



CALLBOARD

SUMMER 2025

RED Website: <https://www.pcrnmra.net/redwood/>

SUMMER 2025 CALLBOARD

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In This Issue

Summer 2025 Redwood Empire Division Meeting

Welcome to the Summer 2025 issue of the Redwood Empire Division Callboard. This is a big issue! Enjoy!

- **Officer's Reports**
 - Superintendent's Report
 - Chief Clerk's Report
 - Membership Report
 - Welcome to new members Cary and Paul Beatie
- 2026 PCR Convention News
- In Memoriam: Ron Plies
- Spring 2025 RED Meeting Report
 - 22 members attended the meeting
 - 8 Show & Tell participants
 - Free lunch, Raffle, and Door Prize
- Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt
- Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal: A Clerk's Eye View - Michael Litant
- Tom Comyns Drawbridge
- Tool Tips: A tool for working with LEDs - Jon Schmidt
- Redwood Empire Division Website Review
- Redwood Empire Division Facebook Page
- Clubs in the Redwood Empire Division
- Fall RED Meeting Announcement
- 2026 PCR Convention - *Extra 2026 North*
- 2026 NMRA Convention - *Scenic City Express*
- The Caboose

Past issues of the Callboard are available for viewing on the [RED website](https://www.pcrnmra.net/redwood/).

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Superintendent's Report - Doug Smith

Things are happening at The RED. I'll touch on some highlights here.

As everyone knows we will be hosting the annual PCR convention April 30 through May 3 in our back yard. The web site is up and operating. Registration is under way. The convention hotel will be the Doubletree in Rohnert Park. Layout tours, day tours, operating sessions, and clinics are all filling up the schedule. Loads on info is available on the web site at <https://pcr2026.org/>. Denni and Cliff Baumer are leading the division effort for what promises to be a great event. Check it out both for attending and participating.

The RED has a new and upgraded web site of our own. Many thanks to Al Merkrebs and the many members who helped either a little or a lot. Have a look at [Home - Redwood Empire Division](#)

Much to see and do.

The division meeting schedule through 2026 has been set. Drum roll please :

- November 29, 2025
- March 21, 2026
- June 20, 2026
- September 19, 2026
- November 21, 2026

All at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. I hope to see everyone there.

Our last meeting on September 6th featured 2 presentations on what goes into an operating sessions on a large prototype based layout. Jon Schmidt and Michael Litant discussed their parts in operating Paul Weiss' Central Vermont system. Jon reviewed using the JMRI (JAVA Model Railroad Interface) system capability for scheduling car movements. The layout features about 700 cars in action, dozens of industries and several interchanges with other railroads. Help from a 21st century computer is needed to model the efforts of an army of clerical folks in the 1950's. Michael's follow-on presentation showed how the computer system outputs are converted to switch lists and train crew orders. Not a trivial task either. Not everyone runs their railroad like this, but these were great discussions on how to approach this kind of realism if you like.

We also had our show and tell session by 8 members showing projects and stories of great railroad interest. Discussions of the convention and web site were had. A raffle and lunch completed the day. Make sure

Continued on next page

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you get the quarterly meets on your schedule. You don't have to present anything, but you can. There's a lot there that can't be found anywhere else. Come to the meets and see.

Since the meet I found out that the **Great Train Show** scheduled for February 21-22 in San Jose has been moved to Vallejo. Of course this is in RED territory. These shows are great for attracting new NMRA members. I'd like to have some of our members come and run the NMRA booth. It's a fun day with lots of possibilities. Their web site is: <https://www.greattrainshow.com/>

Hope to see everyone at the next meet!

Cheers, Doug
RED Superintendent

Chief Clerk's Report - David Grundman

Raffle via white tickets. One ticket was given for attending plus one ticket for your name badge. As each ticket number was called, the holder had their choice of a number of items on the table.

We also had seven show and tell participants with first place going to Rich Mossholder for his computer generated/printed building; future of custom buildings where no kits are available. Second place went to Tom Comyns for his kit built Walthers motorized railroad bridge.

We received about \$40 in raffle receipts.

The current bank balance stands at \$2262.59

David Grundman, Chief Clerk and Paymaster

Membership Report - Gus Campagna

As of August 2025, the Redwood Empire Division has 103 members.

Welcome New Members!
Cary and Paul Beatie

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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 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!

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 !!!

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

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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

Convention 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

In Memoriam: Ron Plies

From Steve Skold:

Former Redwood Empire Division member and Pacific Coast Region President Ron Plies passed away in Boise, Idaho, on Saturday, May 31st. He had been in poor health for several years. He had a severe fall several days before he died. Ron was a long-time insurance agent in Fortuna, CA, before he retired. His love was the Southern Pacific RR, and he was a member of the Southern Pacific Historical Society. He built a module of the Port Costa yard and ferry slips where the Southern Pacific crossed the Carquinez Straits to Benicia before the building of the Carquinez Straits railroad bridge was built in 1930. He was Mr. Clean, and he was MMR 409. He was a great friend and I will miss him.

Steve Skold

SUMMER 2025 RED MEETING



Twenty-two members of the RED group attended the Summer 2025 Redwood Empire Division meeting. Superintendent Doug Smith opened the meeting, and members introduced themselves before proceeding to the Show & Tell presentations. Al Merkrebs updated the members on the new RED website and encouraged them to take part in the online activities on the site. Eight engaging presentations were given by Mike Davis, Rich Mossholder, John Follansbee, Tom Comyns, David Hale, Dave Grundman, Joe Deveney, and Ron Kaiser. Rich Mossholder and Tom Comyns were awarded for having the most interesting Show & Tell presentations. A review of each presentation can be found on the following pages.

After lunch, Jon Schmidt and Michael Litant gave presentations. Jon discussed the car order system used on Paul Weiss's Central Vermont Railway model railroad, and Michael followed with a presentation on the perspective of a clerk working with card orders on the Central Vermont Railway. The meeting concluded with the raffle ticket and door prize presentations, during which Al Merkrebs winning a HO scale model of a Spokane, Portland & Seattle diesel locomotive.

Thanks to Ed Merrin and Al Mekrebs for providing the photos of the meeting.

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SPRING 2025 RED MEETING

Door Prize Winner - Al Merkrebs



Thank you Dave!



A big "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.

Continued on next page

Show & Tell

We were very fortunate in having 8 Show & Tell presentations at the Summer RED meeting. Many thanks to Mike, Rich, John, Tom, David H, Dave G, Joe, and Ron for taking the time to show us a part of their model railroading activities. We want to encourage other members to share their railroading (model and prototype) with us.

This Meetings Show & Tell Winners



1st - Rich Mossholder \$75



2nd - Tom Comyns \$25

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Show & Tell

Mike Davis - DCC Decoder Installation

Mike Davis installed a dcc sound decoder in a Southern Pacific 2-8-0 brass locomotive and described the challenges with the installation. Mike business, Davis DCC, does DCC installations, repairs and lighting.

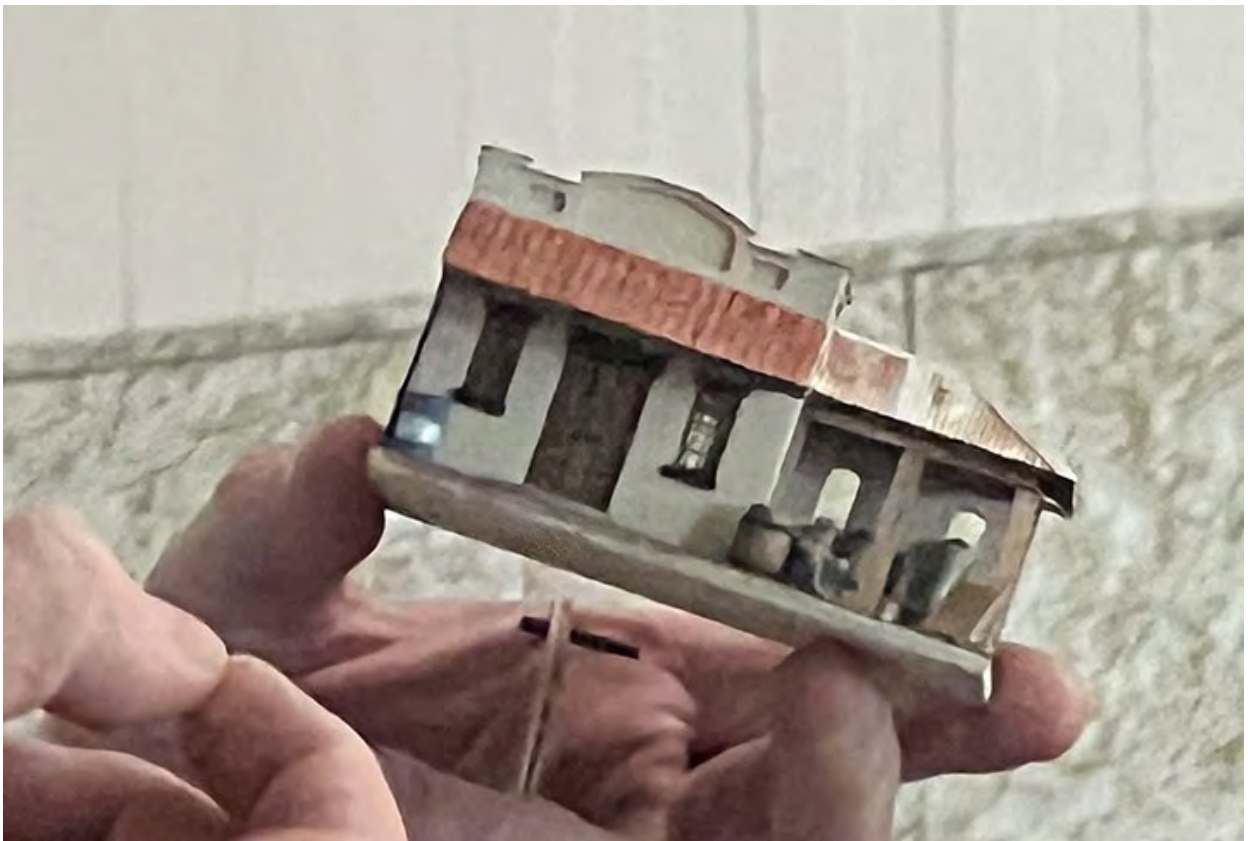


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Show & Tell

Rich Mossholder -

Rich Mossholder's show-and-tell was a mission-style depot that he scratch-built. Designing the depot, he used AutoCAD LT 2024 to create the detailed drawings. He then transferred the drawings to his laser cutter and cut out the parts in 1/64" laser board and 1/16" plywood. He assembled the walls, doors, and windows as usual. He painted the model by stippling chalk paint with a stiff brush to give it a stucco finish. He added a full interior, featuring both scratch-built parts and figures. Since this structure will be incorporated with the Rio Chama section of his layout, he added some details and figures that Malcolm Furlow painted.



Continued on next page

Show & Tell

John Follansbee - Railroad Book

John Follansbee, a retired RR worker new to the model railroading, got a book of railroad photos and discovered a picture of himself on page 9 of the book!



Continued on next page

Show & Tell

Tom Comyns - Draw Bridge Construction

Tom enjoys building railroad structures, bridges, tunnels, you name it, as much as he enjoys trains themselves. This model is a drawbridge built from a Walther's Cornerstone kit. In fact, this kit is still available on the Walthers website.

Tom provides a description of the model and model-building process on page 38.



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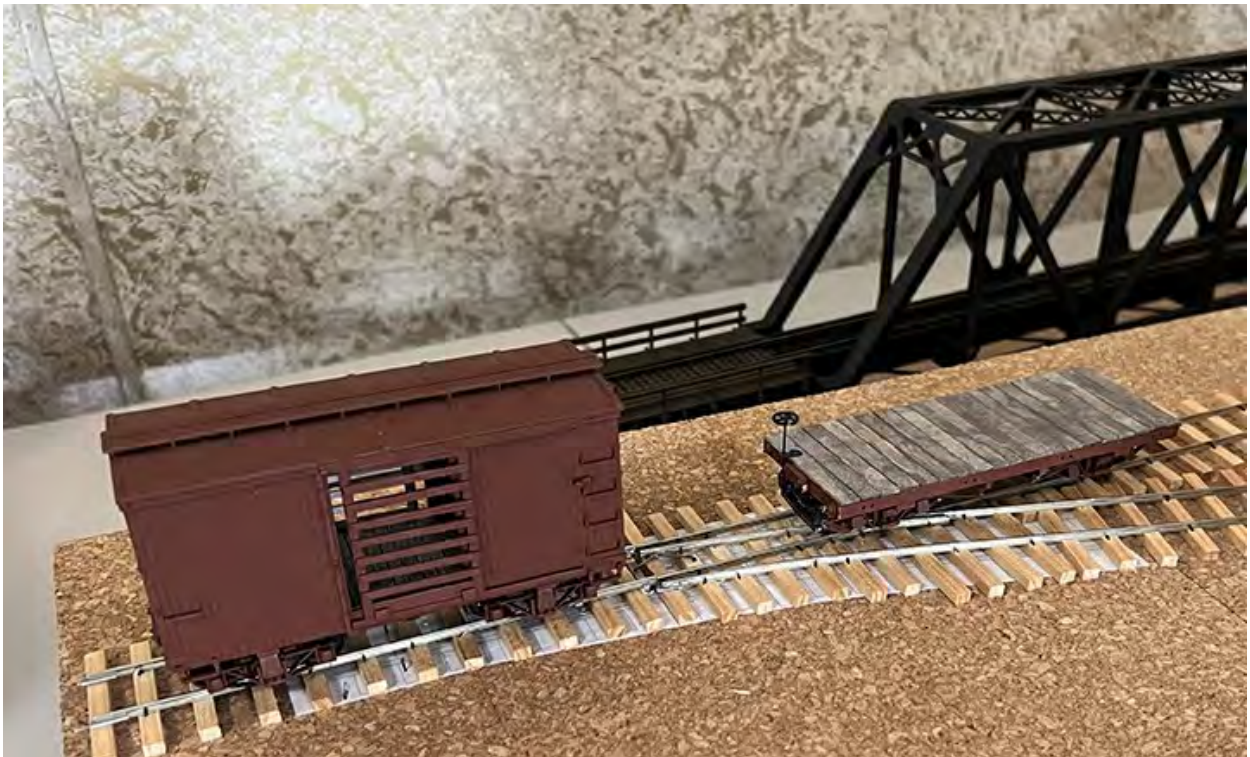
Show & Tell

David Hale - On30 Model Railroading

I chose to model the Petaluma & Haystack RR, the third railroad built in the state. It was built in 1864, and there are only a few hints at its actual history. A penny-pinching steamboat magnate built it, and there are still remains of the wharf on the Petaluma River where his steamboats would unload goods and ship products of the growing city of Petaluma. There is no record of whether the railroad was standard or narrow gauge. Narrow gauge was cheaper to build, appropriate for the stinginess of the builder, so I am modeling the railroad in On30.



I had been away from model railroading for about 50 years, so I am building my modeling skills. I brought a hand-spiked functioning stub switch, appropriate for the era, and both a wooden flat car built from an Evergreen Hill Designs kit and a kit-bashed Bachmann On30 boxcar. The stub switch uses an over-center spring for operation. There are a few online videos available showing how to build them.



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Show & Tell

Dave Grundman - Small Projects for Enjoyment

Over the years, I have collected a number of building kits and have realized that my layout does not have sufficient space for all of the buildings, at least in their original footprint size. I reduced the size of the footprint of some buildings (cut them in half) so that more would fit on my layout.



My show/tell was centered around houses. I once lived in a small town in Iowa in the early 1950s (my uncle was the mayor there for 30-years). The town had a store, post office, gas station, a restaurant, and two grain elevators and last count, about 225 people. Those old elevators have been replaced with 12 concrete silos and a grain dryer.

I took an interest in replicating part of the town on my layout. Many years ago, Sears and other companies sold a line of kit houses. That is, a complete real house that would arrive at your property in several boxes for the DIYer. So, I now have several houses, a gas station and a one room Iowa school house complete two outhouses (loved those outhouses on a cold Iowa morning). Today, the town has a modern sewer system and many other modern small-town amenities. The house for my show/tell has glass windows (microscope slide covers), door knobs (pin heads) and a screen door (tea bag material).



Continued on next page

Show & Tell

Joe Deveney - North Shore Models

Joe Deveney showed brass models and literature from his collection of North Shore Line equipment.



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Show & Tell

Ron Kaiser - Small Business Office Model

Ron Kaiser showed a nice model he built of a small industrial office for his Western Pacific model railroad layout.



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Silent Auction

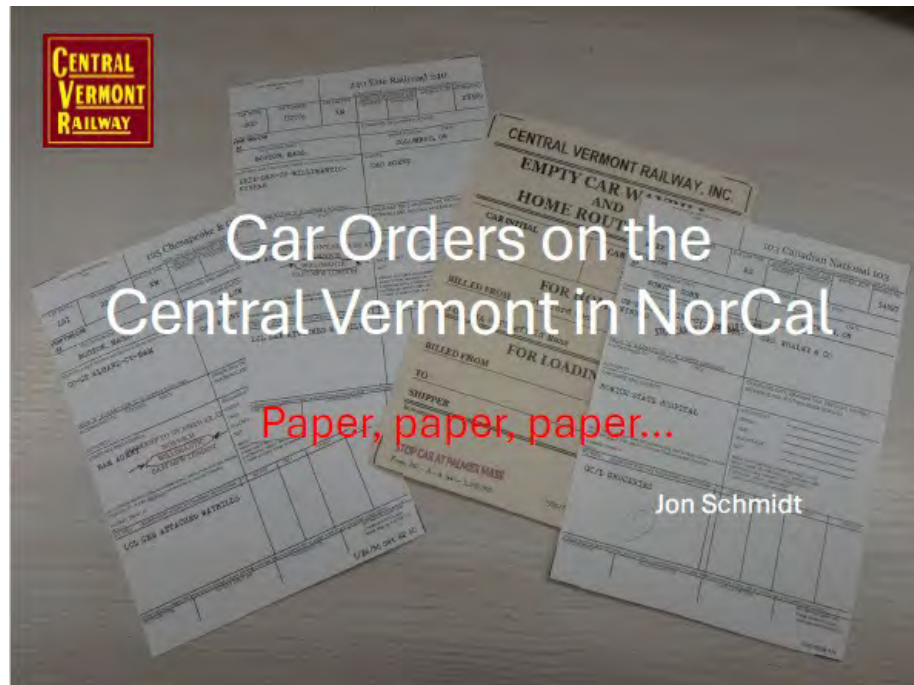
Dave Croshere presented books and models donated by Ernie Simard for auction to RED members attending the meeting.



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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt



1956 - The World Runs On Paper

- No computers
- No email
- No cell phones
- Teletype or telex is state of the art
- Tabulating machines & punched cards
- Lots of copies, carbon paper, flimsies



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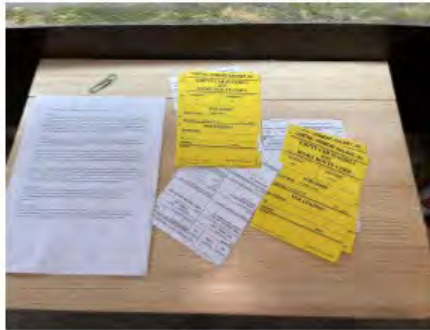
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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

Railroads Ran On Paper



- Armies of clerks and agents
 - Passenger tickets
 - Train orders
 - Waybills
 - Empty car orders
 - Car movement instructions
 - Bookkeeping
 - Etc...

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How Much To Model?

- I hate paper approach:
 - "Mother May I" train movement
 - Or CTC or TWC or some such
 - Or anarchy
 - Simple car moves
 - Drop 1 take 1
 - Car cards
- Or - Reproduce the prototype experience for the modeled period
 - The crew experience becomes more realistic & challenging

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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

Central Vermont in NorCal

- Create as authentic an experience as possible
- Timetable & Train Order dispatching Offsite dispatcher
- Clerks, Agents & agent offices with signaling, arrival detection, and layout views
- Manually copied train orders



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Central Vermont in NorCal



- Crews receive train orders, waybills, and empty car orders and must figure out the moves
- Typical car makes at least 2 “hops” to get to its destination
- Clerk/agent-created switch lists for yards and larger towns
- Station bill boxes for smaller towns

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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

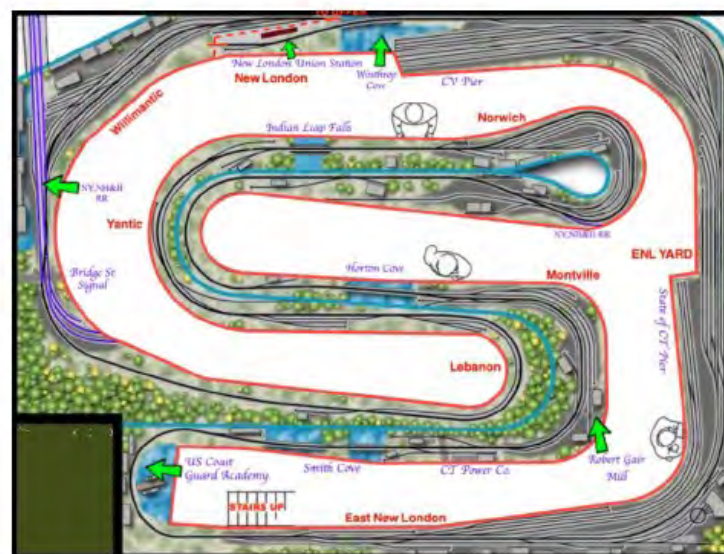
Paul Weiss' Central Vermont in NorCal

- HO scale
- Large – 30' x 40' building plus a 10' x 20' annex including Clerk's office
- Dispatcher's separate building/team workshop
- Two under-layout agents' offices
- 600 cars
- 100+ industries
- South staging in the annex: NHRR New London, Boston, Cedar Hill
- Main building: East New London to Palmer
- North staging interchanges:
 - Brattleboro, St Albans, Montreal, White River
- Three on-railroad interchanges: 2 NHRR, B&A (NYC)

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Lower Level



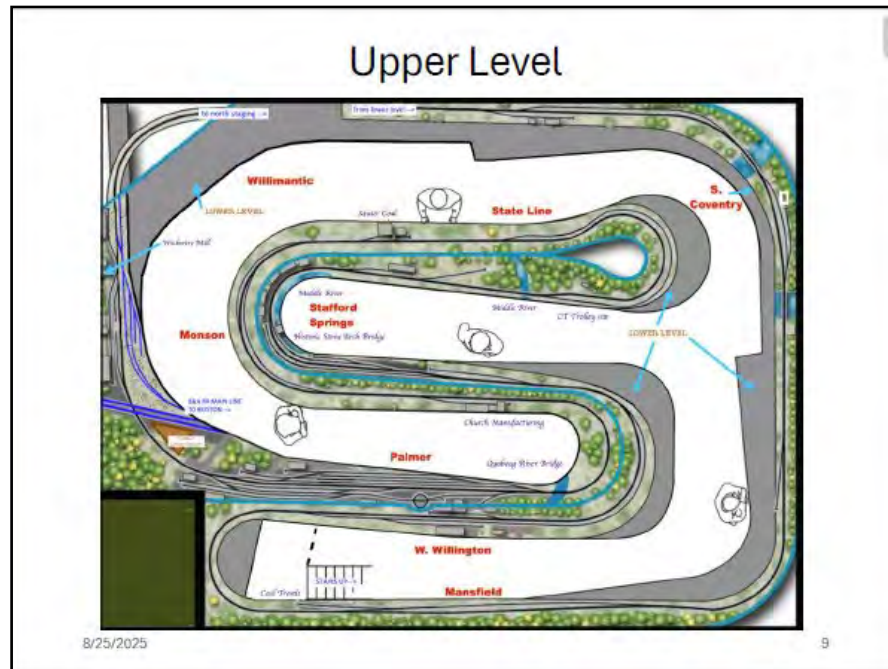
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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt



Car Movement

- Originally JMRI Operations
- Movement based on extensive local industry research
 - Custom loads & JMRI Ops schedules
- Generated manifests per train
- Generated switch lists for key towns
- *"Not prototypical enough"*
- How to fix?
- Take one district?
- Create waybills for those industries?
- How to integrate with JMRI Ops?
- Prototypical waybills & empty car orders
 - See Tony Thompson's blog
 - We found examples of CV waybills, none of empty orders

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Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

Spot an empty car for loading (*MTY*)

CENTRAL VERMONT RAILWAY, INC.	
EMPTY CAR WAYBILL AND HOME ROUTE CARD	
CAR INITIAL DATE	CAR NUMBER 3500
FOR HOME BILLED FROM	
TO OR VIA	R.R.
FOR LOADING BILLED FROM CT ALBANY VT	
TO	YAMUO COW
SHIPPER	WOODLAND DAIRY
	SIGN

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1994/1995 was 202.

Form 567-1, 4-44 (Rev. 1-30-60)

10/24/2004 Wed 02

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PLANT SPECIAL DELIVERIES (SEE)		195 Delaware & Hudson 195			
CAR INITIALS	CAR NUMBER	AND CAR TYPE	TO BE FILLED BY TERMINAL OPERATOR/STATION AND LOGS AND LOGS		DATE OF DELIVERY
EO	265M41	XM	EFFECTIVE EXPIRY OF CAR		95/10
STOP THIS CAR AT			CONCRETE AND AGGREGATE STOP		
TO STATION STATE			FROM STATION STATE		
NEW LONDON, CONN			GLEN FALLS, NY		
RECEIPT NUMBER AND LOCATION AND DATE TO BE FILLER FOR DELIVERY LOG					
D&E-ROUSES POINT NY- CV			GLEN FALLS PORTLAND CEMENT CO		
RETURN TO AGENT OR TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS					
RETURNED TO STATION STATE			ORDER NO AND DATE, ORIGINAL CAR, PREVIOUS VEHICLE REFERENCE AND RETURN WITH EN REBILLED		
AUTHORITY					
CONCRETE AND AGGREGATE					
FINAL DESTINATION AND AGGREGATE ROUTING					
CHAPMAN FUEL & LUMBER CO					
SPOT AT PEAN TRACK, NOTIFY CONSTONE					
NOTED BY CONCRETE AND AGGREGATE OPERATOR					
DATE OF DELIVERY					
465 NOW BAGS CEMENT					
RECEIVED BY					
DATE OF DELIVERY					
RECEIVED BY					
DATE OF DELIVERY					

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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

The Crews Receive Car Orders

- Conductors receive an order for each car in their train
- Must interpret the order to manage the car and train
- At each town there may be more orders for the train
 - Lifts, moves
- A definite challenge!

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The Crews Receive Car Orders

- Towns not covered by agents have bill boxes
- Crews receive keys for each box on their route



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Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

- Your train is 1st Montville: East New London to Yantic turn
- This car is in your train – What do you do with it?
- Answer: Simple drop at Yantic
- (Note the routing for the bigger picture.)

[illegible]

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- Your train is No 430
Montreal – East New
London
- This car is in your train –
What do you do with it?
- Your train passes
through but does not
work Monson.
- Answer: Drop at Palmer
for a local to pick up.
- Clue: Clerk will stamp
the WB with the
intermediate drop.

[illegible]

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Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

- Your train is No 430
Montreal – East New
London
- How do I get this car to
Richmond, VA?
- Clue: Route box:
Arriving from the CN at
Rouses Point (north
staging) and going to
the NH at ENL

[illegible]

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- Your train is the 1st Montville
- It picks up the car in Norwich
- How does it get to Columbia, TN?
- Answer:
 - Norwich to ENL Yard
 - Then it goes to Palmer on another train
 - Then it goes to the B&A (NYC) interchange to get to Springfield and onward

120 Central Vermont Railroad 120 120 0000 TRACKS ANIMAL FEED		120 0000 TRACKS ANIMAL FEED 120 0000 TRACKS ANIMAL FEED	
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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

Help Is On The Way

- JOps feature provides the complete route:
- Routing:
 - Springfield Mass (Springfield Spurs)-> [Springfield Local 1st]-> Palmer Mass (B&A Interchange 3)-> [Palmer Moves 1st]-> Palmer Mass (Class CarSit430)-> [No 430 Newsboy]-> East New London CT (Class ENL SW)-> [ENL South Switcher 1st]-> ENL CV Pier (CV Pier)

[illegible]

35052 MEC From: Springfield Mass Springfield Spurs To: New London CT CV Pier 4
Routing: Springfield Mass (Springfield Spurs) -> (Springfield Local 1st) -> Palmer Mass (B&A Interchange 3) -> (Palmer Moves 1st) -> Palmer Mass (Class CarSt430) -> (No 430 Newbury) -> East New London CT (Class ENL Sw) -> (ENL South Switcher 1st) -> ENL CV Pier (CV Pier 3/1/2025 10:31 AM

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Help Is On The Way

[illegible][illegible]

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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

Help Is On The Way

- Clerk team is indispensable
- They use the JOps data to create switch lists for the ENL YM and crews:
 - Departing train makeup
 - Arriving train classification



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Help Is On The Way

- Station agents are indispensable
- They manage TT&TO train orders, signals, and car orders for certain towns during the session
- They use the JOps data to create local Lift/Move/Drop switch lists for each train at that town



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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

Nuts and Bolts

- JMRI Operations for all car movement
- Each day is two shifts (tricks)
- Each trick must complete before starting the next
- 72 JOps *schedules* across 116 spurs
- JOps *automation* to build trains
 - Export car file *BOD
 - Build trains 1st trick
 - Export car file *S1
 - Terminate trains
 - Export car file *S1end
 - Build trains 2nd trick
 - Export car file *S2
 - Terminate trains
 - Export car file *EOD

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Nuts and Bolts

- *S1 and *S2 files contain cars, the associated trains, and the CV route for each
- Run Excel program against *S1 and *S2 files
 - Creates WaybillCarsS*.xls and EmptyCarsS*.xls
- Run MS Word mail merge to create the car orders
- Print, cut, sort and distribute
 - 250 new orders out of 530 cars moved
- Car move history DB
- Car order history DB

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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

WaybillCarRouteIndustry DB

- Updated each build if necessary
 - New *from/to/type* combination
- Excel phase identifies combination not yet in WCRI DB
 - I make first add industries etc. for the combo (OPSIG)
 - Jim fixes

Rowid	2
From	springfield
To	W Willington Team
Car Type	XM
FromIndustry	A M BYERS CO
FromAddr	
FromStation	PITTSBURG, PENN
ToIndustry	MORRISON KNUDSEN
ToAddr	SPOT AT TEAM TRACK, NOTIFY CONSIGNEE
ToStation	W WILLINGTON, CONN
Commodity / Article	30 CRATES SEWER PIPE
Routing	PRR SHARON, PENN-NYC ALBANY-B&A PALMER-CV
OriginRR	PRR
Title	620 Pennsylvania 620
Instructions	
Notes	

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From	To	Car Type	FromIndustry	FromAddr	FromStation	ToIndustry	ToAddr	ToStation	Commodity / Article	Routing	OriginRR	Title	Instructions	Notes
1	St Albans	xx Fort Yard	TM	A E STALEY	DECATUR, ILL	VITA FOOD	PROD. OF WID	CHESTERTOWN, MD	CORN SYRUP	WAB CV-E ALBURN-CV-NEW LONDON-WYHSH-L&NE-BELVIDERE-PER PRR-SHARON, PENN-NYC ALBANY-B&A-PALMER-CV	WAB	825 Wabash Railroad		VIA ENL to NHRR FT. THRU S
2	springfield	W Willington Team XM	A M BYERS CO		PITTSBURG, PENN	MORRISON KNUDSEN	SPOT AT TEAM TRACK, NOTIFY CONSIGNEE	WILLINGTON, CONN	30 CRATES SEWER PIPE	PRR SHARON, PENN-NYC ALBANY-B&A-PALMER-CV	PRR	620 Pennsylvania 620		
3	newscott	newscott	XM	ARIBI POWER	MONTEREAL, PQ	SCRANTON LITHO CO		SCRANTON, PENNA	C/L NEWSPRINT D&H	CM ROULES	CM	108 Canadian National 103		Thru - Montreal - Ft
4	Montreal	REGISTER	XM	ARIBI POWER	MONTEREAL, PQ	PALMER REGISTER		PALMER, MASS	C/L NEWSPRINT D&H	CM ROULES	CM	108 Canadian National 103		
5	NH RR Fort Va CV PIER 4	XM	ACL AGENT	ATLANTA, GA	CVRR AGENT	4	CV PIER TRACK	NEW LONDON, CONN	ATTACHED WAYBILLS	ACL RFP-PER-WYHSH-CV	ACL	28 Atlantic Coast Line 28		THRU S
6	NH RR Fort Va CV PIER 4	XM	ACL AGENT	ATLANTA, GA	CVRR AGENT	4	CV PIER TRACK	NEW LONDON, CONN	ATTACHED WAYBILLS	ACL RFP-PER-WYHSH-CV	ACL	28 Atlantic Coast Line 28		
7	St Albans	JONES & LAUGHLIN	GB	AIR CONDITIONING PRODUCTS CO.	THOMPSONVILLE, ILL	JONES & LAUGHLIN		IND. WILLIAMANTIC, CONN	DUCTWORK	C&O-SARNA, ONT.-CN-E ALBURN-CV-CM-CHICAGO-STW-DTROT.-FORMALDEHYD	C&O	128 Chesapeake & Ohio 125		
8	St Albans	van tassel	TM	ALBA MANUFACTURING CO.	AUBURN, ILL	VAN TASSEL	LEATHER	NORWICH, CONN	FORMALDEHYD	CN-E ALBURN-CV	CMH	131 Chicago & North Western 131		

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Continued on next page

Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

Summary: Car Orders on the CV

- 1 day, 2 tricks:
 - 250 *new* car orders
 - 525 cars moved out of 600 under JOps
 - 27 trains
 - 26 towns
 - 116 spurs
- JMRI Operations
 - JOps *schedule* per industry
 - 309 *schedule* rules across the industries
 - Rules for each staging track
 - Virtual yard tracks for classification
 - Virtual staging tracks

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Summary: Car Orders on the CV

- We have 1 chief and 2 assistant clerks
 - Handle all the paper
 - Keep car orders with the cars
 - Switch lists
- 2 agent/operators
 - Train orders and signals
 - Local switch lists



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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont in NorCal - Jon Schmidt

Car Orders on the CV

Central Vermont in Norcal: <https://www.cvrailroad.com/>

Facebook: CVRR in Northern CA

Central Vermont Railway Historical Society: <https://cvrhs.com/>

My Nicasio Northern Rwy: <https://nnrwy.trxnndesign.com/>

Tony Thompson's blog: <https://modelingthesp.blogspot.com/>

JMRI Home: <https://www.jmri.org/>

Operations Special Interest Group: <https://opsig.org/>

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Summary: Car Orders on the CV



- New car order generated each time:
 - Car leaving an industry with load or *empty-MTY*
 - Car leaving staging with load or *MTY*
- Printed on heavier paper 24#
- 5x7 format

8/25/2025

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Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont - A Clerks Eye View

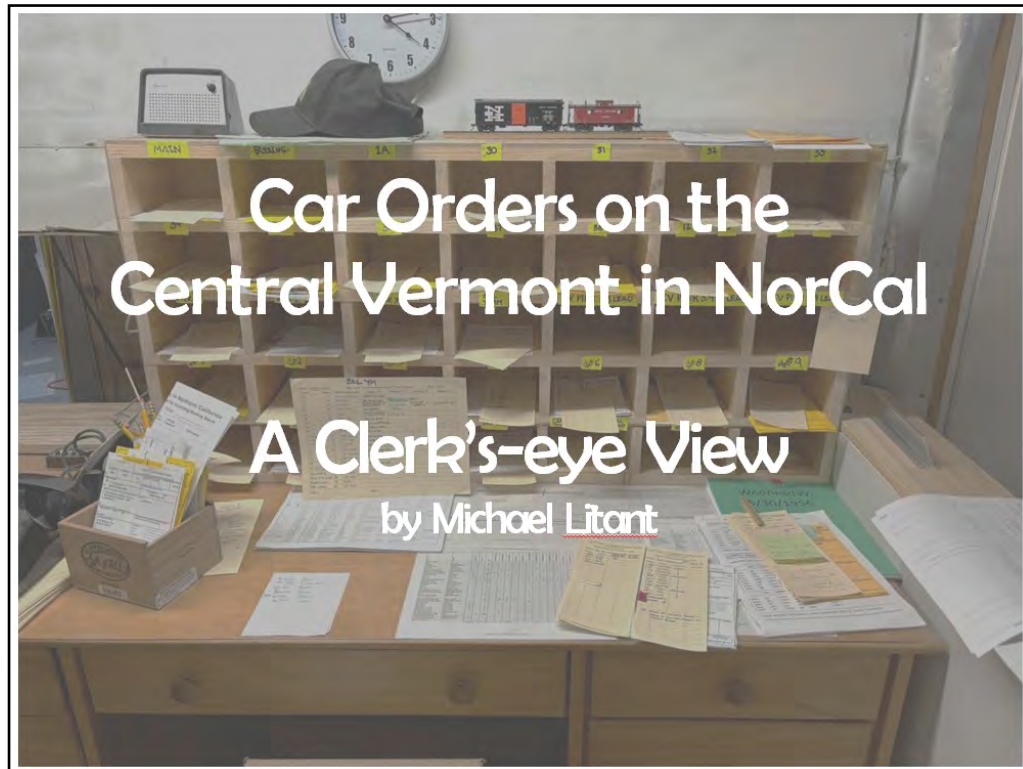
Michael Litant

On the Central Vermont Railway in Northern California, train conductors departing East New London (ENL) Yard receive waybills and empty car orders for each car in their train. Car orders for additional pickups en route come from Agents or from locked bill boxes at towns not covered by Agents.

Meanwhile, yard crews at ENL Yard make up and break up departing and arriving throughout the operating session (representing either a day or night shift) from hand-written switchlists.

Bundles of car orders and en route pickups for conductors, and switchlists for yard crews, are put together before—and—during each operating session by the ENL Yard's Clerks' office.

This presentation outlined the operational side of sorting and distributing car orders for the cars moved across the railroad each operating session and developing car location reports and a track assignment form to write switchlists to assemble, classify, and locate the hundreds of cars which occupy ENL Yard, its local industries, and its piers at all times during an operating session.



Continued on next page




Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont - A Clerks Eye View

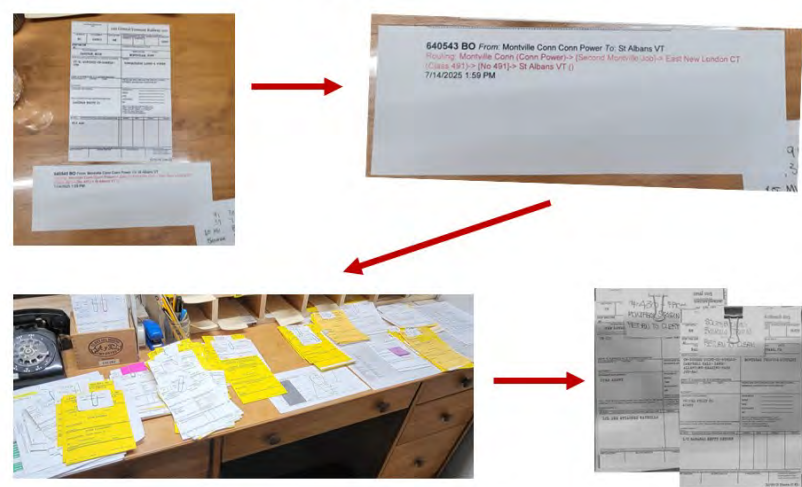
Michael Litant

How Do Car Orders Get From Here ... to There?

Name	Date modified	Type
aaWaybillDBs	7/14/2025 4:15 PM	File folder
manifests	6/1/2025 7:54 PM	File folder
switchLists	6/1/2025 7:55 PM	File folder
CarMoveHistory.xlsx	5/29/2025 5:34 PM	Microsoft Excel Worksheet
CarOrderHistory.xlsx	7/19/2025 11:30 AM	Microsoft Excel Worksheet
ExportOperationsCarRosterBOD.csv	5/29/2025 4:03 PM	Microsoft Excel Comma Separated Values File
ExportOperationsCarRosterEOD.csv	5/29/2025 4:56 PM	Microsoft Excel Comma Separated Values File
ExportOperationsCarRosterSL.csv	5/29/2025 4:54 PM	Microsoft Excel Comma Separated Values File
ExportOperationsCarRosterSLend.csv	5/29/2025 4:55 PM	Microsoft Excel Comma Separated Values File
ExportOperationsCarRosterS2.csv	5/29/2025 4:55 PM	Microsoft Excel Comma Separated Values File
TrainSummary2505.xlsx	5/29/2025 5:34 PM	Microsoft Excel Worksheet

Assembling the New Car Orders



Continued on next page

Car Orders on the Central Vermont - A Clerks Eye View

Michael Litant

[illegible]

Managing Car Orders in ENL and Fort Yards



Between sessions, a full inventory is taken; if needed, the listings are again updated..

Continued on next page

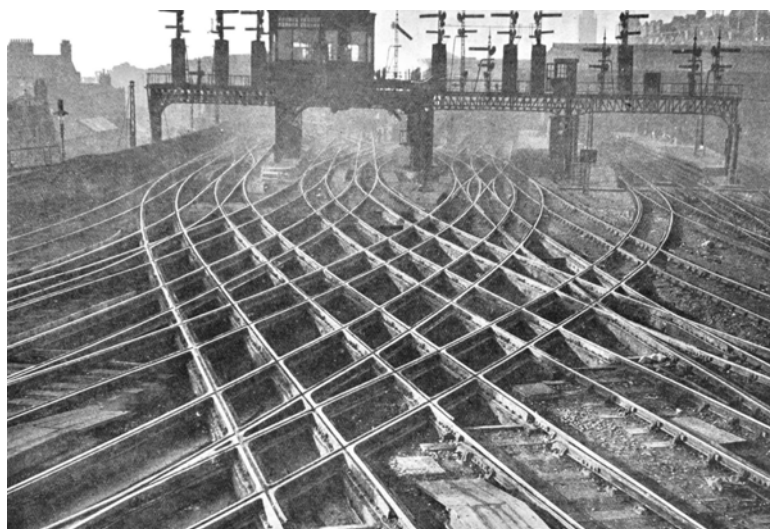
Presentations

Car Orders on the Central Vermont - A Clerks Eye View Michael Litant

Updates During the Operating Session

Most of the clerks' work can be done in advance of an operating session, but not all.

- Arriving trains need their classification switchlist written in the same order that the cars are in, so that must be done after a train arrives in ENL Yard.
- Classification switchlists for the returning local North and South switching jobs also need to be written in car sequence.
- The ENL Yard Track Assignment form is updated on word from the Yardmaster, who may move cuts of cars or trains to different yard tracks at any time.



Continued on next page

Tom Comyns Draw Bridge

I enjoy railroad structures, bridges, tunnels, you name it, as much as I enjoy trains themselves. This model is a drawbridge built from a Cornerstone kit, made in Denmark. In fact, this kit is still available on the Walther's website. This model is based on a Northern Pacific Bascule Bridge that crosses the Duwamish River in Seattle, Washington. In fact, the bridge is still used today by the BNSF.

I'll have to say, however, this is not the easiest kit I've ever built, and the instructions are somewhat vague. Unfortunately, the instructions lack detail, and a few parts were omitted from both the diagrams and the written steps, making it a bit of a challenge to assemble.

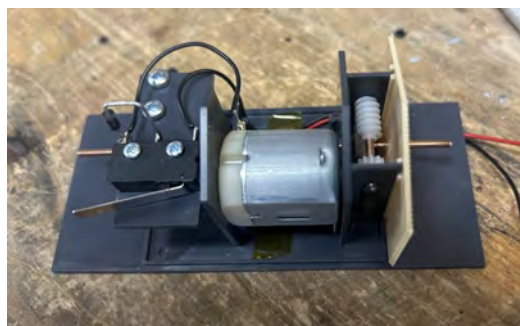


As I assembled the bridge I painted it with flat black Rust-Oleum spray paint. In addition to weathering the bridge, I affixed it to a stand that hid the two 9 V batteries, wired in parallel with a 6 V voltage regulator, so that it could be operable without plugging it in. Look for the bridge installed on a RED members layout in the upcoming 2026 convention.



Continued on next page

Tom Comyns Draw Bridge



[Video: Tom's Drawbridge Closing](#)

Tool Tips

A Tool for Working with LEDs - Jon Schmidt

Here's a simple tool that I use frequently when I'm working with LEDs or lamps. I like to set the brightness at a point less than full light, but selecting the proper resistance is a bit of trial and error.

With this tool I can power up the light and adjust the resistance until I am satisfied. Always start with the pot dial set to the 5K ohm mark, and then dial it down. I then use my VOM to see where the potentiometer is set and select a resistor accordingly. The pot in the little case is a 5K ohm potentiometer, 2 watt, RV4NAYSD502A .



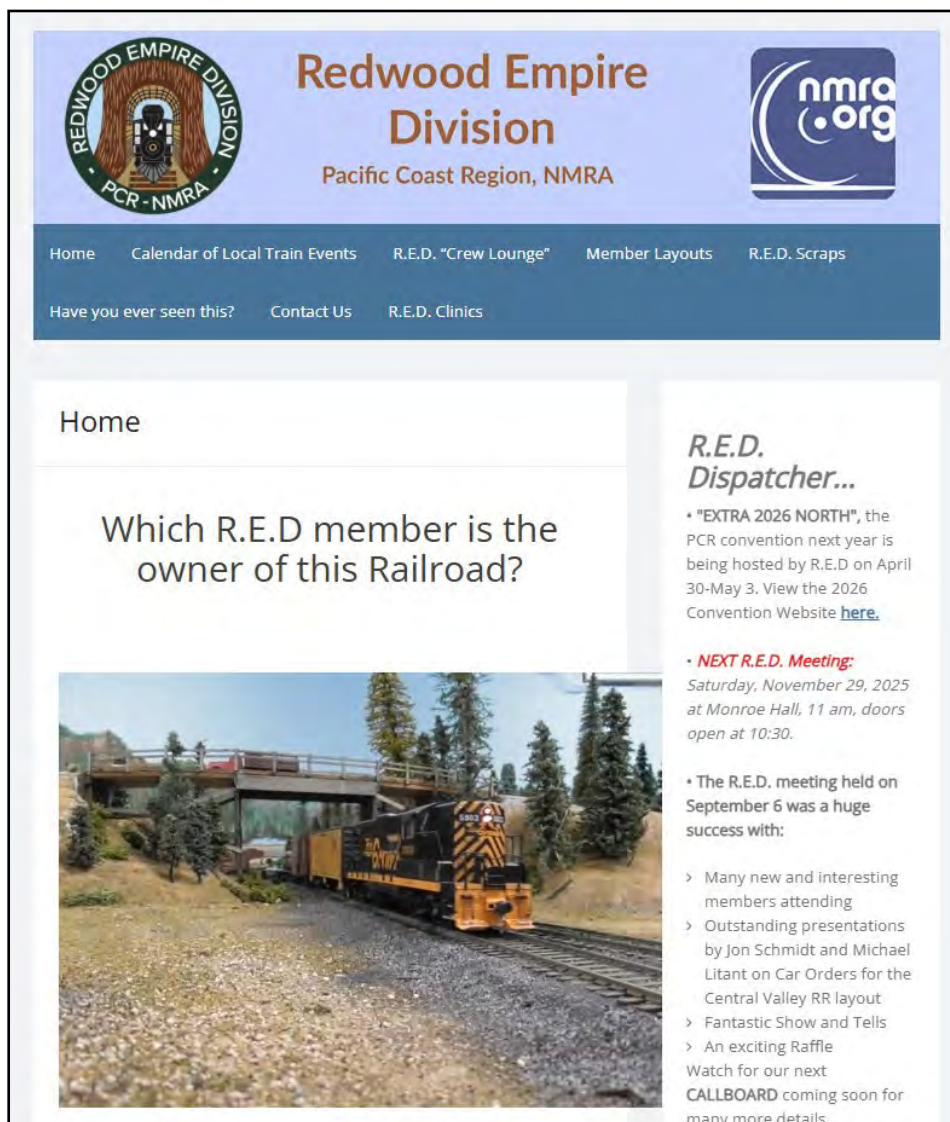
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Redwood Empire Division Website

You're Invited to Explore the Brand New Redwood Empire Division Website

Al Merkrebs invites you to peruse the new Redwood Empire Division website. He was worked hard to make the website interactive by providing RED members a variety of ways to share and interact with each other.

Home Page - 1




Continued on next page

Redwood Empire Division Website

Home Page - 2

***Interactive quizzes about railroading.
Access to current and past issues of the Callboard.***

Click [here](#) to see the answer and get a bit more information.



How much do you know about Railroads?


Click [here](#) to look at some interesting quizzes.

rss_feed_pro_sort id='2020'

CALLBOARD coming soon for many more details.


- The dates for the next 5 R.E.D meetings, all on a Saturday, are:

- > Nov 29 (4th Saturday)
- > March 21, 2026 (3rd Saturday)
- > June 20, 2026 (3rd Saturday)
- > Sept 19, 2026 (3rd Saturday)
- > Dec 12, 2026 (2nd Saturday)



CALLBOARD
Read the current issue

Read previous issues



Follow us on Facebook

Continued on next page

Redwood Empire Division Website

Calendar

Calendar of Local Train Events

Today < > September 2025 Month

SUN 31	MON Sep 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
				Coastal Valley L		Redwood Empir • 11am R.E.D. m
7 Redwood Empir	8	9	10	11 2025 Western P	12 2025 Western P	13 2025 Western P
14 2025 Western P	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Mendocino Coa
28	29	30	Oct 1	2 Coastal Valley L	3	4 Redwood Emp

R.E.D. Calendar
 Events shown in time zone: (GMT-07:00) Pacific Time - Los Angeles
[Add to Google Calendar](#)

Google Calendar

Continued on next page

Redwood Empire Division Website

R.E.D. Crew Lounge

***Interact with RED members on current topics
or create a new topic for discussion.***

R.E.D. "Crew Lounge"

Let's jabber about trains and modeling here!

- To create a New Topic:
 1. Click on the blue Create New Topic link below.
 2. Then fill in both the 'Topic Title' and the text box that appears below that.
 3. Finally, click on the red Submit button.
- To Reply to a topic:
 1. Click on the topic.
 2. Then click on the Create New Reply button.
 3. Write your reply in the text box that appears below.
 4. Finally, click on the red Submit button.

[Create New Topic](#)

Viewing 3 topics - 1 through 3 (of 3 total)

Topic	Voices	Posts	Last Post
Thoughts on our last R.E.D. meeting on Sept. 6, 2025? Started by: Anonymous	1	1	5 days, 21 hours ago Anonymous
Does anyone need help with their railroad? Started by: Anonymous	1	1	3 weeks, 2 days ago Anonymous
What's the latest change or addition you've made to your layout? Started by: Anonymous	1	1	3 months, 1 week ago Anonymous

Viewing 3 topics - 1 through 3 (of 3 total)

Create New Topic in "R.E.D. Crew Lounge"

Topic Title (Maximum Length: 80):

Continued on next page

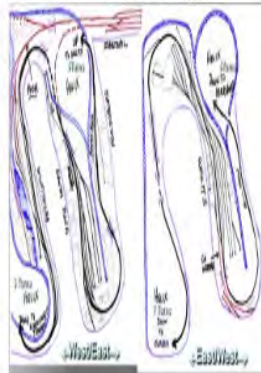
Redwood Empire Division Website

RED Member's Layouts

Member Layouts

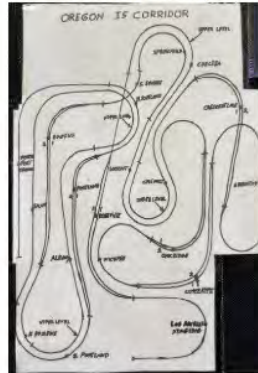
Ed Merrin's Northwestern Pacific Railroad

Click on the image below to see a video of Ed's layout



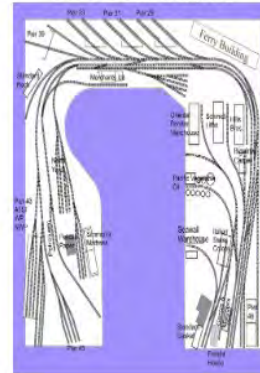
Bill Horstmeyer's Union Pacific RR over the Cascades in Oregon

Click on the image below to see a slideshow of Bill's layout.



Bill Kaufman's State Belt RR

Click on the image below to see a video of Bill's Layout



Gus Campagna's CWR (aka the "Skunk Train")

Click on the image below to see a running view of the layout from a camera in the cab (with soundtrack)



Jon Schmidt's Nicasio Northern Railway

Click on the image below to see a slideshow of Jon's layout.

NICASIO NORTHERN RAILWAY									
Station	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
3	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
4	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
5	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
6	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
7	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
8	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
9	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
10	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

Steve Skold's former Whiskeytown and Shasta Railroad

Click on the image below to see a video of Steve's former layout



Continued on next page

Redwood Empire Division Website

R.E.D. Scraps

Interesting information about Bay Area railroading.

R.E.D. Scraps

May 27, 2025 red.webmaster@pcrnmra.net

Railroads in Marin County



Alan Barret's Facebook post of the old Haystack Bridge in Petaluma.

If you have a Facebook account, you can click the image below to see the full post in Facebook.



A History of Trains and Railroads in Santa Rosa, CA

In this post, we take a trip back in time and see how trains helped Santa Rosa

THE CLUB CAR

Bulletin 742 Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. June 2025

Ride the M200 Railbus

The M200 waiting for passengers at the Sunset Depot.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 June Schedule
- 6 Along the Right-of-Way
- 10 Tales of the Past
- 12 Break-Down Report
- 15 Members 4th of July Photo

These slides and fully detailed, each presented as California (Historic) Bulletin for a unique experience of riding M200 of our Sunset Depot around Petaluma. During our June operating weekends (June 14-15 & 21-22) in addition to our regular Sunol Depot train runs, we are offering the unique chance to ride M200 for Sunset Depot, our 4th California Division M200 operation with the M200 of this club. It is a self-propelled vehicle.

with just 30 seats available for each trip, the photos will only 2 you seats to ride on this club. The M200 will depart Sunset Depot at 11:00 am and will return to Sunset Depot at 12:00 pm.

There are two departures on each day: 11:00 am and 12:00 pm.

June 14 - 11:00 am - Sunset Depot
June 15 - 12:00 pm - Sunset Depot
June 21 - 11:00 am - Sunset Depot
June 22 - 12:00 pm - Sunset Depot

OUR MESSAGE: To be an operating railroader for standard gauge railroading, govt. owned and future with emphasis on the Western United States and special emphasis on the Western California.

NILES CANYON RAILWAY

MEETINGS

General Members Meeting
**FRIDAY
JUNE 13
5:30 PM**

BOARDING LOCATIONS

SUNOL DEPOT
8 Kilbuck Road
Sunol, CA 94586

NILES

Open this PDF in Adobe Acrobat

summarize, and more right from the Acrobat extension. You can hide this at anytime in Preferences.

Close

NCRy_ClubCar_HighRes_2506

Download

Continued on next page

Redwood Empire Division Website

Have you ever seen this?

A changing view of model and prototype railroads.

Have you ever seen this?

From National Geographic's "I Love Trains!"
(edited by R.E.D. webmaster)



Continued on next page

Redwood Empire Division Website

Contact Us

Contact Us

Contact Us

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R.E.D. Clinics

R.E.D. Clinics

Car Orders on the
"Central Vermont RR in
Northern California"
by Jon Schmidt

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).

[Redwood Empire Division Facebook Page](#)



Photos by Ed Merrin

Clubs in the Redwood Empire Division

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](#)

2026 PCR Convention



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 **EXTRA 2026 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/>



2026 NMRA Convention



2026 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION CHATTANOOGA, TN JULY 27 TO AUGUST 2, 2026

Convention Site

<https://www.nmra2026.org/>

Register

<https://www.nmra.org/store/convention>



FALL RED MEETING



**The Fall Redwood Empire Division Meeting
will be held on Saturday, November 29, 2025,
11:00 am (Doors open at 10:30 am).**



**Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Avenue, Santa Rosa
(parking in back)**

***Come Join Us For
Great Model Railroading
Free Door Prizes and Free Lunch!
Bring Something for Show & Tell!***

The Caboose!

