



PACIFIC COAST
REGION

SHORT LINE

Sierra Division
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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INTERNATIONAL RAILFAIR



Model Train Show
NOV 14-15 2026



OPERATING LAYOUTS!
CHILDREN'S LAYOUTS!
COLORING TABLE
VENDOR TABLES
ANDY FLETCHER LIVE DRAWING
TRAINMART CONSIGNMENT STORE

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

CAL EXPO
BUILDING C
1600 EXPOSITION BLVD, SACRAMENTO
www.internationalrailfair.com

**Sierra Division
Callboard**

PCR business or questions:
PCR President
Chip Meriam
chipmeriam@comcast.com
(530) 228-1544

Director, Sierra Division
Mike Hamlin
hamlin6250@gmail.com
(530) 526-4408

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

Superintendent
Dave McBrayer
david.mcbrayer9@gmail.com
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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 McBrayer
Division Superintendent

Members of the Sierra Division met at the
Tidewater Southern Model Railroad Club at the
San Joaquin County Fairgrounds on August 29.
Among the happenings there: Sierra Division
held a short business meeting. The Minutes of
the meeting will be distributed separately.
Brandon Salas, President of the TSMRC, was
awarded “Sierra Division Member of the Year”
for 2025. A bit late but better than never. The
Tidewater Southern layout was open for

“backoffice” viewing by the Sierra Division members present. The
main part of the layout is HO scale. Recently, the Club has added an
N scale scene. There has been a lot of work completed in the past
year. Bravo.

While not a strictly Sierra Division event, Colfax celebrated their
“Railroad Days” on September 12 and 13. Were you able to attend?
I hope so. Among the nine model railroad groups present, Sierra
Division was represented: “European Train Enthusiasts” and the
group Michael Eldridge and I model with, “Bay Area S Scalers”,
were present showing their operating layouts. Prototype railroading
was also present, AMTRAK’s California Zephyr and Union Pacific’s
freight operations and a “show train” led by a Heritage-painted
SD70-series locomotive. Railroad Days is a great family outing that
is ‘kid friendly’.

Don’t forget to check the PCR calendar on the website for Sierra
Division ZOOM meetings, November’s “International Railfair” at
Cal Expo, and the 2027 PCR Convention at Reno hosted by Sierra
Division.

Until next time,

Dave McBrayer
Superintendent – PCR Sierra Division.

FROM THE EDITOR



Chip Meriam,
Short Line Editor

You should notice this issue is quite sparse—at least by our typical standards. Why? (you may ask)...

Simply put, very little content was received from Sierra Division members. While I thank Dave McBrayer, Brandon Salas, and Tom Campbell for their contributions, we're missing articles and news item submissions from anywhere else throughout the division. With a total membership of 207, there should be more than 3 folks with something to say. So, to paraphrase an infamous American politician, let's hear from the "silent majority."

Beyond just helping your editor fill the "white space", why bother with preparing and submitting articles?

- 1.) Documenting and photographing a small (or large) modeling project actually makes you a better modeler. The process of explaining how and why you did something a certain way is one of the best in-roads to mastering your topic.
- 2.) Writing is a creative activity. Those of us in this great hobby are nothing if not creative. The sheer satisfaction of creating something to share, and seeing it in print, is a huge charge!
- 3.) Developing articles or announcing upcoming events serves our hobby. Think of all the hobby-related articles you've read yourself over the years. Is your enjoyment of model railroading not enhanced by such reading? In order for us to read, someone must first write!
- 4.) If you're involved with the Achievement Program, take notice of the "Model Railroad Author" certificate. This is easily earned by submitting articles and preparing clinics for presentation. I've noticed that just about every Master Model Railroader recipient has listed the Author certificate as one of the seven required.

So there you have it. Five good reasons (if you count making the editor happy) to start submitting articles and news-worthy content to your divisional hobby publication!

Have you changed your address or other membership information?

Notify Headquarters

Email: nmrahq@nmra.org

Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am—4pm

ET)

IMPORTANT !!!

Sierra Division continues to have online meets via ZOOM or 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)

Nov. 13, 2026

Dec. 12, 2026



Are You a Model Railroader or would you want to be one? We have both HO and N scale layouts housed in a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove. Scan our QR Code or type webpage under QR Code for more information about us.



linktr.ee/tsmrc_inc

We are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, come by to visit and support us.

With Association to: National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) & Pacific Coast Region (PCR) & Sierra Division.



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!



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





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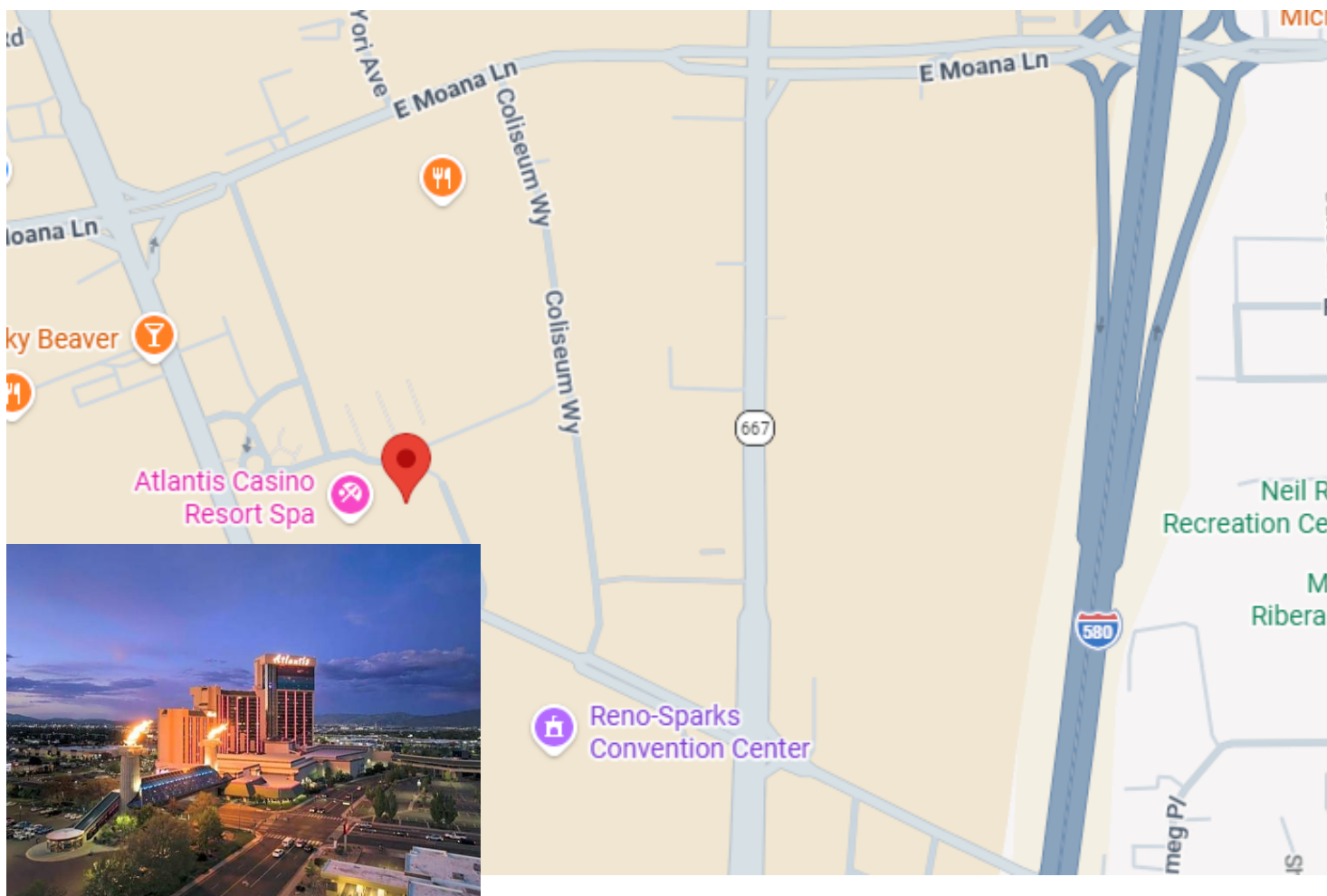


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Important Notice!

We will be taking some time off to travel in October. The store will be open Oct. 1-3 and then not again until Oct. 28-31. As always, thank you for understanding and continuing to support the store and the lives of these two old folks! 🚂 😊

- ✓ Three Day Program
- ✓ Clinics
- ✓ Make & Take Workshops
- ✓ Layout Tours
- ✓ Operating Sessions
- ✓ Contests
- ✓ Excursions
- ✓ Swap Meet
- ✓ Free Companion Fare



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. GO TO:
<https://pcrnmra.regfox.com/pcr-2027-convention>



The Puget Sound Express 2027 NMRA National Convention will be held at the Tacoma Convention Center from Tuesday, August 10 through Sunday, August 15. We are planning a first-class gathering for model railroaders from throughout the Pacific Northwest, and we invite our friends from across North America and around the world to join us for PRX 2027.

The convention website, <https://2027.NMRA.org>, features videos, program information, registration details, and a sign-up form for the convention newsletter. Registration is now open. Early-bird registration is \$150 for NMRA members and \$175 for nonmembers. The Marriott Tacoma Downtown and the Hotel Murano will serve as the convention's host hotels. Information about special convention room rates will be sent to registered attendees.

We have already identified more than 60 layouts that will be open to convention visitors, with approximately half prepared to host operating sessions. More than 100 activities are currently being developed, including hands-on make-and-take tutorials. The program will also feature several Modeling with the Masters sessions, beginning a day early on Monday, August 9.

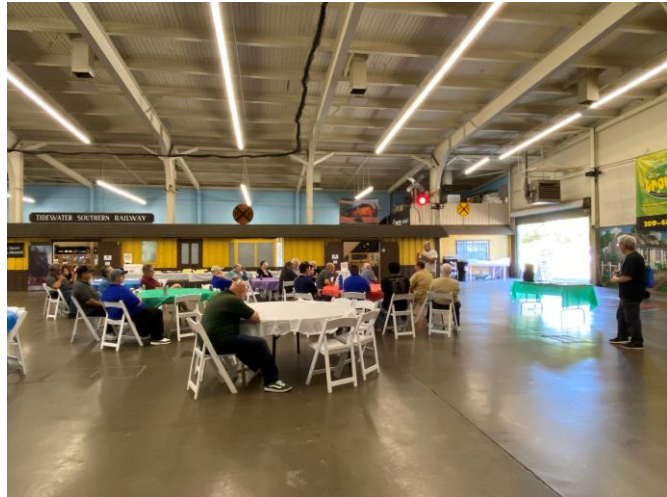
The National Train Show will take place at the Tacoma Convention Center on Saturday and Sunday, August 14 and 15.

A hub of railroad activity for well over a century, the host city of Tacoma, Washington remains a busy rail center serving more than 50 trains each day. From the city's location at the heart of Puget Sound, visitors will have access to a wide variety of PSX 2027 events and activities, as well as the region's dramatic scenery and natural wonders. Tacoma is easily reached from the north, east, and south by car, air, or train.

We welcome your participation. If you are interested in presenting a clinic, volunteering, or serving on one of the organizing committees, please complete our interest form [here](#). We will need A LOT of volunteers. To receive the latest convention news, program announcements, and registration updates, visit our website and click on the button at the bottom of the page to sign up for the [2027 NMRA Convention Newsletter](#).

AUGUST MEET – STOCKTON

Here are a few candid photos from the August 29 meet at Tidewater Southern in Stockton.



Brandon Salas (right) receives the 2026 Member of the Year Award from Division Superintendent, Dave McBrayer.

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 louiesqd@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 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 **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 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.



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 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. Remember you need to be logged into our site as a member to see the codes! Go to nmra.org/user/register to register your name on the website.

- 18ten Designs
- Bespoke Rail
- 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 Plainses 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 Box.com**
- 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 Book and Bell**
- 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



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

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	
Merchandise Total			\$	

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 Phone: 423-892-2846

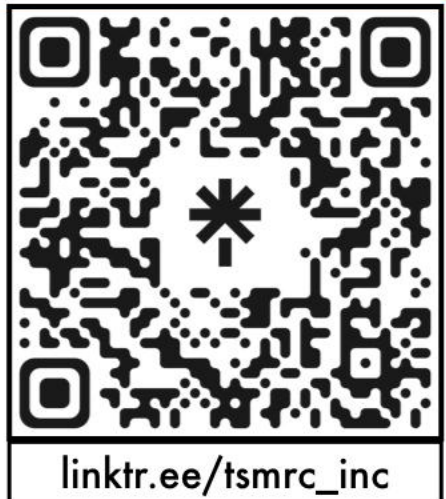
TIDEWATER



SOUTHERN

MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Are You a Model Railroader or would you want to be one? We have both HO and N scale layouts housed in a 2,400 sq. ft. alcove. Scan our QR Code or type webpage under QR Code for more information about us.



linktr.ee/tsmrc_inc

We are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, come by to visit and support us.

With Association to: National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) & Pacific Coast Region (PCR) & Sierra Division.