

SHORT LINE

Sierra Division
Superintendent's Report

July 2010

The Silver Rails Convention was a success. We all had a great time and ended up with good weather. The starting weather wasn't as good as there was a winter snow storm and Donner Summit had chain controls. This caused many people to come late. Some took the train instead of driving which included some of the clinic presenters. The clinics started at 1PM and other people stepped up and presented a clinic that wasn't planned and I want to thank them - they saw a need and filled it. We had to cancel the Thursday Donner Summit Tour because of the weather. Everything else went as planned. We had more than 250 registered people. The Saturday tour to the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Mills Park and the V&T ride sold out. The Sierra Division came out in the black financially. The final numbers are not in but we plan to close out the books on Silver Rails soon.

At the start of the convention we lost one of our members. Chuck Gardner passed away. He had been very sick for the last year or two. He helped with the layout tours but others had to finish up because he was so sick. Chuck owned High Sierra Hobbies but hasn't been at work for about a year. He will be missed.

At the Silver Rails Banquet there were several awards. One is the Division Member of the Year. This year our Director Mary Moore-Campagna chose a wonderful man. Dick Klammer, who is the Sierra Division Member of the Year for 2010. This is a well deserved award. He has helped the division in many ways. He was my assistant in the registration dept for the convention. I couldn't have done it without him.

As we planned the Silver Rails Convention I got to know many people from Nevada. They expressed a desire to have more activities in the area. On Thursday afternoon at the convention we had a meeting with the people from this area. There were over 30 people in attendance. We discussed having more activities. On June 12 there was an Eastern Sierra Division Meet in Reno. The group decided that we would like to have about 4 Meets a year in Northern Nevada or eastern California. The group is also going to do the layout tours that have been organized by Chuck Gardner from High Sierra Hobbies.

The next Sierra Division Meet will be July 31. This will be a picnic at the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens. The park is at 4841 Dunsmuir Ave. You exit Interstate 5 at exit 730 turn north and enter the park at the fountain. We have reservations so we will have a space. We will start about 11:30 AM. Richard Hughes, a retired SP Conductor from the Dunsmuir area will be telling us some stories about his career. We will have an opportunity to see Bruce Petty's layout and the Dunsmuir Model Railroad Club. Dunsmuir is a crew change location for the railroad. We hope to see several trains that day. This is a great rail fan area. I expect to have a list of locations at the picnic. Ross Graham who has helped in setting this up says the park is beautiful and the ladies will love it. The park is right on the Sacramento River. The Division will supply the food. We will need to know how many will be attending so please RSVP to me at 530-676-1798 or jimclong@sbcglobal.net. There are several hotels in the area if you want to stay overnight. One is the Railroad Park Resort <http://www.rrpark.com/> 530-235-4440. They have the Caboose Motel where you can get a room for the night in a Caboose. I think there will be several of us staying there. They have a restaurant there and I am

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planning a group dinner. The dinners are \$22 for prime rib or steaks and halibut is about the same. To have a group we will need to RSVP about this as well. We will each have to pay for dinner. I am planning the dinner for about 5 PM. Some of the dining areas are in old railroad cars. This sounds like a good weekend to me.

At the picnic we are going to start another model contest. We have several 1994 PCR Convention Cars. We are going to sell these to our members for \$5 each. If the member brings the car back to our car weathering contest we will give them their money back but the member gets to keep the model. The cars will need to be weathered by any method that the member likes. We are looking to see a large variation in techniques. We will display the weathered cars at the Oct 9 Sierra Meet. We will choose a winner by popular vote. There are a limited number of these cars available so they will be sold on a first come first served basis. If you are not able to get one of these cars you can bring any other weathered equipment.

The next Sierra Division Meet after the picnic will be October 9th at the South Natomas Library and Morrison University in Reno. We will have 2 Division Meets on the same day at the same 1 PM start time. The plan is to have a clinic presented at both locations and connect us together with Skype. This is an Internet service that does video conferencing. The group in Sacramento will be able to see the presenter in Reno and then the people in Reno can see the presenter in Sacramento. We can also do any business with this system. We have used Skype several times in the planning of the Silver Rails Convention. I have used it as a one – on - one video telephone. The system works well but this will be the first time we will be using it for a meeting. We are hoping to get more people involved in Sierra Division this way.

South Natomas Library
2901 Truxel Rd.
Sacramento, CA

Morrison University
10315 Professional Circle #201
Reno, NV

This is the meeting where we will have the election for the office of Superintendent, Chief Clerk and Pay Master. Nominations will be at the July Meet and Picnic. If you would like to run for office or know of someone that is willing please contact Mary who is the Nomination Chairperson.

The next event for us in the Sierra Division is International Railfair. This is our only fund raiser. We need volunteers to sell tickets, staff the Timesaver and the Thomas Train area for the children. If you volunteer you will get free admission to IRF and a ticket to the banquet on Saturday Night. The banquet will be in a different location this year but should be a great night. This is a very important event for Sierra Division. We are looking for your support.

We are looking for some people to do a few jobs for the division. We need a Contest Chairperson, Member Aid Chairperson and Membership Promotion Chairperson. Please contact me if you are interested in these positions. None of these are very hard but they are necessary.

We now have a supplier for Sierra Division Name Tags. The badges cost \$10 each and are available with a pin back or magnet back. If you let me know that you want one. I will get it and you can pay for it at the picnic.

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If you want to get some more information about what is happening in PCR and the Division sign up for the PCR Yahoo Group. You have to join Yahoo and you can find the group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCR-nmra/> All the Divisions post their events there and we also talk about other subjects. Please join and remember there is no cost for this.

Please remember the Sonoma Short Line PCR Convention that will be May 13 – 15, 2011. The cost is \$50

The X2011 NMRA National Convention is coming up. The registration rate is \$99 but this will be going up soon so I suggest you sign up now. <http://www.x2011west.org/>

Jim Long
Superintendent

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