing at a rail car. "If you factor the truck returning empty from the closest landfill, 250 miles from SF, the roundtrip would mean each railcar takes 10 trucks off the highway." The railroad currently operates some 350 "high-sided gondola cars," carting off dirt from all the construction projects going on in the city, including the Chase Arena.



Once the gondolas are filled, the railroad uses two small locomotives to create unit trains that can be as much as 70 cars long. The Union Pacific will then pick them up in the late morning or early afternoon with larger, long-haul locomotives. They also drop off empty cars from the previous load. The Union Pacific takes the trains down a connector track to the Cal train mainline to get rid of all that dirt in a location outside of Salt Lake City.

The round trip is about 2,000 miles, explained Kendall, and takes 55 hours each way. At the other end of the run, a giant machine picks up the rail cars and spills the contents out. "There's now a whole lot of San Francisco in Utah," said Kendall.

Work starts early for the Bay Railroad. At 4 a.m. the freight short line's 15 employees start getting trains ready for the day's drop-offs of dirt. This is often hard, manual work--with lots of running around.

Conductor Ben Margherone and Kendall first meet and go over a list of what train cars have to be put on what track. Then Margherone throws switches, connects and disconnects cars, and instructs Kendall how far to back up and go forward with the train, to make sure everything ends up where it's supposed to be.





## Miscellaneous

### Name Badges Available

If you are a member of the RED and have not received a name badge, please contact Dave Grundman at [dave\\_pat\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_pat_1999@yahoo.com). You will receive an extra raffle ticket if you wear your badge to the meeting.

### Lionel Equipment

A person is selling Lionel model train equipment, in original boxes, circa 1947 to 1948 and is looking for information about the trains. Please contact Steve Lewis for further information. [sdlewis@cds1.net](mailto:sdlewis@cds1.net).

### Club Updates, Newsletters, etc.

If your local club is hosting special events during the year, would you appreciate hearing about them so we can post them in the Callboard. Likewise, if you have a newsletter we would be happy to also add it to the Callboard or any of our other RED mailings. Please contact me, Scott Lockhart, at [scottnl1947@gmail.com](mailto:scottnl1947@gmail.com) or 707-775-9889 with your information.

*Something to model in your spare time?*

