



SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association



The World's Greatest Hobby!

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Despite Friday the 11th being Veteran's Day, and the weekend being the final days of trout season, over 1,300 people came to the 40th Annual Rail Fair 2016 over the November 12 & 13 weekend. The event sported three buildings and outdoor exhibits at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville. There were numerous vendor tables, operating model railroad layouts (including two European layouts), live steam, prototype equipment and much, much more.



Full Parking Lot



Steady Ticket Sales

see "Rail Fair" - page 5

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SHORT LINE is published quarterly by the Sierra Division of the Pacific Coast Region of the National Association. Material may be reprinted with permission.

Articles, photos, tips, or ideas are heartily encouraged and will be enthusiastically accepted! The preferred format would be in Rich Text Format (RTF), with photos as JPEGs, but we will accept any format (from a PC or Mac; MS Word, Simple Text, typed, or handwritten). Send it to your editor by regular mail to **SHORT LINE**, 2260 Cherry Glenn Ct., Chico, CA 95926 or by email to :

From the Superintendent

Tis the Season

by Jim Collins

I'm writing this the day after Thanksgiving. This edition of The Short Line should be published between Christmas and New Year's so I will open by saying I hope all of you had a very enjoyable and blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas (and Santa brought you all the locos, cars, models DCC equipment, etc. that you had on your list) and that you all have a wonderful New Year celebration and that next year is even better than this one has been.

In his editorial in this edition, Chip has correctly noted that probably the vast majority of current model railroaders can trace their fascination and start in this great hobby to a Christmas when they or perhaps a sibling received a model train under the tree. For me it was both. My brother received a Lionel and I can distinctly recall setting it up and running it in his upstairs "room" (actually, just a mythical division in a large room we shared) and watching it chase its tail with great fascination. A few years later, I received an HO train set myself. I did manage to create one 4' x 8' layout while still in high school before college, the Navy, marriage, etc. got in the way (as all of life during those years usually does for most of us). But we are all now back in the hobby to various degrees and I wish you all great fun and enjoyment with it both next year and all the years to follow.



Our October meet, planned and organized by Chip Meriam, was truly outstanding! Great job, Chip, and thank you. For those not able to attend, it was an event-filled day. We started with a visit to the James Railcar Services facility where they clean and overhaul covered hoppers. Really a fascinating place and I believe we all learned a lot. After

that we journeyed to Chip's house to view and enjoy his layout. Chip has done an impressive job with construction in his garage. It was great to see some of the items that he's identified in his clinics, such as the wood burner. After taking a lunch break, we met at the Granger Hall for our business meeting and to hear a Klaus Keil's presentation on modeling scrap metal loads and a great update from Gary Ray on the status of his layout. Then, on the way back, there was an opportunity to stop by and see either or both Walt Schedler's HO layout and Michal Andrews' O layout. See more photos elsewhere in the newsletter.



I hope everyone took the opportunity to visit Railfair this year – there was, as always, a lot to see. As usual, we were responsible for manning the ticket



booth and the NMRA information booth/timesaver switching puzzle. I did not have an opportunity to take pictures nor stop by and say "Thank you!" to everyone so please allow me to list those who we all owe a big thank you to for helping out. Remember that this is our one and only money maker for the year so covering all our

C'd. on page 3

From the Superintendent, ctd.

responsibilities is very important. First – thank you to Scott McAllister for taking charge and soliciting and organizing all the volunteers! And an equal big thanks to Mary Moore-Campagna, John Gibson, Chip Meriam, Dick Witzens, Gary Ray, Ed Powell, Larry & Judy Champlin, Tom Van Horn, Joan Giacomelli, Jean Dieckman, Dave Bayless, and John Caramagno. If I've missed anyone, please accept my apology and let me know.

Also at the October meeting we held the vote for officers. While Al Rowe and I will be continuing as Paymaster and Superintendent, Jim Firehock decided not to continue as our Chief Clerk. Jim has done an exceptional job as Clerk, keeping accurate notes at meetings, organizing a bunch of stuff that was passed down to him, and being very helpful and supportive at all events – particularly the operating meet we had at the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society. Thank you Jim for the superior job you've done! Chip Meriam, has volunteered to step up and take on the Chief Clerk's job in addition to editing and producing The Short Line. Thank you, Chip! A vote was taken and everyone was elected unanimously.

I wish I could say I have a great meet planned for February, but unfortunately, all I have so far is a location and one clinic. We will be meeting at Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Modesto on February 4, 2017 (NOTE the date, this is a change from the originally planned Feb 11 date). So far, I have a promise from Chuck Harmon from Daylight division that he will visit to promote the 2017 PCR Convention in Bakersfield and also give a clinic on operations. I'm still working to fill out the rest of the day. A notice will be sent once the schedule is full.

Well, I've probably bored you all enough with my ramblings. Here's wishing us all a terrific year in 2017. See you in Modesto in February.



“Why are trains so popular at Christmas? People get on to meet their country over the holidays.”

– **David Baldacci, The Christmas Train**



Jim Collins has created a Facebook page for the division. He has added photos from our recent October meet (where we visited James Railcar Service, Chip Meriam's layout, and then held our meet and clinics at the Chico Grange Hall), and a few short videos he took of Chip's layout.

Jim also uploaded photos to separate albums of our Spring and Summer meets.

The Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/NMRA-Sierra-Division-338834436476757/>

Please visit and check out the photos and videos and **don't forget to LIKE the page.**

From the Editor



As I prepare this issue of **The Short Line** for publication, it is the Christmas Holiday Season. For many of us, the roots of our fascination with trains, and model trains in particular, can be traced directly to this time of celebration. There are countless Master Model Railroader bios that begin with something like, "It all started when I found an American Flyer train set under the Christmas Tree....."

I cannot claim such an exact connection, but nonetheless I have always closely associated my hobby with the Christmas Season. I distinctly recall many a Christmas Eve, running trains on my Lionel layout in my parent's basement. With the room lights dimmed and the tiny layout lights aglow (many of them were red or green) it was almost magical. On some of these occasions, I was fortunate enough to have family members with which to share this spectacle. Indeed, it was these special moments that spawned a general desire to share my hobby with others.

This past October I had another special opportunity to share my hobby. My layout was open for "inspection" by my fellow Sierra Division members during the October meet in Chico. Having everyone drop by was a true pleasure. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with everyone and, without a doubt, I look forward to future visits from my colleagues. Such visits are a wealthy source of legitimacy and inspiration. Having other modelers in to share the hobby and express their experiences reminds me that model railroading is a truly fascinating hobby and my enthusiasm is not as weird as some might think. Clearly, hosting a layout visit is an inspirational endeavor – both leading up to the event and following.

So my heart-felt thanks to all who stopped by. Thanks for the confidence and inspiration to continue, thank you for the tremendous fellowship, and Merry Christmas !!



“Rail Fair” - from page 1

Early Saturday morning the fairgrounds were abuzz with activity - exhibitors and vendors setting up their tables and displays for the coming show. This was a good time to wander around and see what might be available later after the crowds will have invaded the area.



Sacramento Modular Railroaders Setting Up



Early-Bird Vendors



The Main Hall Ahead of the Crowd



Prototype Speeders On Display

As you can see in the photo of the speeders, it was a beautiful sunny morning—leading to a wonderful day for Rail Fair.

see “Rail Fair” - page 6



"On The Brink" "Live Steamers Were Outdoors, Too.



European Train Enthusiasts Getting Ready



Jim Collins Hawks Convention Cars Just Inside The Entrance

All in all, a great weekend for trains at the Placer County Fair Grounds.

NOTE: WE STILL HAVE A SUPPLY OF CONVENTION CARS AVAILABLE FOR SALE. PLEASE SEE THE SHORT ARTICLE ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER



October Meet - Chico, CA

By Chip Meriam

The Sierra Division Fall meet took place Saturday, October 8 in Chico. Approximately 30 members made the trip north for a tour of a prototype rail facility, an open house, and a meeting with two presentations in addition to the modeling and photo contests. Following the Chico event, there were two layouts open for visit on the return trip.

The first stop of the morning was James Railcar Service Company. James Railcar is in the business of refurbishing, repairing, and painting freight cars (primarily covered hoppers) between revenue trips. According to our host, Ken Kappenman, the company has been in operation north of Chico since the mid 1960's. They receive freight cars from all over the nation via the Union Pacific (former SP) main north-south line. They have an on-site capacity of 30 to 40 rail cars and, at peak times, can receive and turn around 30 to 35 cars per week.



Kyle and Ken Kappenman (L-R), Owners of James Railcar



Our Host Explains



On Top of a Covered Hopper



A Cut Awaits Pick-Up

October Meet (ct'd.)



A GE 45 Tonner Hides in the Shadows

In the back of one of the warehouses sits a vintage GE 45 Ton Switcher that dates from the 1940's. This locomotive has side rods, so it's one of the earlier versions offered.

The little engine saw service at James Rail Car for several years until it fell upon ill repair. It seems there are two Caterpillar-Powered generators under the hood and a separate traction motor mounted on each truck. At his point, one of the generators is operational but its traction motor is not. The other traction motor is operational but its generator is not. So for now, railcars are moved around the plant with front-end loaders.

The second stop was a visit to Chip Meriam's HO scale "SP & WP Somewhere in Northern California". Members could see, first-hand, the wigwam sawdust burner featured in the June 2014 [NMRA Magazine](#) and the circa 1929 pumping station presented at a PCR Convention workshop in Modesto this past April. Chip's layout is a relatively small affair, roughly 13 X 10, occupying 1/2 of his double garage. This particular layout was begun in 1991 when Chip and his wife Lorri (the one responsible for the lemon cake and the cold water) lived in Willows. When Chip and Lorri moved back to Chico in 2000, the layout was moved in segments and reassembled in its current location. Chip freely acknowledges much of the "antiquity" of portions of the layout and jokes about that fact that he still uses conventional DC, referring to himself as the "Cab Control Curmudgeon".



A Cozy Fit Around Chip Meriam's Layout



1929 Vintage Pumping Station



Chip's modifications to this JV Models Sawdust Burner were featured in the June 2014 [NMRA Magazine](#).

Be sure to see the sister image in this month's photo contest section.

October Meet (ct'd.)

After lunch, a division meeting was held at the Chico Grange Hall. The membership voted to retain Jim Collins as Division Superintendent and to install Chip Meriam as Division Clerk. Our thanks to Jim Firehock for serving as clerk for so many of the past years.



Jim Collins Continues as Division Superintendent



Chip Meriam Takes Over as Chief Clerk



**Jim Firehock Steps Down After Years as Chief Clerk
THANKS, JIM!!!!**

Contest themes for the October meet were Modeling – Any Equipment or Structure, and Photography – Any Railroad Subject. Between the two categories there were a total of fifteen entries.

In the Modeling Contest, First Place went to **Walt Schedler** for his **SP work train**.

Second Place went to **Klaus Keil** for his **European Scrap Load display**.

Third Place went to **Jim Collins** for his **REA refer**.



1st Place - SP Work Train



2nd Place - European Scrap Load



3rd Place - REA Refer

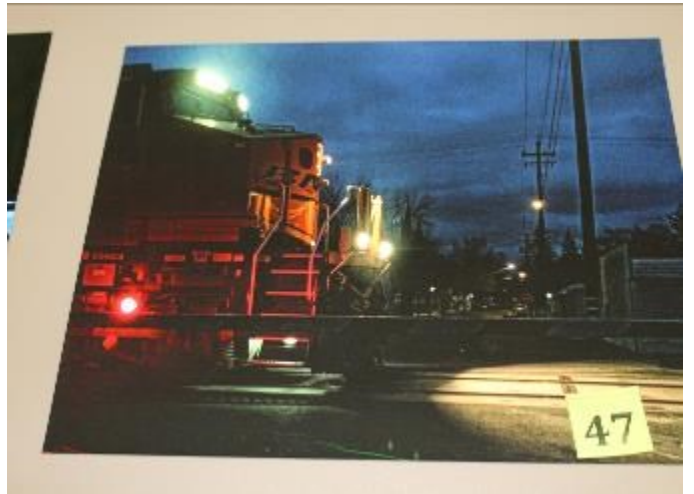


October Meet (ct'd.)

In the Photo Contest, First Place went to **Chip Meriam** for his **Wigwam Sawdust Burner**.
Second Place was a tie between **Chip Meriam's BNSF at 7th Street**, and **Tom Van Horn's Sierra #50**.
Third Place also had two winners with **Tom Callan's Snow Scene** and **Walt Schedler's American #22**.



1st Place - Burner at Midnight



2nd Place Tie - BNSF at 7th Street



2nd Place Tie - Sierra #50



3rd Place Tie - Snow Scene



3rd Place Tie - American #22

October Meet (ct'd.)

While the contest votes were being tallied, Klaus Keil provided a short presentation on modeling a scrap load made from the tops of spent K-Cup® coffee pods. As part of the presentation, Klaus also discussed the European style couplers - the prototype of which is seldom modeled.



Following Klaus, Gary Ray gave a progress update on his HO Scale Gerber Subdivision.

Business concluded at about 3:00PM and the southbound members had the opportunity to visit two layouts on their way home: Walt Schedler in Colusa and Michael Andrews in Yuba City.



Mike Andrews— Sacramento Roundhouse and Shops



Mike Andrews— 35 X 85 O Scale Layout

October Meet (ct'd.)



Walt Schedler— Dunsmuir Downtown Yard



Walt Schedler— Dunsmuir North Downtown Yard

The next Sierra Division meet will be in Modesto on February 4, 2017.

Contest categories will be Modeling – Steam, Traction, Self-propelled Cars; Photos – Trains In Action.



SORRY, NO MORE **5¢** CANDY BARS

BUT

WE DO HAVE **\$10** BOX CARS !!!



This 53 Foot Evans Double Door Box Car, lettered for the Modesto & Empire Traction Railroad with a commemorative PCR Convention Emblem, is available in four reporting numbers. Find it on eBay at:

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/Atlas-HO-Scale-53-Evans-Double-Door-Box-Car-Modesto-and-Empire-Traction-RR-/262725743735?hash=item3d2bacb477:g:f~0AAOSwiONyMITF>

At \$10 each, this is a quality freight car model at a super-duper bargain price. Check out the Atlas link below to view details about the model. We're told that the PCR Convention Emblem can be removed easily if desired. At only \$10, why not acquire one for a souvenir and put four, sans emblem, into revenue service?

<http://www.atlasrr.com/HOFreight/hoevans8.htm>

Find details about the model here, but the car must be purchased through eBay.....

SIERRA DIVISION

Next Meeting: February 4, 2017

2766 N. Dakota Avenue

Modesto, CA

10:00 AM (subject to change)

SEE MAP BELOW

TIMETABLE

Feb 4—Modesto

Apr 19-23

PCR-NMRA

Bakersfield

May - To Be Determined

Aug - To Be Determined

Oct - Magalia



The Annual Convention for the Pacific Coast Region—NMRA is April 19-23, 2017 in Bakersfield. Plans are well under way for a fabulous array of exhibits and activities. Plan to attend. It will be well worth your time.

Registration form on the following page!

February Contest Categories:

Modeling— Steam, Traction, and Self-Propelled Cars

Photography— Trains in Action

(limit of 3 photos—at least 5 X 7 but not over 8 X 12)

SHORT LINE

Sept. 10 for the Oct. Issue

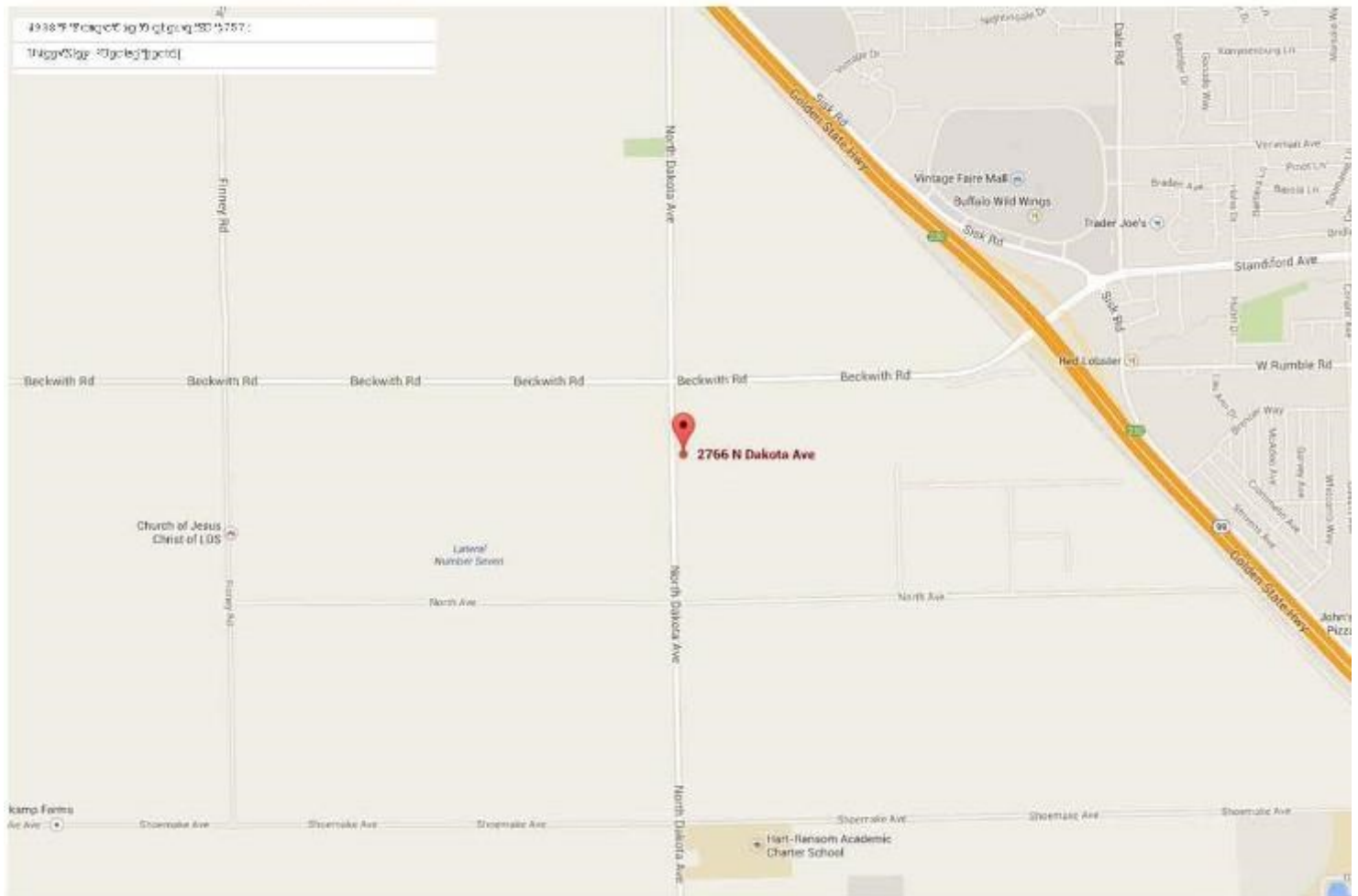
Dec. 10 for the Jan. Issue

Mar. 10 for the April Issue

June 10 for the July Issue

2766 N Dakota Ave - Google Maps

Page 1 of





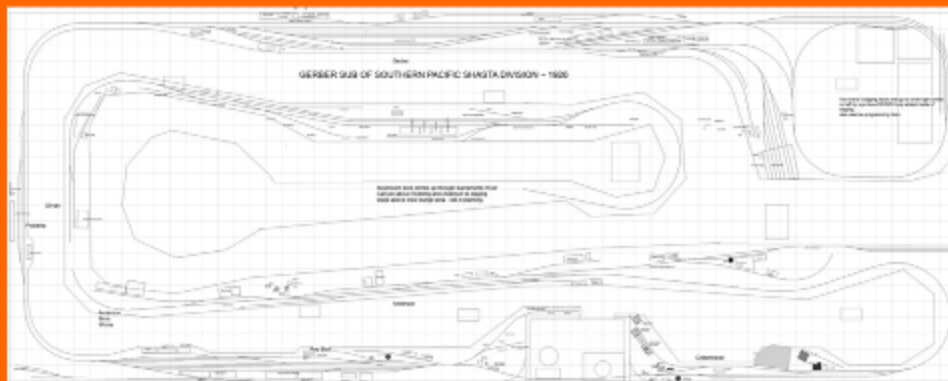
Gerber Sub ~ 1926

Gary Ray

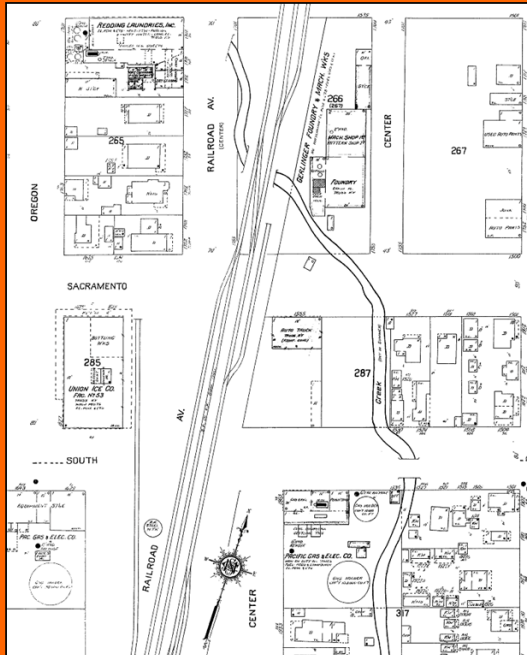
At the October meet in Chico, Gary Ray presented a slide show documenting his progress since we last viewed his layout, **THE GERBER SUB**, a year earlier. For those who missed the presentation, we have reproduced most of it here—minus Gary’s narrative of course.

Gary had hoped to have his layout on display and perhaps hold an op session, but time crept up too quickly and an open house would have been impractical at best. So, we are now scheduled to feature a visit to **THE GERBER SUB** for our October 2017 meet to be held in Magalia. Enjoy the photos!

Depicts Gerber to LaMoine.
Roseville, Woodland, & Dunsmuir in staging.
Interior of room is 23' x 59', 8' ceiling.
Mushroom designed with 3rdPlanIt.

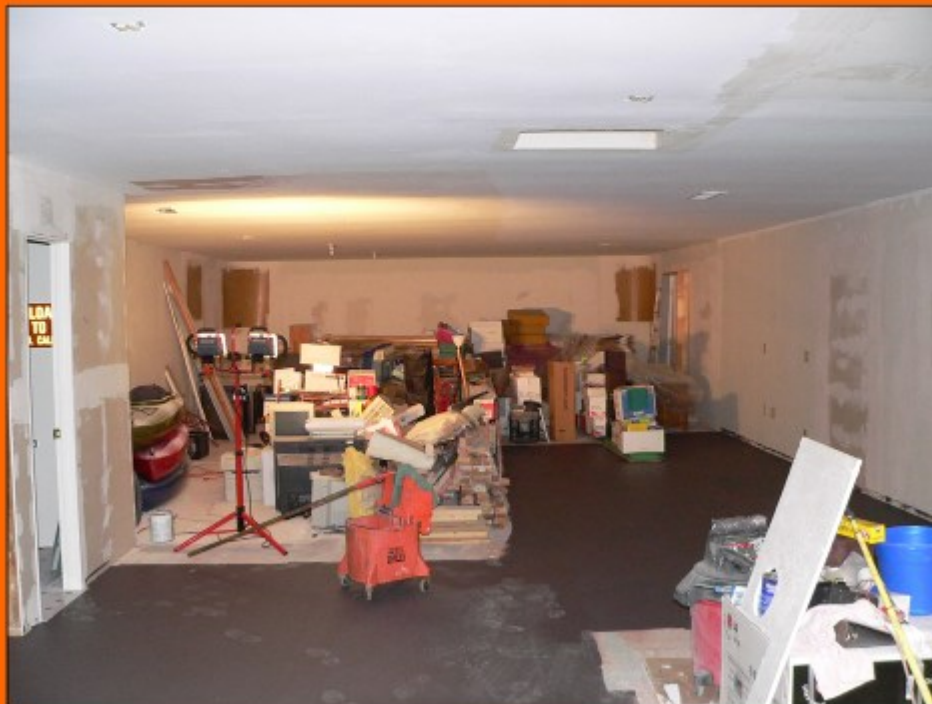


Sanborn Fire Maps & SP maps used to plan towns.



SHEET		H		SHEET	
Willis	1118-1163	3	Holt's, Jas., Brick Yard	2	2
"	1165-1394	8	Hotel Idania	19	19
"	1400-1668	*14	" Lorenz	17	17
"	1429-1669	*15	" Redding	24	24
"	1700-1868	*21	" Western	16	16
"	1701-1929	*22			
Y		M			
Yuba	1000-1059	20	McCormick & Saelzer Co., Hardw. & Agric'l Impls W. Ho.	17	17
"	1100-1259	19	McCormick & Saelzer Co., The.	18	18
"	1300-1459	18	" Co.'s W. Ho. No. 1	10	10
"	1500-1659	17	Masonic Hall	18	18
"	1700-1871	16	Mother Church of Inspirational Theosophy & Healing	11	11
"	2200-2269	14			
SPECIALS		P			
A		Pac. Gas & Elec. Co.			
African M. E. Church	6	Crossing Plant	4		
All Saints Episc'l Church	16	Equipment St'ge & Gas Holder	11		
Aussem Hotel	11	Mach. & Repair Shops	11		
		Post Office	18		
		Public School	19		
C		R			
California H'wy Commission Div. No. 2	6	Redding Creamery	6		
Carnegie Library	17	" Feed Co., Inc.	10		
Christian Science Society	16	" Grammar School (East Side)	12		
City Hall & Jail	11	" " (West Side)	9		
Columbus Hotel	11	" Hotel	10		
		" Iron Works	10		
		" Laundries, Inc.	23		
D		S			
Del Monte, Lodg's & Tenements	16	St. Caroline Sanitarium	24		
Diamond Match Co.	17	St. Joseph's R. C. Church	23		
Dozier Sanitarium	21	Seventh Day Adventist Church	15		
		Shasta County Court Ho.	16		
F		" Office Bld'g		22	
Fine, W., & Sons, Feed & Fuel W. Ho.	10	" Union High School	5		
Fire Ho.	11	S. P. Co., Freight W. Ho.	17		
First Baptist Church	16	" Passenger Depot	17		
First M. E. Church	24	Sterling Lumber Co.	17		
" Presbyt'n Church	19				
G		T			
Gerlinger Foundry & Mach. W'ks.	23	Temple Hotel	18		
Glover's, Auto Sales & Rep'g.	24				
Golden Eagle Hotel	18				
		U			
		Union Ice Co., Fac. No. 53	23		
		U. S. Indian Service	25		

Layout started Sept., 2009.



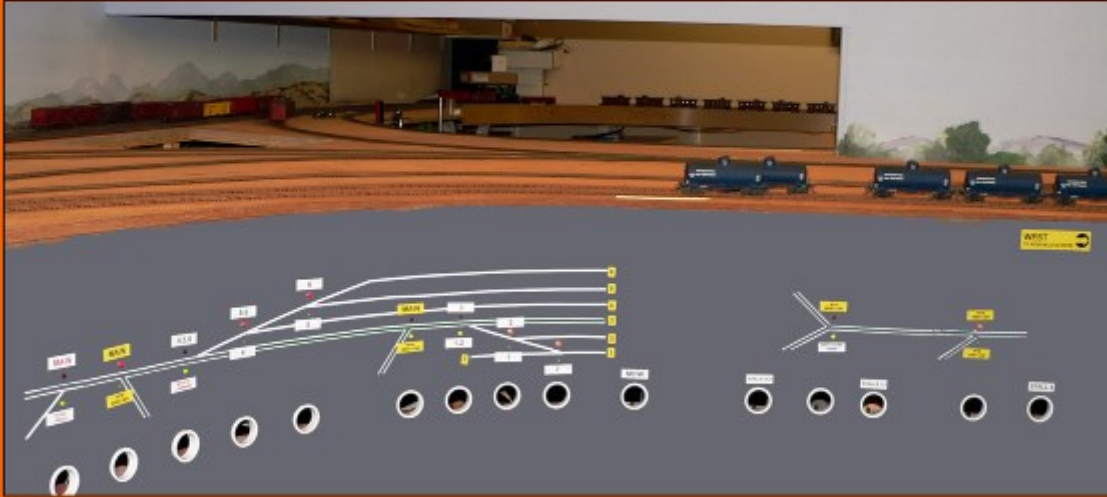
Plywood L-girder, $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood,
Homasote benchwork.



Transfer pattern with pounce wheel.



Gerber wye and Roseville/Woodland staging (7 tracks).



Gerber icing plant.



Gerber classification yard.



Reed Creek Bridge south of Red Bluff needed to connect from Proberta.



Scratchbuilt bridge. Finally a connection in Sept., 2014.



Red Bluff

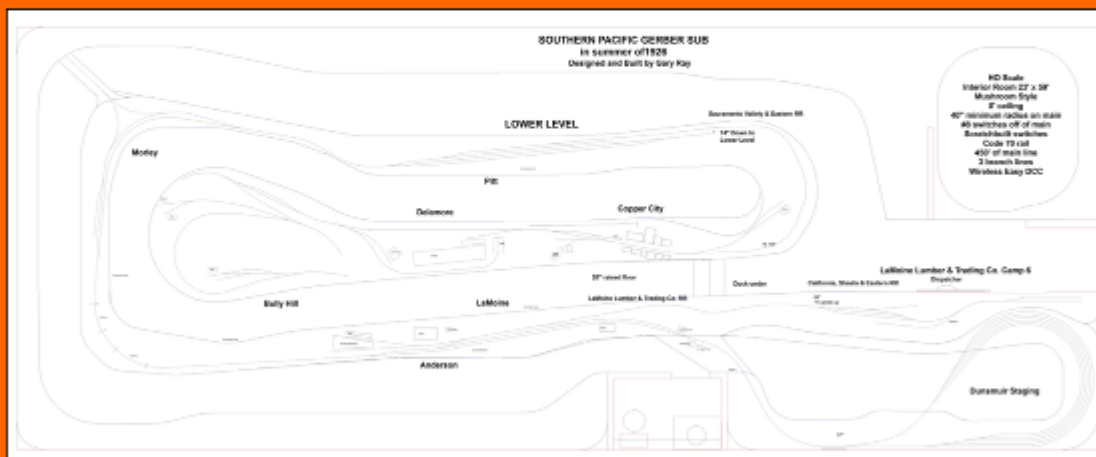




Cottonwood

Aug., 2014
had
temporary
staging and
my first op
session.

Started to build lower and upper level
mushroom on April 1, 2015



Anderson



Girvan



Redding – Sept. 2016



Sacramento River Canyon

1/8" untempered hardboard spline on all curves.



50' of resin rockwork up the canyon.



Pitt & interchange for Delamar



Morley

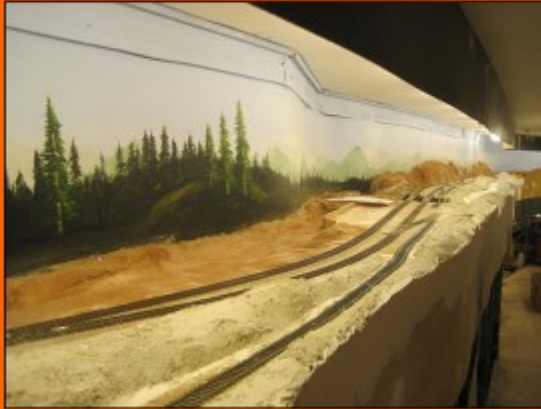
**Bricks hold down tie strips
cemented with DAP Alex Plus.**

**Rail cemented with 50/50 mix
of "RED" Barge Cement &
MEK. Reactivate with MEK
brushed on rail.**



La Moine

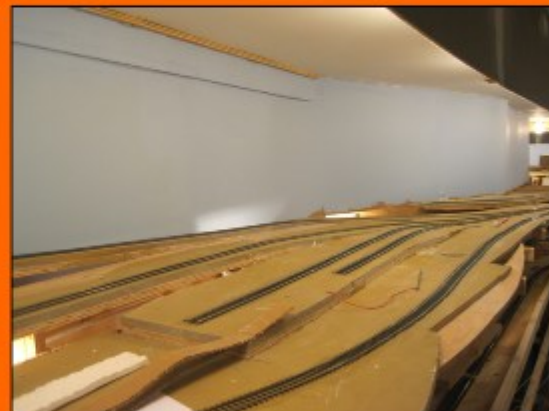
Last town on visible layout. Track goes into a 5-loop staging yard. 2 TV cameras monitor progress of staged trains that are 6'4" overhead.



Sacramento Valley & Eastern RR out of Pitt – all code 55 on CVMR tie strips.

Copper City

Delamar smelter location



Bully Hill

LaMoine is across the aisle.



Final Ramblings to Fill The Page

Thanks to Our Contributors

This wraps up the eighth issue of [The Short Line](#) I have had the honor to edit. It's been a blast doing this and I look forward to many more issues to come. Undoubtedly, the content of this humble publication would suffer greatly were it not for the folks who contribute. During this past year I have been blessed with articles and photos from several fellow model railroaders: *Jim Collins, Gary Ray, Tom Milam, Jeff Lemke, Klaus Keil, Walt Schedler, Jim Zeek, Bob Schott, and probably a few others to whom I apologize for not acknowledging personally.* **So to all of you, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!**

New Year's Resolutions

Possibly the easiest New Year's resolution to keep is to not make any more resolutions. But how much fun would that be? Here are two of mine:

- 1.) Re-wire the layout lighting. I've gone icky-balooky with interior and exterior building lighting and now I'm beginning to trip the circuit breaker on my power supply. This should be a simple fix were it not for the constant companion of any resolution; procrastination.
- 2.) Finish the streets, buildings, and details for the towns of Vecino and Lorriton. This should involve hours of scratch building and detailing activity, not mention more lighting!

Perhaps my short list will inspire you to begin or complete some project(s) that you've had in mind for awhile. I sure hope so. And, I have a suggestion:

How about tapping out a short article for [The Short Line](#)? We have two so-called forums for short articles and ideas: *While The Glue Dries* (see July 2015) and *Tips of the Trade-Hobby* (see January 2016). Of course, how-to articles layout articles, articles about a prototype, or other topics of interest are most welcome, too.

We're looking forward to hearing from you in the coming New Year.

chipmeriam@comcast.net