



PACIFIC COAST  
REGION

## SHORT LINE

Sierra Division  
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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### **Petaluma River Scene on Ed Merrin's Northwestern Pacific**

Ed's Northwestern Pacific is just one of twelve layouts to open for tour during the upcoming Pacific Coast Region convention in Rohnert Park. See more preview photos of layouts and excursions in the convention coverage beginning on page 6.



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bership problems,

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Material may be reprinted with permis-  
sion.

Articles, photos, tips, or ideas are heart-  
ily encouraged and will be enthusiasti-  
cally accepted! The preferred format  
would be in Rich Text Format (RTF),  
with photos as JPEGs, but we will ac-  
cept any format (from a PC or Mac; MS  
Word, Simple Text, typed, or handwrit-  
ten). 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](mailto:chipmeriam@comcast.net) If e-mailing  
put EDITOR in the subject line.

## From the Superintendent



Dave McBrayer,  
Division Superintendent

As I write this, UP's 4014 'Big Boy' is on its way (via the Feather River Route) to the Roseville yard for a 2-day visit. When it departs, 4014 will take the Donner Route to begin its trip to the home base in Wyoming. I hope those who model the Steam era and have not previously seen this mechanical marvel will have had a chance to see it up close. For those willing to travel a bit, Colfax will be holding a special celebration when 4014 has their whistle-stop as they go up Donner.

The PCR's Redwood Division is about to open their "Extra 2026" convention April 30 - May 3 in Rohnert Park. For more information, check their website, <https://pcr2026.org>.

The Springtime warmup is approaching. Soon, we'll be painting those models built over the winter. How about sharing photos, with a brief description, of your detailing, modeling and/or layout efforts at a meeting or perhaps, this newsletter?

## From the Editor

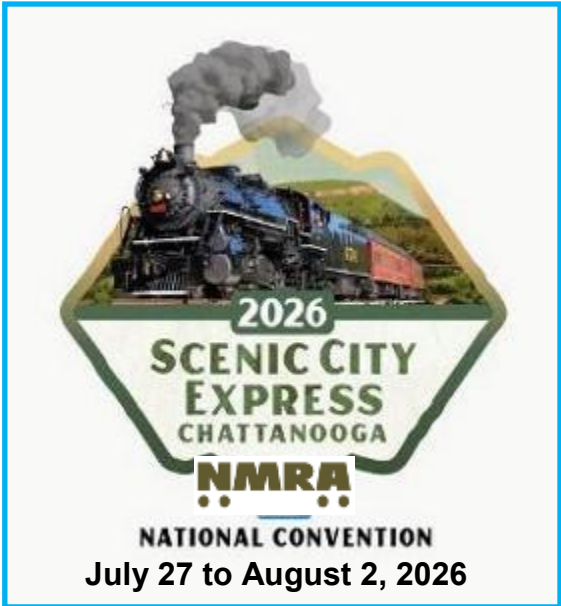


Chip Meriam,  
Short Line Editor

As Dave noted above, the annual Pacific Coast Region convention is nearly upon us. This year it will be in the Sonoma County Wine Country city of Rohnert Park. I've been attending the convention committee meetings during the planning stage and I can assure you this will be a worthwhile and enjoyable event. You will encounter the link to the convention website throughout this issue. So, why not click?

Be sure to see the photos of our February meet in Sacramento. Our host, the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society will be holding their Spring Open House show on May 30 & 31. If you've never been to the SMRHS club layout, here is a great first-time opportunity.

Finally, thanks to Riley Bestor for his trackside photo account of UP 4014 on Thursday, April 9. Riley is my family friend, a 20-year-old college baseball player, and huge rail fan. See Riley's picture on the "Around and About" page.



SHORT LINE
June 10 for the July Issue
Sep 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 Google Meet. 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)

May 8, 2026

June 12, 2026

July 10, 2026



**Tidewater Southern MRC, Inc.**  
*A nonprofit public benefit corp. EST. 5/6/19*

Saturdays\*  
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

.....

Building and  
 Operating both HO  
 and N scale layouts  
 NMRA Member

WWW.TWSMRC.COM  
 tidewatersrhs@gmail.com  
 The Tidewater Southern Model Railroad Club

San Joaquin County Fairgrounds  
 1658 Airport Way Stockton, CA 95206 Building 1  
 \*Unless preempted by other events

**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](https://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!



## PACKRATT TRAINS & TOYS

546 Kentucky Street  
Gridley CA 95948  
530-797-9264  
packratt1@gmail.com

Buy - Sell - Trade

**Matt Padgett**

**Wed thru Fri 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Saturday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

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 <https://www.pcrnmra.net/link-to-the-pcr-calendar/> 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? [meldridge2000@gmail.com](mailto:meldridge2000@gmail.com)



The Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association  
invite you to



# EXTRA 2026 NORTH

## PCR Convention

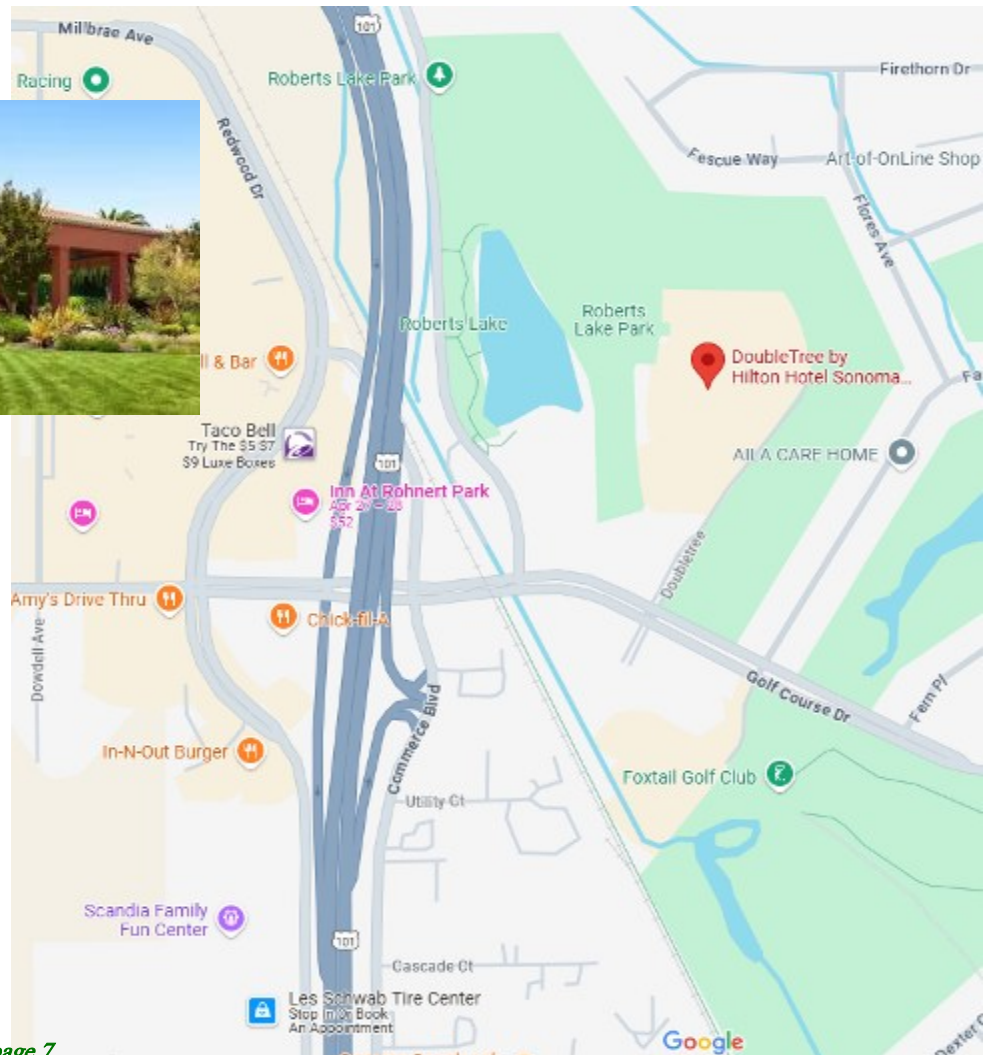
Hosted by the Redwood Empire Division of PCR

April 29 – May 3, 2026

Doubletree Sonoma Wine Country, Rohnert Park

For more information go to  
[www.pcr2026.org](http://www.pcr2026.org)

- Full three-day program
- Over 40 clinics including several Make and Takes
- 17+ Layout Tours
- Operating Sessions
- Contests
- Excursions
- Member Swap Meet
- FREE Companion Fare with Full Fare registration



*Continued on page 7*



# EXTRA 2026 NORTH PCR CONVENTION ROHNERT PARK, CA

## 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 [pcr2026.org](http://pcr2026.org) 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.

**The Clinic Schedule is now available on the website - <https://pcr2026.org/clinics/>**

## 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.

 Visit [pcr2026.org/clinics](http://pcr2026.org/clinics) to fill out the clinic submission form.

Questions? Contact **Jim Providenza** at [clinics@pcr2026.org](mailto:clinics@pcr2026.org).

*Continued on page 8*



**EXTRA  
2026  
NORTH**  
PCR CONVENTION  
ROHNERT PARK, CA

## Layout Tours

Self-guided layout tours will be available on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons. If layout owners are available, additional tours may be offered on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Detailed tour information, including addresses, will be provided to registered convention attendees during the event.



**Ron Kaiser**

**Western Pacific**



**Dave Croshere**

**A B & Old C**



**Ed Merrin**

**Northwestern Pacific**

*Continued on page 9*

## Layout Tours



**Gus Campagna**  
California Western



**Jon Schmidt**  
Nicasio Northern



**Mick Spilsbury**  
The Black Canyon



*Continued on page 10*

## Layout Tours



**Ed Jameson**

**Southern Pacific & Santa Fe**



**Tom Comyns**

**TCRR**



**Ron Learn**

**Northwestern Pacific**

*Continued on page 11*

## Layout Tours



**Richard Schoenstein**  
Large 3-Rail O Gauge



**Ed Brodie**  
The Westie Line



**EXTRA  
2026  
NORTH**  
PCR CONVENTION  
ROHNERT PARK, CA



**Giuseppe Aymar**  
Southern California Railroads

*Continued on page 12*



**EXTRA  
2026  
NORTH**  
PCR CONVENTION  
ROHNERT PARK, CA

## Excursions

We've lined up a fantastic selection of excursions for each day of the convention—there's truly something for everyone! Some are long-time favorites, while others are exciting new additions. A few are designed specifically for companions who may not be attending clinics but anyone is welcome to join.



**Northwestern Pacific  
Restoration Yard and Barn**



**Russian River Railbikes**

*Continued on page 13*

## Excursions



Western Railway Museum



Sturgeon's Mill



*Continued on page 14*



## 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](#)



# February 14 Meet Sacramento



Sierra Division spent Valentine's Day playing with trains! We convened at the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society club layout, the Sierra Central, for our annual operating session visit. As always, the SMRHS club members were on hand to coordinate everything, man the dispatcher's desk, and offer helping hands to those of us unfamiliar with the railroad.

Our tremendous thanks to SMRHS for a wonderful day.



Michael Eldridge at the Sacramento 12th Street yard.



Dave Putnam Handling a train at the Oakland "Mole".



*Continued on page 16*



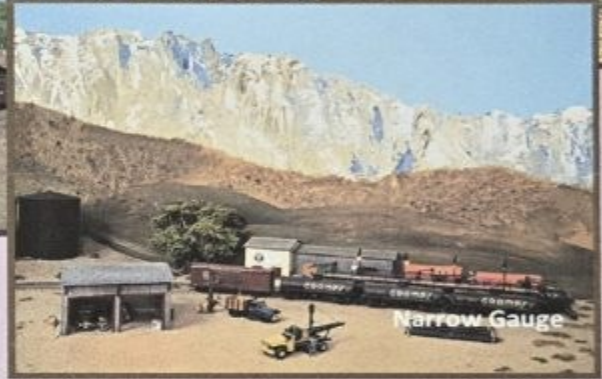
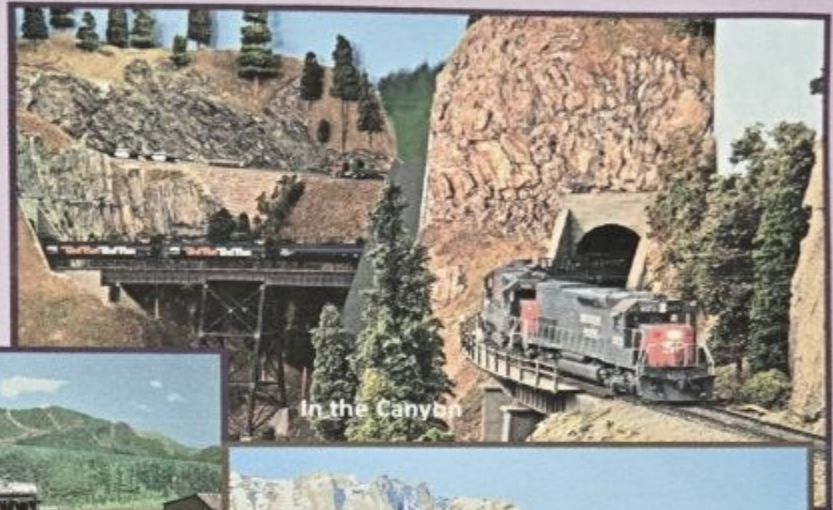
Ed Powell at the throttle (with a Coke®) as his train departs Sacramento.



Brandon Salas solving a switching puzzle at Oroville.



Gathered for lunch in the crew lounge.



# *Model Railroad Show*

**Spring Open House**

**Saturday, May 30, 2026 10 am to 4 pm**

**Sunday, May 31, 2026 10 am to 3 pm**

**Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society  
1990 Grand Ave., Sacramento, Ca. 95838**

**Admission:**

**\$3 Adults 18 and over, \$1 under 18**

**Details at [SMRHS.COM](http://SMRHS.COM)**



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](http://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 [louiesgd@att.net](mailto:louiesgd@att.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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 **separate check**. 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 [louiesgd@att.net](mailto:louiesgd@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 [louiesgd@att.net](mailto:louiesgd@att.net). or Chip Meriam at [chipmeriam@comcast.net](mailto:chipmeriam@comcast.net).

Have you changed your address or other membership information?  
Notify Headquarters  
Email: [nmrahq@nmra.org](mailto:nmrahq@nmra.org)  
Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am—4pm ET)

**IMPORTANT !!!!**

# Around And About



**Union Pacific 4014 (Big Boy) under steam.**

**Feather River Canyon**

**April 9, 2026**

*Photo: Riley Bestor*

# **NMRA** PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

**Wow! Did you know there's a new  
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](http://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](http://www.nmra.org)**

**See Of Partners On The Next Page**





# PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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- CatzPaw Innovations
- CB Train Junction
- Clever Models
- CMR
- Coastmans Scenic Products
- Composite Designs
- Conowingo Models
- Cowcatcher Magazine
- Dark Sky Modules
- Daylight Sales
- Deepwoods Software
- Deluxe Materials
- Diorama Hobbies
- **DVL Design**
- Dwarvin Enterprises
- East Coast Circuits
- East Plains Weathering
- Enterprise & National Car Rentals
- Evan Designs
- EZTronic
- Feight Studios
- Fusion Scale Graphics
- Gatorfoam
- Golden Spike Hobbies
- Great Decals!
- Green Frog Productions
- Highways and Byways Model Railroad Graphics
- Hot Wire Foam Factory
- Ipswich Hobbies
- ITLA Scale Models
- K.I.S.S. Method
- Klawndyke
- LaBelle Woodworking
- LARC Products
- Leavin' A Mark Engraving
- Lineside Details
- Logic Rail Technologies
- MAC Rail
- Marker Tree Creations
- Micro-Mark
- Mid-South Hobbies
- Mine Mount Models
- Miniprints
- Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum
- Model Train Catalogue
- Modelers Decals & Paint
- Motrak Models
- MRC (Model Rectifier Corp)
- MrTrain.com
- Mudd Creek Models
- New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings
- Nick and Nora Designs
- Northlandz
- NScaleWorks
- Old Depot Gallery
- Old West Scenery
- Precision Model Railroad
- R & J Details
- R. Duck Woodkits
- R. Duck Locomotive Works
- RailroadKits & Microlumina
- Ram Track
- RR-CirKits
- Scale Model Plans
- Scale Railroad Models
- Scenery Solutions
- Showcase Miniatures
- T-TRAK by Denniston
- Team Track Models
- The Model Railroad Benchwork Store
- The N Scale Architect
- Third & Townsend Models
- Tichy Train Group
- Touch of the Brush Weathering
- Train Installations
- Train Show, Inc.
- Trainmasters TV/MRH Store
- Trainz
- TSG Multimedia
- UGEARS
- USA Airbrush Supplies/Badger
- Wallace Locomotive Works
- White Rose Hobbies
- WiFi Model Railroad (LocoFi)
- Yelton Models

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 blue. You can find descriptions of these companies and their products, links to their websites, and the discount codes on our Partnership Page at [nmra.org/partnerships](http://nmra.org/partnerships). Remember you need to be logged into our site as a member to see the codes! Go to [nmra.org/user/register](http://nmra.org/user/register) to register your name on the website.



National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

Renewal Notice

ID:			
Name:			
Address:			
City:	State/Country	Zip:	
Phone:	Birth Date:	Scale:	
Email:	Occupation:		

Membership	1 Year	2 Years	Total
<b>Premium Membership</b> – All rights & benefits, including digital NMRA Magazine and the <b>monthly printed</b> NMRA Magazine.	\$ 92.00	\$ 184.00	
<b>Basic Membership</b> - All rights & benefits including the digital NMRA magazine.	\$ 68.00	\$ 136.00	
<b>Family</b> – Spouse or minor child of full NMRA member. No magazine, no voting rights, not allowed to hold office. Name: <input type="text"/>	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	
<b>Sustaining</b> – Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Business, Associations). All rights & benefits, digital NMRA Magazine and the monthly printed NMRA magazine.	\$ 120.00	\$ 240.00	
<b>Student</b> – Between the ages of 19-25 years of age. All rights & benefits and digital NMRA magazine.	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00	
<b>Membership</b>			\$
<b>General Donation</b>			\$
<b>Merchandise</b>			\$
<b>Total</b>			\$

If you would like to set up auto renewal, pay with PayPal or make payment arrangements please call the office to speak with a staff member (423) 892-2846. Please make Checks Payable to NMRA. We also accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express

Credit Card Number:

Expire Date:     CVV Code:    Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA Merchandise				
Item	Size (Select Size: Circle)	Qty	Price (Shipping Included)	Total
Blue Denim Long Sleeve Shirt	S M L XL		\$45.00	
Blue Denim Long Sleeve Shirt	2XL 3XL 4XL		\$50.00	
Black Golf Shirt	S M L XL		\$45.00	
Black Golf Shirt	2XL 3XL 4XL		\$50.00	
Grey Golf Shirt	S M L XL		\$45.00	
Grey Golf Shirt	2XL 3XL 4XL		\$50.00	
Grey Ball Cap			\$20.00	
Black Ball Cap			\$20.00	
Turnout Template HO Scale			\$6.00	
Turnout Template O Scale			\$6.00	
HO Scale Standard & Clearance Gauge			\$10.00	
N Scale Standard & Clearance Gauge			\$10.00	
ON30 Standard & Clearance Gauge			\$10.00	
O Scale Gauge			\$12.00	
Hon3 Scale Gauge			\$7.00	
On3 Scale Gauge			\$7.00	
Sn3 Scale Gauge			\$7.00	
Railway Track & Maintenance Book			\$30.00	
Concrete Book			\$30.00	
Steel Book			\$40.00	
Freight Terminals & Trains Book			\$30.00	
<b>Merchandise Total</b>			\$	

It is extremely **important** to have your current email address on file. It is used for access to the member only section, digital NMRA magazine, turntable, ballots, voting, annual donation statements, online renewals and communication. Please be sure to note your email address below.

Email address:

If your address information on the front of this notice needs updating, please let us know.

Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:		

NMRA HQ P. O. Box 1328 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328 Email: [HQ@NMRA.ORG](mailto:HQ@NMRA.ORG) Phone: 423-892-2846