

SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association

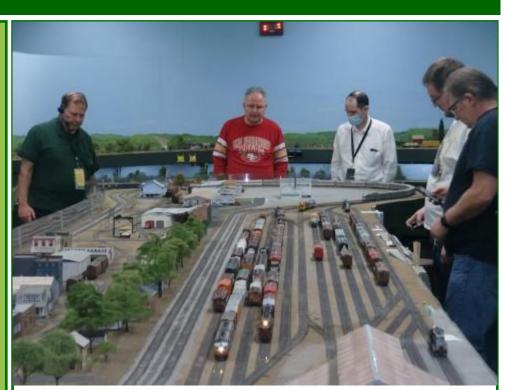
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Membership Application





Sierra Division Visits Sierra Central

(Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society) See story on page 6

Sierra Division Callboard

PCR business or questions: PCR President Frank Markovich frank@markovich.com (408) 505 2727

Director, Sierra Division

Lou Anderson louiesqd@att.net

(480) 845-8480

Sierra Division business, questions, or to volunteer to give a clinic, for membership problems,

Superintendent
Dave Putnam
dave@daveandlisa.net
(661) 753-6006

To volunteer your layout for a tour or "Timetable" entries: Chief Clerk

Dave Fryman fryperson@hotmail.com (925) 360 1377

Paymaster

Michael Eldridge meldridge2000@gmail.com (408) 663-2019

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(408) 663-2019

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:

chipmeriam@comcast.net If e-mailing put EDITOR in the subject line.

From the Superintendent



Dave Putnam, Division Superintendent

The New Year got off to a very busy start in our Division and Region. Train show season went into full swing in January with the Great Train Show at Cal Expo. The same group that runs that show also held shows in Pleasanton and San Jose in February. Not to be outdone, GEHAMs held their annual show in Bakersfield in early

March. Business appeared to be brisk for vendors at all the shows. Volunteers from our division, as well as those from other PCR divisions, staffed NMRA membership information

tables at these events to interact with show attendees and let them know what the NMRA is all about. I'm happy to report their efforts helped us to sign up more than 30 new members in our region. Welcome to all you new members and I hope you've started to take advantage of what our organization has to offer.



"Yours Truly" Staffing the NMRA Information Booth at the Great Train Show

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

Speaking of train show news, <u>International RailFair</u> (<u>aka: IRF</u>) and Sierra Division member, Tom Campbell, reports that our division benefitted from the gate at last November's show that was held at Cal Expo for the first time after being held in Roseville for many years. Vendors and attendees seem to have been pleased with the new venue, and plans are already underway for an even bigger show next November. While the show has traditionally been held on Veteran's Day weekend, the 2024 edition will be one week earlier on November 2 &

3 so mark those calendars.



Scene from the 2023 International Rail at Cal Expo

Our division held it's first quarterly meeting of the year on February 10th in the afternoon in the theater at the California State Railroad Museum. Earlier in the day several division members spent the morning operating at the <u>Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society</u> clubhouse in Sacramento followed by a barbecue lunch. Other members enjoyed complementary admission to the museum for the day to view the 1:1 and scale model railroads on display.

Continued on page 3

From the Superintendent, ct'd.

During the meeting Division member Mike Hamlin gave a presentation on the 15" gauge Orland-Newville & Pacific Railroad located at the Glenn County Fairgrounds in Orland, CA. The railroad is currently raising funds to make improvements on the railroad which is a popular attraction throughout the year. Division members voted in favor of sponsoring a car for 5 years on the railroad. This car will bear a sign that will include a link to our division's website.





Division member, <u>Mike Dunston</u>, fresh off a pilgrimage to the <u>Amherst Railway Society show</u> held in West Springfield, MA, gave a review of the show during the meeting. Mike has been working with <u>Model Rectifier Corporation</u> to develop a new generation of digital control devices. Some of the initial release hardware made its debut at the Amherst show and Mike has been providing beta testing for the hardware at various club and private layouts throughout the region.

As train show seasonwinds down, we've got convention season on the horizon. The annual Pacific Coast Region convention will take place in the heart of the Silicon Valley from April 24 – 28. Convention headquarters will be at the Sonesta Hotel in Milpitas. The convention's theme this year is "Tech Line" and is being hosted by the Coast Division. A full slate of clinics has been booked and specifics will be posted on the convention website soon. Over 40 layouts in the area will be open for viewing, operating sessions on various private and club layouts are being planned, and prototype excursion tours to the Society for the Preservation for Carter Railroad Resources in Fremont and the Niles Canyon Railway are also available. A vendor/swap meet room at the convention hotel will be open for business on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. For those unable to make it to the convention, a virtual convention will be your ticket to take part.

Our neighbor, <u>Pacific Southwest Region</u>, will be hosting the NMRA's National Convention and Train Show in Long Beach on August 4-11. The convention themed <u>Surfliner 2024</u> will play host to NMRA members from throughout the world. Attendees can expect see some great clinics, layout tours and prototype tours. The <u>National Train Show</u> is often the place where new equipment from vendors often makes its' debut.

Congratulations go out to Sierra Division member Lou Anderson on his election to the office of Division Director. Lou represents our division on the PCR Board of Directors.

If you're on Facebook, please visit and like our <u>division's page</u>. While it has been dormant for a few years, it was recently brought back to life by division member and webmaster Michael Eldridge. The page is available to the general public, and we will be utilizing it to publicize upcoming events at locations in and adjacent to our division.





Lou Anderson, Sierra Division Director

Continued on page 4

From the Superintendent, ct'd.

Name Tags and Gauges - Oh My!!!

All members are eligible to receive their own Sierra Division name tag as well as an NMRA Standards gauge of their choice. First time issues of these items are available at no additional charge. If you need to replace a missing name tag or standards gauge, those are available for an extra charge. Gauges in "N", "HO", "Hon3", "Sn3", and "O" are currently available for members in good standing. Please e-mail Division Superintendent Dave Putnam to inquire about these.





If you're interested in joining a model railroad message board, there are several available on the <u>Groups io platform</u>. There are numerous groups where members can share info about specific aspects of the hobby. Once you acquire a username and password, a few of the many groups you might find interesting to check out are listed below:

PCR-NMRA

Cali Free-Mo

Layout Design SIG

Layout Design for Model Railroads

This is just a small sample of what the Groups io platform has to offer as far as subject matter. The "Find or Create a Group" search feature can lead you to almost any subject you desire.

From the Editor



Chip Meriam, Short Line Editor

Get Organized?

Notice the photo to the right. No, this is not another example of a chaotic, modeler's work bench; although it could certainly be argued that the photo illustrates just that - chaos.

This photo is what I see every time I enter the train room (garage) for some reason other than model railroading. This alltoo-familiar scene faithfully greets me whenever I need to

grab a bit of packaging tape to seal a large envelope, or a pair of pliers to remove a stuck cap from a condiment bottle, or take out the kitchen garbage.



It seems as if everything is there: a model passenger car in progress, wood glue, hobby knife, paint, brushes, a machinist's square...all of it. But yet, the scene is not complete. Perhaps the most noticeable feature of this photo is what is NOT in it. The chair is empty. There is no modeler in this picture.

If anything *(other than the workbench clutter)* might benefit from organization, it's my time. There always seems to be some pressing priority that supersedes my desire *(need?)* to spend some time with my hobby. As I snapped this photo, I felt a sense of dread - a true feeling of concern that I might never find the time to finish that passenger car. And you know what? That's just WRONG!

From years ago, I recall a television advertisement for AMF sporting gear. It included a quote, "The bow that is always strung loses its strength." Might I suggest that many of us are a bit like the constantly strung bow. We need to make time for rest, lest we lose our strength. Making time for our hobby is really a matter of organization, is it not?

As editor of the *Short Line*, I ask you to submit your method of organizing your time to allow for progress in your hobby. Make your submission in the form of a "Letter To The Editor". I'll publish your response(s) in the next issue, so we can all benefit from each other and "Get Organized."

Submit Your Letter To The Editor by Email To;

chipmeriam@comcast.net

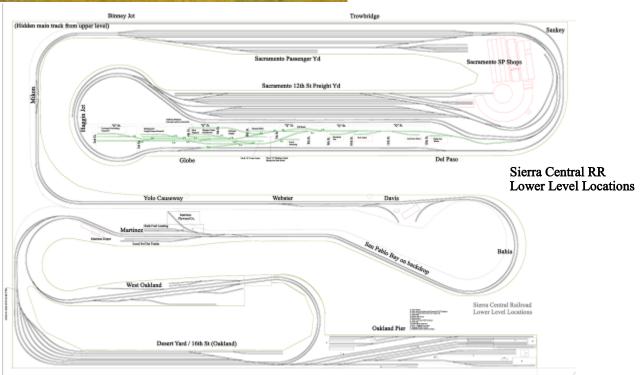
Please Use "Short Line" as the subject.

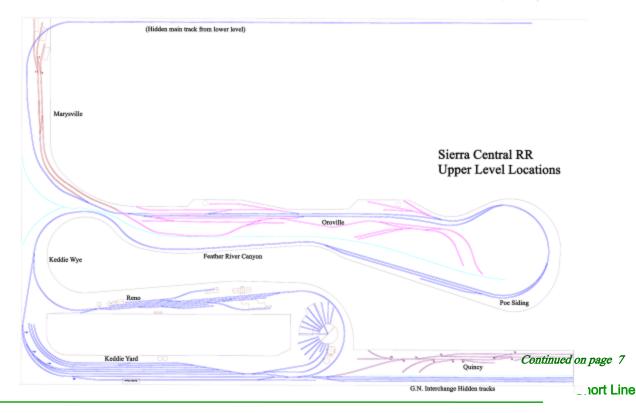
THANKS!



Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society is dedicated to advancing understanding of railroading and its history and impact on the development of our nation as well as railroad operations and technical skills through model railroading, The society began as the the Sacramento Model Railroad Club in 1948 and was later incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2000.

The HO scale Sierra Central Railroad depicts the Southern Pacific's California Pacific or "Cal-P" line from Oakland to Sacramento and the Western Pacific from Sacramento through the Feather River Canyon to Keddie.





Signature scenes on the SP include the historic Davis depot, the Yolo Causeway, and the passenger station, locomotive shops, classification yard, and R Street industrial district in Sacramento.



12th Street Yard - Sacramento
(Note the trees visible in the cover photo are not yet "planted" in this scene.)

Photo from SMRHS website



R Street - Sacramento (Again, no trees between R Street and 12th St, Yard.) Photo: Chip Meriam

On the WP, you'll find Marysville, Oroville, Table Mountain, the Honeymoon Tunnels in the Feather River Canyon, Keddie Yard, and the Spanish Creek trestle widely known as "Keddie Wye" as well as a branch line to Quincy.



Table Mountain - Oroville *Photo : Chip Meriam*

Bird's Eye View of Keddie Wye *Photo : Jim Collins*

Feather River Canyon - Poe Siding Photo: Jim Collins

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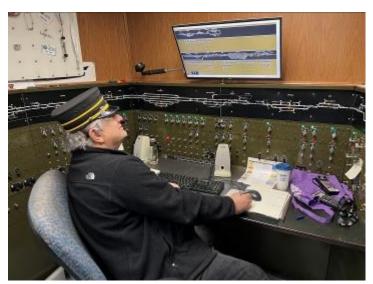
The February 10 in-person meet included our annual OP session on the Sierra Central at the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society. As in the past, Sierra Division members were paired with regular SMRHS operators to handle various local jobs, scheduled turns, and through freight and passenger traffic. This is always a fun event. PLUS, it winds up with a barbecue lunch!



Michael Eldridge (right Jokes with Mike Rocque Photo: Dave Putnam



Ed Powell (left) and Mike Hamlin at Oroville Photo: Dave Putnam



Brian Witt Follows Trains on the Model Board In the Dispatcher's Office Photo: Dave Putnam



Brandon Salas Working Poe Siding Photo: Dave Putnam



SIERRA DIVISION

Next In-Person Meet: Late April
At the
PCR Convention
Milpitas, CA





TIMETABLE

April 2024, 2024 At Milpitas Convention

Aug 10, 2024
To be determined

Oct 12, 2024
To be determined

Feb 8, 2025 Sacramento



SHORT LINE

June 10 for the July Issue

Sept 10 for the Oct Issue

Dec 10 for the Jan Issue

Mar 10 for the Apr Issue

Sierra Division continues to have online meets via ZOOM. Future online meets will be held the second Saturday of each month when an in-person meet is not scheduled.

UPCOMING ONLINE MEETS

(all beginning at 10:30 AM)

April 13, 2024

June 8, 2024

July 13



Where the Art of Modeling Meets Technology



PCR Convention 2024 - Silicon Valley, CA

Sonesta San Jose Hotel from April 24-28, 2024.

PC2024 website



Save The Date. Pencil it in on your calendars. The date is Wednesday, July 31st and the location is the California State Railroad Museum. As you're probably acutely aware, the NMRA exhibit at CSRM had a very silent debut back in 2021 after the museum had been closed to the public for over a year due to state mandated COVID restrictions and protocols. Now that we are 3 years in and well established on the road to normal, we can finally celebrate in a grand manor. The NMRA has reserved the CSRM

theater that day and are inviting anyone interested in speaking a few words about the exhibit to step up to the podium and provide us with your thoughts. We've scheduled this to coincide with the NMRA's National Convention which will be taking place the following week in Long Beach. Several of the higher ups in the NMRA are planning to travel to Sacramento to be present that day before heading south for the convention. Some of them have not had the opportunity to visit the exhibit and see it in person.

We are still finalizing plans for the day and will provide details as soon as all the "I"s are dotted, and the "T"s are crossed. Depending on everyone's availability that day, we will probably start on the third floor for some touring during the midmorning and then to adjourn to a location to be announced for a meal around noon. Following lunch, we will head back to the museum for our get-together in the museum's theater. We hope you can join us!

Dave Putnam

NMRA CSRM Gallery Committee Chair

Missing Contact Info

While the vast majority of our division members receive updates and newsletters via e-mails sent through ConstantContact, we have a few who aren't currently connected electronically. Some members may have recently changed e-mail addresses and failed to contact and advise <u>NMRA Headquarters</u> of changes. If you know, or have contact with any of the following members who have either fallen off the list or were never on it, please urge them to contact the NMRA and provided up to date contact info.

Currently Bouncing e-mail addresses:

Karle Mahler Sacramento, CA

Jeremy Levison Woodland, CA

George Carlson Elk Grove, CA

Scott Mullin Valley Springs, CA

David Allred Reno, NV James Clausen Reno, NV

No e-mail address:

K. Schulenburg Elko, NV

Roger Sullivan Elk Grove, CA
Tennessen Family Gardnerville, NV

George Engeman Gardnerville, NV

Monica Maddern Lincoln, CA
Nora Megan Sparks, NV
Nobuko Soler Lincoln, CA

Robert Breeden Weaverville, CA

Luther Good Elk Grove, CA Paul Martineau Reno, NV

Charles Jumps Sun Valley, NV
Kevin Schindler Redding, CA

John Wagner Sacramento, CA
Arden Kwong Sacramento, CA

Donald Yoho Jr. Dayton, NV

Paul Zaro South Lake Tahoe, CA

Have you changed your address or other membership information?

Notify Headquarters

Email: nmrahq@nmra.org Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am—4pm

ET)





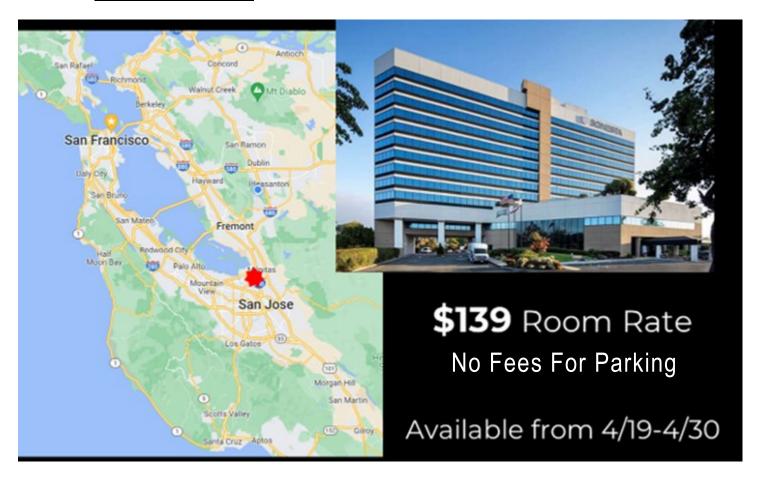
SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS



https://pcrnmra.regfox.com/pcr-2024-convention

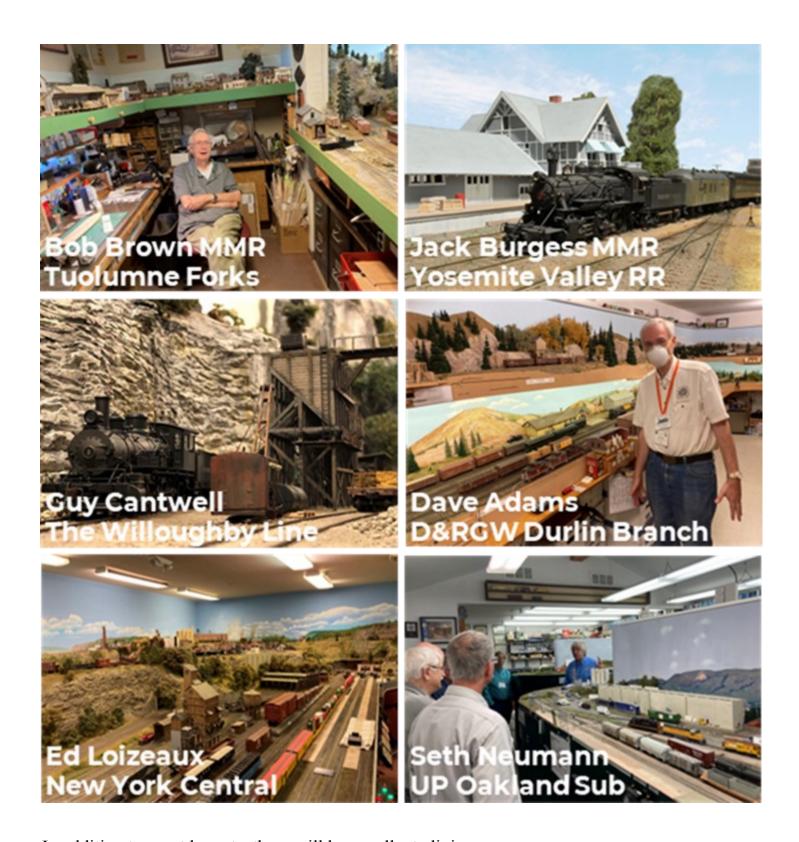


The 2024 PCR Convention will be hosted by the Coast Division at the Sonesta San Jose Hotel from April 24-28, 2024. The Sonesta is ideally located for great layout tours, prototype visits, and other activities. The hotel has great convention facilities, enabling a vendor and swap meet. AND the **PARKING IS FREE!**



The layout tours will feature the great layouts of the Bay Area. It has been 8 years since the last NMRA convention in the Bay Area and there are some great improved and new layouts. We are planning on having over 30 layouts open during the convention.

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Short Line



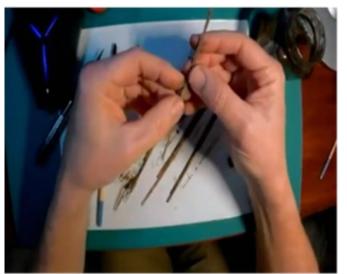
In addition to great layouts, there will be excellent clinics .



Continued on page 14















The convention will include prototype tours and operating sessions as well as lots of other model railroading activities. Check out the <u>PC2024 website</u> for more information. Don't miss this opportunity to go to a great local convention. With the great \$139 room rate and all of the great model railroading attractions,

this is a convention not to be missed.



2024 SPH&TS Convention : Sparks, Nevada



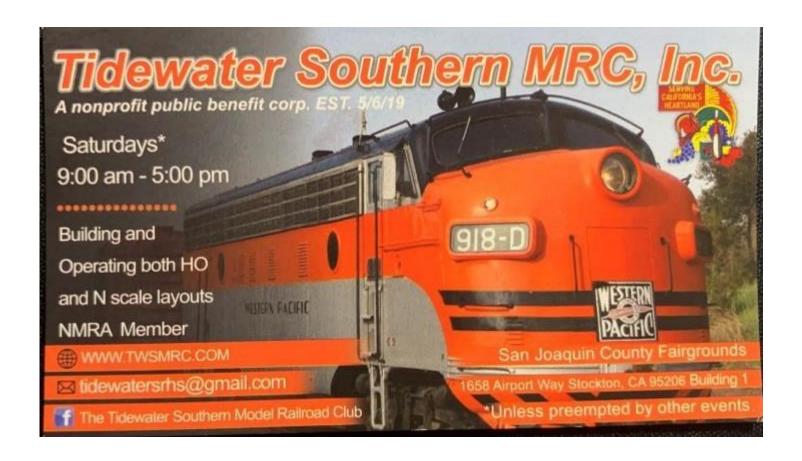
Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society

Dates:

Wednesday, October 16 through Saturday, October 19

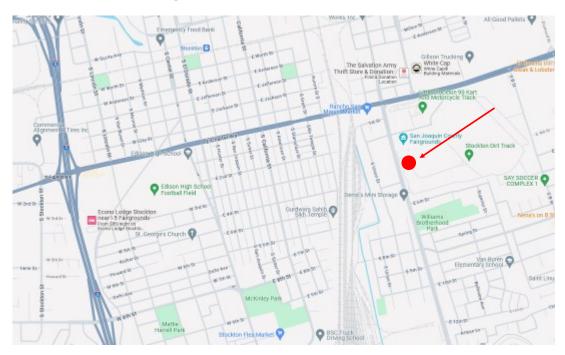
Location:

Nugget Casino Resort 1100 Nugget Avenue Sparks, NV 89431



Tidewater Southern MRC Inc.

We are Located in Building 1 at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds (1658 S Airport Way, Stockton, CA 95206), We have both HO and N scale layouts housed in a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove. The HO scale layout represents the former Tidewater Southern branch line of Western Pacific. We meet every Saturdays from 9am - 5pm except for major holidays and run trains on the last Saturday of the month. Admission is free! Email us at: tidewatersrhs@gmail.com for our schedule.



Have you joined the NMRA Interchange? It's the newest tool to help you connect with other members, gain knowledge and learn to modeling techniques. The Interchange is hosted on the Discord application which is available for Windows, Apple OS, Android and Apple devices. See instructions below for signing up.

Joining the NMRA Interchange

Speed Muller
IT Manager, NMRA

Have you joined the Interchange yet? If not, follow these steps to get connected!

- 1. Go to nmra.org/nmra-interchange
- 2. It will ask you to log in to the NMRA website if you're not already logged in. If you are not registered with the NMRA website yet, now's the time to do it. Click the "Need a username? Register now" button, and get set up. Use the email address on file in the NMRA membership system (probably the one where you got this eBulletin). The system will email you a link to set your password.
- 3. Now you should be in the **NMRA Interchange** page. If not, click this link.
- 4. Click on Member Info in the top right corner and scroll down get your exact Member ID. You'll need that later.
- 5. Read through the page and then follow the "Interchange Server Invite" link at the bottom. This is a special link just for you and will look something like https://discord.gg/xxxxxxx
- 6. You will be taken to Discord (the platform that hosts the NMRA Interchange) where you will be prompted to sign in, if you already have an account there, or prompted to register, if not. If you need instructions for creating an account or logging into Discord they can be found here.
- 7. Once you accept the NMRA Interchange Invite, and you are logged in, you will land in **#the-lobby** with a message on what to do next.
- 8. We suggest that you read and agree to the **#rules** first. Just click on **#rules** and then click on "thumbs up". Then click on **#the-lobby** again to do the most important step.
- 9. Discord and the NMRA need to check with each other, in order to verify that you are a current NMRA member with an email on file. You start the process with the **/onboard**command. Now, this is very sensitive to the type of device you are using, so just type the first few letters **/onb** at the bottom where you see a + sign in a circle. It will complete the command for you in a pop-up just above that. Click on the **/onboard**command. Add your membership number (6 characters followed by a space and then two more characters) just as you noted in step 4. Example: /onboard *input*: 123456 0A
- 10. Discord and the NMRA computers will have a chat, and then you will receive an email containing a / clearance command. That's your entry ticket. Copy and paste the whole line into #the-lobby (at the + sign again). Example: /clearance input: 654321
- 11. You're in! You will not have to do any of this again. If anything derails, you'll get a message telling you what to do next, and we also have Moderators in the Interchange standing by to help.
- 12. If all went well, you'll now see more than 350 channels (those # things). We suggest you start by going to #introduce-yourself and then scroll up to #the-workbench to see what others have done and shared! Then find your Region and Division and say "hello" there. And then start participating and enjoy!

SHOW 'N TELL



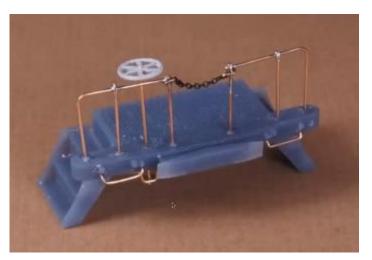
Saturday morning, March 9, was the monthly ZOOM meet (be sure to see the "Time Table" for upcoming scheduled ZOOM meets). They really are a lot of fun!





Sacramento Northern trailer #108 is the subject of a current modeling project by Chip Meriam. At right is an undated photo of the prototype. #108 began life as a trailer, was converted to a motor, and then back to a trailer. At left is the progress to date. The model is an out-of-production La Belle craftsman kit.





Michael Eldridge is mid-way through a similar craftsman kit project in S scale. This model is a Kinsman kit.

Michael was not pleased with the cast metal end platforms and steps, so he 3D printed replacements and formed rails and grabs from wire.

NEXT ZOOM MEETING IS APRIL 13.

JOIN US!



FB: Walt's Trains and Electronics Email: waltstrains@yahoo.com

1140 3rd Street - Colusa, CA 95932

Open: Wednesday - Saturday, 9-5 Monday-Tuesday, by appointment

408-431-1660

Full Service Train Shop for Your Hobby Needs

Over 3,000 line items available - plus Estate items

Will special order for you

Discount prices O, On30, HO, HOn3, N scale equipment and supplies



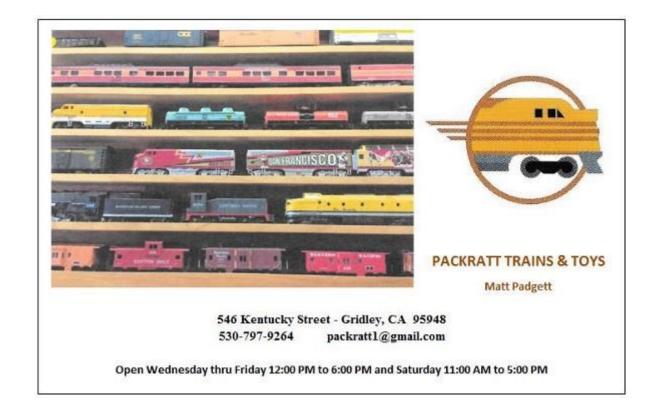




Visit our large 1,200 Sq. Ft. Store Display Layout

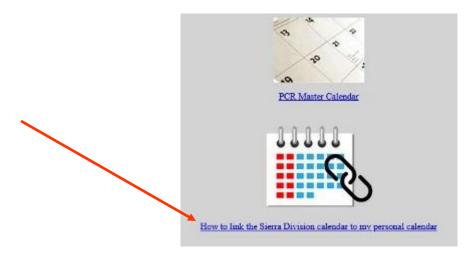






If you would like for Sierra Division events to appear in your personal calendar, you can link to the calendar on the Sierra Division website. This will work if you use Google Calendar, Outlook, or Apple's Calendar app. Go to the Sierra Division website, http://www.pcrnmra.net/sierra, and click on Calendar. On the right you will see a link to a page that describes how to link to the Sierra Division calendar from your calendar. After that, when events are placed on the Sierra Division calendar they will automatically appear in your calendar also.

Questions or need help? <u>meldridge2000@gmail.com</u>



The Sierra Division, PCR-NMRA is making available to Sierra Division members a "kit" containing the necessary tools and instructions to complete the part 3 requirements of the NMRA Model Railroad Engineer – Civil Certificate. More information on the requirement is at: www.nmra.org/civil

The Kit:

The kit includes tools and templates sufficient to create the following (you only need to construct 3):

HO Scale #5, Code 83 Right-hand turnout

HO Scale #5, Code 83 Left-hand turnout

HO Scale #5, Code 83 Single crossover

HO Scale #5, Code 83 Double crossover

HO Scale #5, Code 83 Crossing 14 degree

How the System Works:

Res	ervat	ions	are	on a	firs	t-come	e, firs	st-se	rvec	l basis	s. Al	l rese	ervat	ions	s will	be f	or a	cale	enda	ar mo	nth. I	Requ	ests
mι	ıst be	e ser	it to	louies	sqd	@att.i	net.															-	

☐ The kit will be shipped via UPS on the first day of the month. Arrival should be within 2-3 days.

☐ The member may use the kit for what should be, **about** three weeks.

☐ The member must ship the kit back, postage pre-paid by the 25th of the month. This will allow us time to check and clean the kit and still send it out again on the first of the month. Zip ties and address information will be included in the kit. Return the kit to:

Lou Anderson, 100 Buddy Drive, Woodland, CA 95776.

Reservations:

The rental fee and deposit must be received by the 15th of the preceding month.

The rental fee for the kit is \$25.00 by <u>separate check</u>. This will cover the cost of shipping the kit to the member, cleaning costs and additional packaging as needed.

A deposit in the amount of \$500.00 must be included by <u>separate check</u>. This check will **NOT** be deposited unless the kit is not returned. When the kit is returned, the check will be destroyed.

Mail both checks, made payable to the Sierra Division, to:

Lou Anderson, 100 Buddy Drive, Woodland, CA 95776.

Preparation/Supplies:

Be prepared. Have all supplies ready and on-hand in advance of the arrival of the kit. You will need:

Micro-Engineering Code 83 NON-weathered rail, have extra on hand.

Small diameter solder.

Soldering iron, min 35 watts.

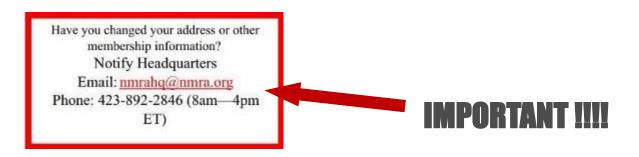
Instructions and a DVD are including in the kit or you can go to https://www.handlaidtrack.com/ for more information.

Responsibilities:

☐ The member is responsible for loss and all damage to the contents of the kit. If you break it, or damage it beyond further use, notify us immediately at louiesqd@att.net. Be prepared to include a check in the amounts listed above to cover the cost of replacement.

□ Please notify us as soon as possible if you wish to cancel your reservation so that we can offer it to another member.

If you have questions, please direct them to Lou Anderson at louiesqd@att.net. or Chip Meriam at chipmeriam@comcast.net.

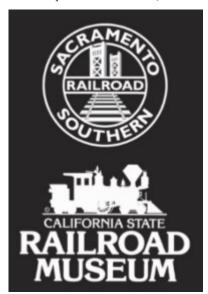


Around And About



SN 402, recently out of the shop with a fresh coat of paint, leads a pre-season test train northbound between MP 2.5 and 2.0 on the Sacramento Southern Railroad.

(photo from CSRM promotional material)





The same train, southbound, with the Tower Bridge in the background.

(thanks to Dave Putnam for this photo)

Wow! Did you know there's a <u>new</u> NMRA Member Benefit?

It's the NMRA Partner Program!

Model railroad manufacturers are partnering with the NMRA to offer discounts to NMRA members.

Current members log in to www.nmra.org.
At the Members Menu, go to the NMRA
Partnership Page to see who's on the list,
discounts offered, and how to order. New
Partners are coming on board every month,
so check back often.

If you're not yet a member, here's another great reason to join and get more fun from your hobby with a membership in the world's largest model railroad organization.

www.nmra.org

See Partial List Of Partners On The Next Page



NMRA's Partnership Program



PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

NMRA members can log in and click on the Benefits tab to view the NMRA Partnership Program. Please patronize all of our partners for some fantastic discounts as an NMRA member!

Bespoke Rail CatzPaw Innovations CB Train Junction Clever Models, LLC **Coastmans Scenic Products** Composite Designs, Inc. **CMR Products, LLC Conowingo Models Cowcatcher Magazine** Daylight Sales (Merchandise) **Deepwoods Software Deluxe Materials Diorama Hobbies Dwarvin Enterprises, Ltd East Coast Circuits Enterprise and National Car Rental Services Evan Designs Feight Studios Fusion Scale Graphics** Gatorfoam **Great Decals! Green Frog Productions Highways and Byways Model**

Railroad Graphics

Hot Wire Foam Factory K.I.S.S Method, Inc. LaBelle Woodworking Co. **LARC Products Logic Rail Technologies** MAC Rail Mainline Model Railroad Products, LLC (Hobby Shop) Micro-Mark **Mine Mount Models** miniprints MRC (Model Rectifier Corp) Model Train Catalogue **Modelers Decals & Paint Motrak Models Mudd Creek Models New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings** Nick and Nora Designs Northlandz **NScale Works by Mike Holly Old Depot Gallery Old West Scenery ITLA Scale Models***

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