

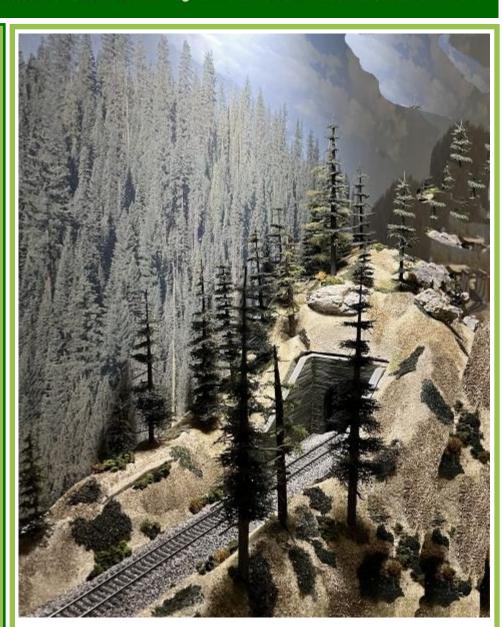
## SHORT LINE

Sierra Division \* Pacific Coast Region \* National Model Railroad Association

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#### Scene From The Feather River Canyon

This is one of many carefully modeled scenes to be found on Jason, Tobin, & Ken Roye's Remanso de Paz & Western. We'll be visiting this layout on October 11. See page 16 for more photos.

#### 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

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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:

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

#### From the Superintendent



Dave Putnam, Division Superintendent

It is hard to believe that we are headed into the homestretch for 2025 already. Cooler weather is on the way, and the holiday season will soon be upon us. During this time of year, I like to get out and enjoy the fall colors and do a little rail-fanning while I'm at it. Once the winter weather arrives, many of us will be blowing the dust off our scenery projects and layouts that were resting during the warm weather months.

While summer is often a slow time for model railroading, our division members braved the +100-degree temps in Stockton to attend our quarterly meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup> reaped some rewards for their efforts. Sierra Division member Dave Stanley graciously opened the doors

to his impressive Morada Belt layout during the morning for a tour. The <u>Tidewater Southern Model Railroad Club</u> hosted our Costco catered pizza lunch and meeting at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds which is the home of their club's layout. Our thanks go out to division member Brandon Salas who is also a member of the Tidewater Southern club for assisting on coordinate the logistics for the day.

Our final quarterly meeting of the year is scheduled to take place on October 11<sup>th</sup> in the Chico area. PCR President Chip Meriam is busy working out the details for the day. Chip has arranged a visit to a very large layout that is in progress. Chip and his wife Lorri will be hosting lunch and the meeting at their home with Mike Hamlin in charge of the tri-tip barbecue. Look for an e-mail with further information coming to your in-box soon. Election of division officers for the 2026-2027 two-year term will be taking place at the meeting.

The <u>International Railfair</u> is coming up soon on November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at Cal Expo. The Sierra Division co-sponsors this event along with the <u>Sacramento Modular Railroaders</u>, <u>European Train Enthusiasts Sacramento Chapter</u>, and <u>Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Association</u>. The division will have an NMRA membership information table at the show to answer questions about our organization.

On a personal note, this will be my final Superintendent's report as I wrap up my term in office at the end of the year. While I still plan to play an active role in our division, I hope to dedicate more time for working on my own layout and participating in operating sessions on layouts belonging to others. I look forward to helping our next superintendent to hit the ground running when their term begins.

With a lot of help from others, I was able to achieve many of the goals that I had set back at the start of my term. We've had the opportunity to visit quite a few layouts and 1:1 prototype collections at several locations throughout our division. We've strengthened our ability to efficiently share timely information about upcoming events and welcomed several new members. Hopefully this has all helped members to share knowledge and cultivate some long-lasting friendships among our division and region's membership. My thanks go out to Chip Meriam for his guidance and patience as I "learned the ropes", Division Director Lou Anderson Division for his guidance, Chief Clerk Dave Fryman for his work keeping the minutes of our meetings and Division Paymaster Michael Eldridge for keeping our finances in order.



#### From the Editor



Chip Meriam, Short Line Editor

First of all, thanks to Dave Putnam for guiding the division so well over the past two years. Under Dave's coordination, we've enjoyed special visits to the California State Railroad Museum, several outstanding layouts in the Reno-Carson City area, beautiful scenery and fine layouts in the Gold Country east of Sacramento, and many other worthwhile outings. I say, "A job well done!"

In this issue, be sure to see the "Time Table" section on page 4. It is loaded with upcoming events for fall. Also, take note of the preview of our scheduled October visit to the Roye's Renaso de Paz and Western railroad. You don't want to miss this!

Following our stop at Remanso de Paz, we'll be meeting at Chip & Lorri's home for a quick glimpse of Chip's SP & WP layout, a regular meeting, and a tri-tip lunch prepared by Mike Hamlin. You may recall Mike's offering at our meet in Orland a couple years ago. If nothing else, make the trip to Chico to enjoy the lunch!



There are several special events through the Pacific Coast Region—celebrating National Model Railroad month. Two of them happen to be in the Sierra Division:

The Northern Nevada Layout Tour is October 31 and November 1. It will feature approximately 18 layouts that will be open for visitors. jpetro328@gmail.com

International Rail Fair, November 8 & 9 will be at Cal Expo in Sacramento. There will be multiple layout displays, vendors galore, and informative clinics. <a href="https://www.internationalrailfair.com">www.internationalrailfair.com</a>

Finally, this marks the eleventh year my editorial stint at the *Short Line*. My first issue was the spring of 2015. Then and now, this publication thrives on content. The content comes from you, the readers. Without it, we have no publication. So, to borrow a few words from my "Amateur Authorship Clinic," here a four reasons to submit stories, articles, or photos:

- 1. Whether you're aware of it or not, probably one of the reasons your hobby is model railroading is because you are a creative person. Clearly, preparing an article for publication is a creative endeavor. So doing so is a gratifying activity.
- 2. You really learn your subject. The best way to sharpen your understanding or expertise is to explain a process to others. "How To" articles are just that—explaining to your audience what you did and how they can do the same thing themselves.
- 3. One of the greatest resources we enjoy as modelers is the wealth of knowledge shared in the hobby press. That knowledge doesn't just materialize on its own. Somebody has to expend the effort to communicate their knowledge through printed media or otherwise.
- 4. If you're prolific enough, the NMRA will recognize your work with an Achievement Program Certificate, Model Railroad Author.

There you go. Four good reasons to participate!

Just send your submission or idea for a submission to <a href="mailto:chipmeriam@comcast.net">chipmeriam@comcast.net</a>

Put "Short Line" in the subject line.



#### SIERRA DIVISION

Next In-Person Meet: October 11 Chico, CA

Lunch will be provided

Meeting, Contest, and Show 'n Tell

#### **October Contest Categories:**

Modeling: Diesel Locomotives

Photo: Any Railroad Model - Color Only

Railroad Arts & Crafts

International Rail Fair November 8 & 9 Cal Expo



#### TIMETABLE

Oct 11, 2025 Chico

Feb 2026
To be determined

#### **SHORT LINE**

Dec 10 for the Jan Issue

Mar 10 for the April Issue

June 10 for the July Issue

Sep 10 for the Oct Issue

The Northern Nevada Layout Tour will be October 31 thru November 2.

The tour booklet available in early October, electronic format, only.

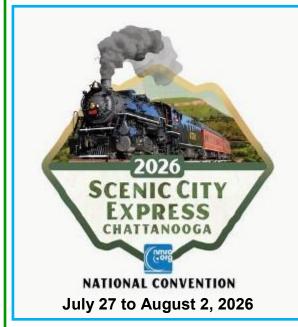
Feel free to contact me.

Jim Petro

Jpetro328@gmail.com

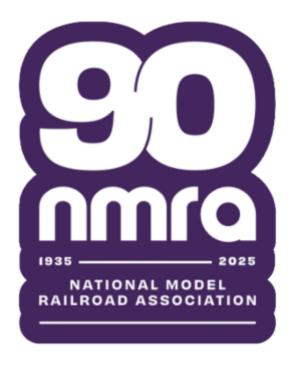
775-852-5636











For 90 years, the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) has been the "mothership" of the model railroading community. Founded on the principles of supporting both the hobby and industry of model railroading, we've grown into a global fellowship of model railroaders united by our passion for "the world's best hobby." As we celebrate our rich history, we look forward to the next 90 years of innovation, education, and community. Supporting the NMRA, supports the hobby!

#### **NMRA Promise**

To foster the art and craft of model railroading through education, standards, and fellowship, ensuring the hobby continues to thrive for generations to come.

#### **NMRA Core Values**

- Fellowship: Creating connections through shared passion
   Education: Sharing knowledge and expertise
- Innovation: Advancing the hobby through standards and best
   practices
   Heritage: Preserving and celebrating railroad history
- Community: Supporting and inspiring model railroaders worldwide
- Strength: Building lasting connections and enduring standards

## North State MODEL TRAIN SHOW

BUTTE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

GRIDLEY, CALIFORNIA



## January 10th, 2026 10AM-3PM

ADMISSION

**ADULTS: \$5** 

KIDS 12 & UNDER: FREE

(with adult)

Free Parking

SELLERS!!! TO RESERVE A SPACE, contact Sue Padgett 408-209-3362 Pugratt@gmail.com

SETUP: Friday, Jan 9th, 2 PM-7 PM Saturday, Jan 10th, 7-10 AM

TABLES \$30 EACH

#### SPONSORED BY:



PACKRATT TRAINS & TOYS 546 KENTUCKY STREET GRIDLEY, CA 95948

PHONE (530) 797-9264 OPEN WED - FRI 12-5PM SATURDAY 11 AM-5 PM

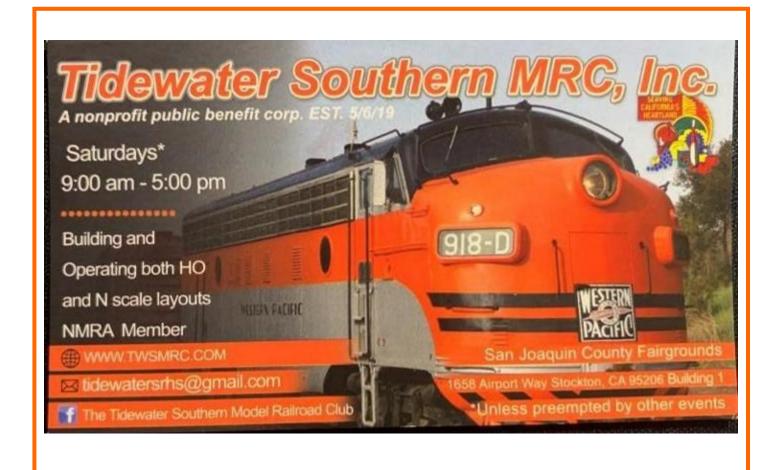
BUTTE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 199 E Hazel Street, Gridley, CA 95948

The Northern Nevada Layout Tour will be October 1 thru November 2.

The tour booklet available in early October, electronic format, only. Feel free to contact me.

Jim Petro

<u>Jpetro328@gmail.com</u> 775-852-5636







NOV 8-9 2025

OPERATING LAYOUTS! VENDOR TABLES!
ANDY FLETCHER LIVE DRAWING!
CHILDREN'S LAYOUTS & COLORING TABLE!
SQUARE FOOT DIORAMAS! DEMOS!
TRAINMART CONSIGNMENT STORE

\$15 SAT \$12 SUN at Gate \$12 SAT \$10 SUN Online

12 and under FREE! Cal Expo Parking: \$10

SATURDAY 10 AM - 5PM SUNDAY 10 AM - 4PM



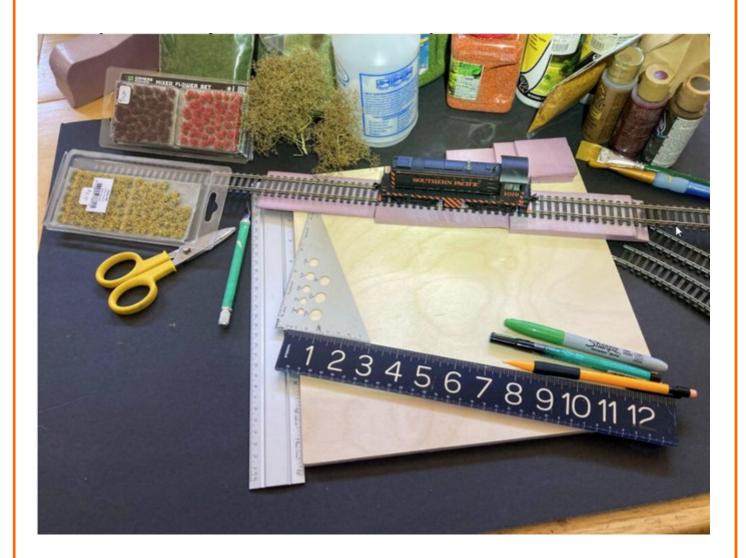
## CAL EXPO

**BUILDING C** 

1600 EXPOSITION BLVD, SACRAMENTO www.internationalrailfair.com



International Railfair is hosting a Square Foot Diorama Challenge. Build a diorama between now and November 8th, and display it during the show (on one of the Sierra Division tables). The rules are simple - the diorama has to fit on a 12" x 12" square base (or smaller) and there has to be an element that includes railroad track. The diorama can be in any scale, even a non standard 'railroad scale'. There will be a People's Choice award based on votes from our show's attendees. I'm The International Railfair will be held at Cal Expo in Sacramento on November 8th and 9th 2025. The Challenge is a fun event that's aimed at giving our show attendees another thing to enjoy. I hope some of you are able to join in. I can't wait to see what you build.





San Joaquin Valley Toy Train Operators, Inc. welcomes you to their 2025

## **MODEL TRAIN SHOW**



**VENDORS - TRAIN DISPLAYS - ALL GAUGES** 







DECEMBER 6 & 7

SATURDAY: 10am to 4pm • SUNDAY: 10am to 3PM FREE PARKING



STANISLAUS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 900 N. BROADWAY • TURLOCK, CA

DAILY ADMISSION: \$10 (CASH or CREDIT)
Includes ticket for DOOR PRIZES

(Kids under 12 FREE with paid adult)

FOOD VENDORS

Slick Fork BBQ The Holy Doughnut

MORE INFO: (209) 765-1354 • www.sjvttoinc.com

Our 47th year of outstanding train shows SJVTTO, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation

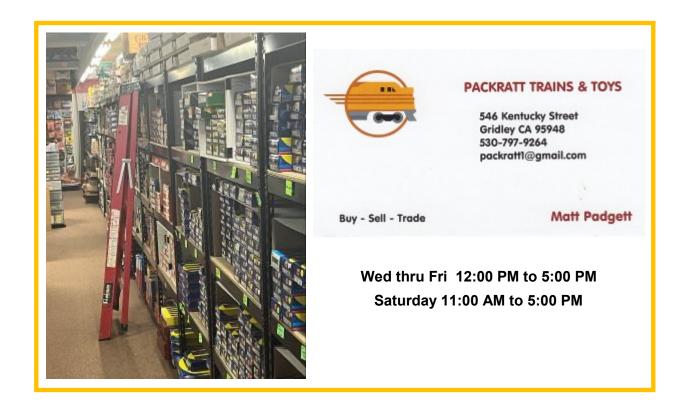
Have you joined the NMRA Interchange? It's the newest tool to help you connect with other members, gain knowledge and learn to modeling techniques. The Interchange is hosted on the Discord application which is available for Windows, Apple OS, Android and Apple devices. See instructions below for signing 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 <a href="here">here</a>.
- 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 /onboardcommand. 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 /onboardcommand. 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!



Sierra Division events appear on the PCR Calendar. If you would like for Sierra Division and PCR events to appear in your personal calendar, you can link to the PCR calendar on the web.

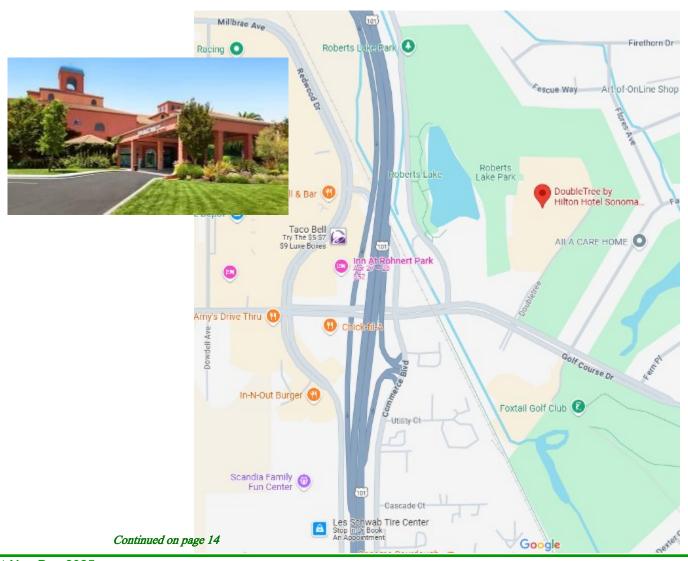
This will work if you use Google Calendar, Outlook, or Apple's Calendar app. Go to <a href="https://www.pcrnmra.net/link-to-the-pcr-calendar/">https://www.pcrnmra.net/link-to-the-pcr-calendar/</a> for instructions on how to link to the PCR Calendar. Events placed on the PCR calendar will automatically appear in your calendar also. Questions or need help? <a href="meldridge2000@gmail.com">meldridge2000@gmail.com</a>





# EXTRA 2026 NORTH PCR CONVENTION APRIL 30 - MAY 3

- Full three-day program Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- Over 40 clinics
- Layout Tours
- Operating Sessions
- Contests
- Excursions
- Member Swap Meet
- FREE Companion
   Fare with Full Fare registration



#### You're Invited!



Join your fellow modelers at the **DoubleTree Sonoma Wine Country Hotel in Rohnert Park**, **April 30 – May 3, 2026**, for the next annual **PCR Convention**!

The official website is live at <a href="mailto:pcr2026.org">pcr2026.org</a> with everything you need to start planning. Take advantage of our special convention rate of \$169 per night—with free parking and no resort fees.

Get ready for an outstanding program:

- Brand-new clinics never presented before, plus 7 hands-on Make & Take sessions
- 18+ layout tours, including exciting new layouts making their PCR debut. Check out some of them on the
  website.
- 7 memorable excursions, featuring:
  - Sturgeon's Mill (a fan favorite)
  - Russian River Rail Bikes (new for 2026!)
  - Western Railway Museum with picnic lunch & nostalgic train ride

This is shaping up to be one of the best PCR Conventions yet—don't miss it!

#### Register Today

Registration fees remain the same!

#### **FULL FARE - \$160**

Includes full convention registration, access to all clinics, contests, layout tours, and the Sunday Business Meeting/Awards Breakfast. Also **includes a FREE Companion Fare**, which grants the same access for one additional person.

#### **EXPRESS FARE - \$110**

Includes convention registration, clinics, contests, and layout tours for all three days. Does not include the Sunday breakfast.

#### DAY FARE - \$60 per day

Includes registration, clinics, contests, and layout tours for one specific day only—Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

#### Clinicians Wanted!

Do you have knowledge, skills, or stories to share with fellow modelers, rail history buffs, or layout design and operations fans? The **2026 PCR Convention** is looking for enthusiastic presenters!

Whether it's a new modeling technique, a fascinating piece of railroad history, a hands-on skill to teach, or lessons learned from your own layout—we'd love to hear from you.

Submit your **clinic title** and a **short description** of your presentation, workshop, or session idea, and help inspire and educate others in the hobby.

Yisit pcr2026.org/clinics to fill out the clinic submission form.

Questions? Contact Jim Providenza at clinics@pcr2026.org.

Your participation makes the convention a success—share your expertise and be part of it!

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#### **Convention Merchandise Now Available**

Order your convention merchandise today! Prices may increase later, so now's the perfect time to secure your items. **Order HERE** 







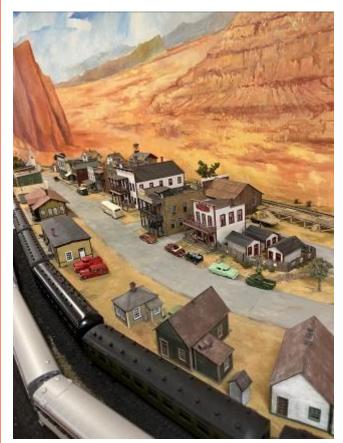




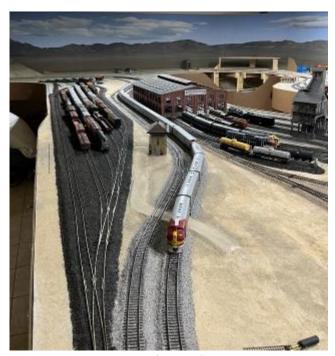
#### **UPCOMING ATTRACTION!!**

The October 11 Sierra Division meet will be held in Chico. The featured open house will be the Remanso de Paz & Western, a club-sized HO scale, standard gauge depiction line that runs from San Diego to Cincinnati. Here are a few of the many scenes depicted along the route.

Directions to the layout will be emailed the week before the meet. So, keep your eyes on your in-box!



Remanso de Paz



Mojave Yard



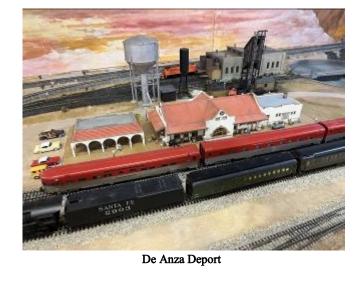
US Borate Ore Company (under construction)

Continued on page 17

To Snort Line



Otay Yard Roundhouse





Western Salt



Green River Deport

## August 23 Meet Stockton



#### **Morada Belt**



The first stop August 23 was Dave Stanley's Morada Belt, a transition era HO scale representation of the lower Sierra Nevada hillsides and various regions of California, Montana, Oregon, Nevada, and Utah.

The Morada Belt is a trackage-right railway which is used by the major western carriers (SP, WP, ATSF & UP) to "detour" traffic when their own lines are congested. International traffic is also routed onto the Belt by way of a Calgary-Morada manifest operated by the CP. In addition, local freights PNW (Pacific Northwest) and DVR (Denver) will make an occasional appearance as traffic warrants. "Belt Locals" and a dedicated Westside Branch local are operated from the Morada classification yard to service outlying industries. Short line carriers AMC, CCT, SN & TS run from Stockton staging to Junction City to interchange traffic. Although built as a loop to loop design, the Morada Belt is operated in a point to point fashion with trains originating/terminating at either Palisade-Stockton staging or at Morada yard. Trains are dispatched using track warrant-style "train orders" and FRS radios. EasyDCC T5000 radio throttles are used to move the trains. Rolling stock moves via car cards and switch lists.





SP Mountain # at Lake Davis



Union Sugar



Morada Engine Terminal



SP Consol at Sternberg Growers

Morada Belt

Continued on page 20





Ridgewood Mill



Acampo Grain Complex



Eagles Nest Quarry



NP Alco Road Switcher at Ridgewood

Morada Belt

Continued on page 21



#### TIDEWATER SOUTHERN





Sierra Division members are enjoying the various exhibits, as well as the layout, at the Tidewater Southern club room.



Much of the scenery is complete, but the rear portion of the layout is undergoing a major track realignment and grading.

The second stop, and our meeting destination for the day, was the Tidewater Southern Model Railroad Club at the San Joaquin County Fair Grounds in Stockton. The club has existed at this location since 1991. Tidewater is open to the public during the County Fair and other local events.



Club members, Kevin Meicon (l) and Frank Arvizu, Sr. are giving the layout their full attention as they operate trains for us.

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The Club's Namesake is on display with other artifacts.



A Better View of the Area Under Renovation



The Waterfront



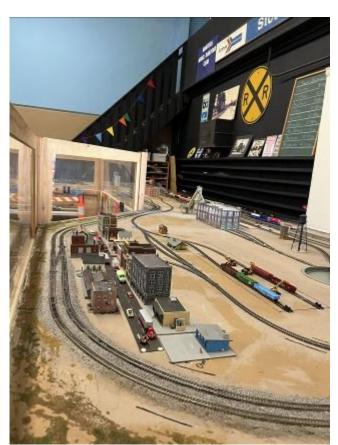
Continued on page 23

## FIELD TRIP





The San Joaquin Street Station



The N Scale Layout



Citrus Harvest

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:

- □ Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. All reservations will be for a calendar month. Requests must be sent to <a href="mailto:louiesqd@att.net">louiesqd@att.net</a>.
- ☐ 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 **separate check**. 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.

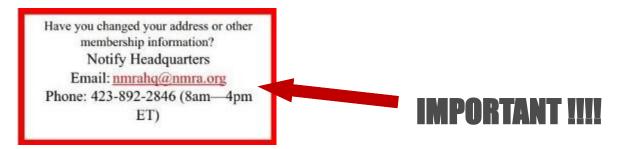
Soldering iron, min 35 watts.

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.



Z4 Short Line

#### **Around And About**



#### **Midwest Under Wire**

A Twin Cities (MN) METRO Light Rail blue line train approaches the Ft. Snelling station August 24, 2025. This train originated at The Mall of America. The next stop after Ft. Snelling is the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. The blue line continues all the way to Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins, where it terminates.

Photo: Lorri Meriam

Oct-Nov-Dec 2025 —

#### 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 <a href="www.nmra.org">www.nmra.org</a>.
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** 



#### Partnership Program

The companies listed below give discounts to NMRA members when orders are placed using a special discount code. Check them out! New partners are listed in **bold red**. You can find descriptions of these companies and their products, links to their websites, and the discount codes on our Partnership Page at <a href="mailto:nmra.org/partnerships">nmra.org/partnerships</a>. Remember you need to be logged into our site as a member to see the codes! Go to <a href="mailto:nmra.org/user/register">nmra.org/user/register</a> to register your name on the website.

#### 18ten Designs

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