

**PACIFIC COAST REGION NMRA
2023 JOINT PCR/FRRS**

CONVENTION TIMETABLE

79

In Association With
THE FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY



EFFECTIVE April 26 – 30, 2023

FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND INFORMATION OF
EMPLOYEES ONLY, WHO MUST ALSO CARRY COPY
OF CURRENT ISSUE OF SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CHIP MERIAM & JIM COLLINS
PCR Convention Co-Chairs

KERRY COCHRAN & EUGENE VICKNAIR
FRRS Convention Chairs



WELCOME TO SACRAMENTO!

Sierra Division welcomes you! We are proud to host the 2023 joint convention of the Pacific Coast Region – NMRA and the Feather River Rail Society. This year we are in the state's capital, a city steeped in railroad history dating back to the Gold Rush of 1849. Indeed, we are assembled near the western terminus of the first transcontinental railroad. This is also the home of the nation's premier railroad museum that boasts 225,000 square feet of exhibit space, including the NMRA's The Magic of Scale Model Railroading, and a standard gauge, steam powered, excursion railroad. We're glad you're here and we are confident you will find your visit to this beautiful historic city to be a rewarding experience.

The PCR Convention Committee has been busy this past year compiling a variety of clinics, model railroad tours, operating sessions, and visits to prototype facilities.

Feather River Rail Society, with their primary focus on the history of the Western Pacific Railroad, also has a slate of clinics and other activities that coordinate well with the NMRA. We urge everyone to take part in all that is being offered during this joint convention.



Sierra Division is attempting the first hybrid convention in PCR this year. We are presenting the standard in-person convention with all the usual events but at the same time, we will be providing an opportunity for those who cannot make it to see clinics and other events via Zoom as well as post clinic discussions with the presenters. Those who attend the full convention also have access to the virtual convention.

We are grateful to be a part of this gathering of like-minded rail enthusiasts where fellowship and learning opportunities abound. We hope you'll have a wonderful time. If you need anything, please see any committee member or any of us and we will do our level best to help you. Committee members will be the ones wearing a beige convention shirt.

Happy Railroading!

Jim Collins & Chip Meriam, PCR Convention Co-Chairs
Kerry Cochrane & Eugene Vicknair, FRRS Convention Chairs
Rails by the River
2023 Joint PCR/FRRS Convention

CONTESTS

See Convention Website for complete details.

Contest Room Schedule:

Thursday Contest Drop Off /Open 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Friday Open 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Saturday Judging 9:00 AM until complete.

Entry Pickup Saturday 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

(if judging is complete)

Deadline to pickup entries on Sat 9:00 PM to 10:30 PM

Model Contest Categories:

1. Steam locomotive: All types of steam locomotives. Entries must be powered.
2. Diesel and Other Locomotives: All locomotives except steam or traction, including heavy electric locomotives. Entries must be powered; multiple-unit entries must have at least one unit powered.
3. Passenger car: All types of cars in passenger service other than cabooses, traction or maintenance of way.
4. Freight car: All types of revenue freight cars, including express and company service cars other than M of W.
5. Caboose: All types of cabooses, including M of W.
6. Maintenance of Way: All types of non-revenue equipment not included in categories 3-5 above, all types of trackwork, all types of non-revenue railroad off-track vehicles.
7. Structures: All structures, other than trackwork, without significant scenery. Scenery, if any, is not judged.
8. Displays: All dioramas or groups of models displayed with significant scenery.
9. Traction and Self-Propelled Cars: Self-propelled cars, and all models of electrically powered equipment except heavy electric. Models must be powered; multiple-unit entries must have at least one unit powered.

Square Foot Challenge Contest

Requirements

The popular Square Foot challenge will be back for the 2023 Convention in Sacramento! The rules for this category are simple: 1 foot square footprint, Railroad themed Must contain a piece of rail. No limit on height

The entry can be whimsical or prototypical. This is a non-judged category, so no documentation is needed.

Module (Portable Layout) Contest

Categories

Modules may be entered in one of two categories:

Individual module

Group Module

To distinguish modules from the above Diorama/Display category in the Model Contest, evidence should be submitted to show modules are capable of being connected to other similar modules as opposed to just being a demountable portion of a layout.

Photo Contest

An entrant in the Photo Contest must be a member of the NMRA in good standing. Prototype and model railroad theme photographic prints only (no slides), sized and mounted according to PCR Photo Contest Judges and Participant Guide.

Arts & Crafts Contest

All registered convention attendees and accompanying family will be eligible to participate in the Arts & Crafts Contest. The contest has a large number of categories. See the convention website for more detail.

Popular Vote Contest

All registered convention attendees will receive a ballot form in their registration packet and will be eligible to participate in the Popular Vote Contest. All contest models, photographs, trains, craft items and Showcase display-only items are eligible for the popular vote and will be identified with a numbered tag for this purpose.

The ballot will allow individuals to vote for up to three of their favorites in each category:

1. Model (including Modules)
2. Photograph
3. Train
4. Arts & Crafts item

Modules will be considered to be models in the Popular Vote Contest.

Switching Contest

All registered convention attendees will be eligible to compete in the Switching Contest. This will require the entrant to reposition cars on a typical "Timesaver" switching layout. Two aspects of this contest will be completing the switching problem with 1) the fewest number of moves and 2) in the least time.

Ingenuity and Levity Contest

All registered convention attendees will be eligible to participate in this contest. The Contest Chairman will make one award each for ingenuity and levity incorporated in any entry in any of the above contest categories. These awards will be made at the discretion of the Chairman.

Showcase, Display Only

This is a non-competitive event for models, modules, photos, and arts & crafts. Entries may be complete or in process. Entries may be submitted in the following categories:

1. Models – These include all models as designated by the categories of the judged model contest. However, other model and layout oriented items may be permitted, such as mechanisms, control panels, etc. at the discretion of the contest chairmen.
2. Photos
3. Train
4. Arts & Crafts

OUTSIDE/PROTOTYPE TOURS

Thursday

State Museum Collection Center. Tour of what is often referred to as the "California Archives." Tour including bus travel is 1:05 p.m – 3:30 p.m.. Cameras/photos allowed only in the lobby. No photos of curated items. Cost is \$20.00.

Friday

Siemens Mobility Factory in Sacramento. A tour of the factory where light rail cars are built for delivery across the USA. Tour including bus travel is 8:15am – 11:40pm. Cost is \$24.00. Steel-toed shoes are required.

California State Railroad Museum Docent-led Tour. A tour of the world-famous railroad museum including engines, cars, and historical displays led by a knowledgeable and friendly docent. Tour including bus travel is 9:55am – 12:35pm. Cost is \$20.00

NON-RAIL

This year's Rails by the River 2023 Joint PCR/FRRS Convention will feature a program for the Non-Rail attendees. All Non-Rail convention attendees are cordially invited to visit the Non-Rails Hospitality Room and enjoy the fun, fellowship, and activities.

All on-site Non-Rail clinics and activities (except for contest entries and judging) will be in the Non-Rail Room (Redwood Room).

Hospitality Room

The Non-Rail Room will be in the Redwood Room and open during the convention to all convention registrants and their guests. Please check with the convention Registration Desk for the location of the room.

The Hospitality Room will be open during the following days and times:

Wednesday, April 26 - closed.

Thursday, April 27 - 9:00am - 5:00pm.

Friday, April 28 - 9:00am - 5:00pm.

Saturday, April 29 - 9:00am - 4:30pm.

All convention registrants are welcome to stop by the Hospitality Room for some refreshments. It's a great place to catch up on things with old friends and to meet new one! We'll have various games, jigsaw and other puzzles, decks of cards, magazines and paperbacks available; and there will be room to put sewing machines for people who want to work either on their own projects or on quilts and afghans to be donated to a local charity.

Schedule (Subject to change)

Thursday, April 27. 7:00 - 9:00pm. PCR Bingo in the Non-rail room.

Friday, April 28. 7:30 - 10:00pm. Night on the Town: "Young Frankenstein" at the Woodland Opera House. \$26.00 - contact Nonrail Chair for tickets. excursion on Thursday. See the Excursions page for more info.)

Contest

While the Arts and Crafts division of the PCR Contest is open to anyone registered for the convention, it is often of particular interest to Non-Rail attendees. If you would like to enter an item in the contest, entry forms and rules can be obtained through the links on the Contests page or during the convention in the Contest Room and Nonrail Hospitality Room. Those who do not want to enter the contest but would be interested in judging can get more information from members of the Contest Committee. The judging usually takes place on Saturday morning, and lunch is provided to the judges afterwards.)

Contest entry forms will be available in the Non-Rail Hospitality Room and the Contest Room.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help staff the Non-Rail Hospitality Room, please.

Mary Moore-Campagna

Non Rail Activities

HOBO BREAKFAST

As we have done at PCR conventions for some 55 years now, Hobos will gather for breakfast during the convention. This year we will meet at:

The Toasted Rooster Cafe, 1650 Fulton Ave., Sacramento, CA 95825 starting at 6:00am.

Hobos are, by definition, model railroaders who have attended at least one NMRA National convention outside the boundary of their home region. While our Hobo group may not be down on their luck or out of work, they are well-traveled folks, and all are welcome to join in this time of camaraderie while enjoying a fine breakfast.

Hobos are encouraged to bring guests to this activity. If you are not a Hobo by definition and would like to join us, you are welcome to come as my guest.



A sign-up sheet will also be at the Registration Desk. If you haven't already, please sign up as soon as possible after you arrive, since we need to alert the restaurant how many folks are coming. They need to know!

As is customary, we will have the "Official Beggar" circulating with his tin can collecting any coins (or paper) you can contribute toward keeping the Hobo tradition going. We will also have pins and patches for sale at the breakfast, should you wish to advertise your allegiance.

Lou Anderson

Head Hobo



CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS Thursday

Thursday April 27, 2023

• **Chris Palermo – “Joining and Using NMRA’s New Interchange Digital Platform” Thurs. 8:30–9:30am Room D (Virtual).** NMRA recently deployed NMRA Interchange, a new online platform offering instant messaging, spontaneous voice and video hangouts with other members worldwide, focused discussion of specific prototypes, modeling topics, region business, conventions, and more. This clinic will show, using a live internet connection, all about how to join and participate.

• **Chip Meriam – “Forms, Signs, and More Part 1 - Railroad Paperwork” Thurs. 8:30–9:30am Room B.** Part 1 will cover using An Electronic Spreadsheet, Excel, to Create and Print Railroad Paperwork and More. Demonstration and samples using Microsoft Excel® with references to similarity with Corel QuatroPro® and Open Office Calc®. Exhibits will include a timetable, train orders, waybills, custom forms, etc. Clinic will include a PowerPoint® presentation, printed handout, and printed samples. It will be focusing on forms using built-in Excel tools.

• **Dick Witzens – “50 Years on the Sacramento Central Thurs. 8:30–9:30am” Room C.** The Sacramento Modular Railroaders and their HO club railroad, the Sacramento Central have been around for about 50 years. We’ll talk about operating with switch lists, building light weight modules, setting up versatile layouts in 1-1/2 hours, and more. We’ll cover how we do all this with member dues of 40 dollars per year and other subjects.

• **Ed Hall, MMR– “Painting Brass Locomotives - Specifically an SP Cab-Forward” Thurs. 10:00-11:00am Room D (Virtual).** This clinic will cover disassembling a brass locomotive, cleaning it and soldering anything needed, cleaning it for paint, and painting. Then cleaning any areas where paint is not wanted plus decals and cleaning the setting solution and preparing for clear coat.

• **Phil Gulley – “Designing and Planning the UP/ Summit County Layout” Thurs. 10:00-11:00am Room B.** First, I cover my journey designing and building the Union Pacific and Summit County Railroad. Then I share some of the unique approaches to problems. The Union Pacific Railroad is in a large purpose-built metal out-building 30x40. One of the criteria was to have a complete walk-in model railroad without duckunders. This will all be covered as well as what part of the vast Union Pacific System I am attempting to model and era.

• **Mike Brady – “Basic Train Simulation Using Your Computer” Thurs. 10:00-11:00am” Room C.** No Layout? No Problem! You can run trains anyway, and if you’re a good enough programmer and artist, you can build trains, routes, activities, and even the simulation software. I’ll be highlighting Open Rails, which is free, open-source train simulation software that focuses on high-fidelity simulation of train physics. In addition, it’s compatible with trains and routes built for Microsoft Train Simulator.

CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS Thursday

- **Jere Ingram – “Introduction to Modular Signaling Standards” Thurs. 11:30am-12:30pm Room D (Virtual).**

This clinic's objective is to increase our knowledge about railroad signals and their use in the real world. A non-technical review of the Modular Signal System (MSS) standard will be presented along with the equipment necessary to implement it. Implementation considerations on a Free-mo module or lay out will be explored.

- **Jim Moomaw – “The Dispatcher's Office: What's There and What It Does” Thurs. 11:30am-12:30pm Room B.**

Have you ever looked at old photos of Dispatchers offices and wondered what all that stuff was? Learn about the equipment and paper forms typically found in dispatching centers from the 1920s to the 1990s, and see how they supported track warrant (TWC), timetable & train order (TT&TO), and Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) systems. Provides a prototype basis for what model railroad pre-modern era dispatching offices might include.

- **Eugene Vicknair – “Western Pacific's Typefaces and Graphics” Thurs. 11:30am-12:30pm Room C.**

Will discuss the Western Pacific's logo, typefaces and graphics used over time and the history of changes and styles. Has copyrighted information - no photography allowed.

Lunch Break 12:30-2:00pm

- **Chris Skow – “Western Pacific Final Years (part 1)” Thurs. 2:00-3:00pm Room D (Virtual).**

On-Line, DVD, and slide presentation with audience participation and discussion.

- **Chris Palermo – “Developing an Operations Plan for a Small Layout” Thurs. 2:00-3:00pm Room B.**

For a 15' x 15' home layout based on the California citrus industry of the 1950s, this clinic will show a track plan, describe the industries, and explain how the presenter developed a simple and entertaining operating plan for three to four operators. Think of this as "ops light," with minimal paperwork and an emphasis on getting trains running and cars delivered rather than strict prototype accuracy. With this clinic, you'll be able to start thinking about how to move your layout into the operating phase.

- **Dave Sampson – “Culemeyer - Railway Cars Delivered to Your Front Door” Thurs. 2:00-3:00pm Room C.**

In the early 1930's, the Deutsche Reichsbahn Gesellschaft (DRG) recognized the economic threat of a burgeoning trucking industry to their freight business. To forestall a loss of freight business, the DRG began experiments in the 1930's with the Culemeyer's trailer that permitted freight cars to be delivered to customers who did not have a direct rail connection. This presentation will address the historical development of the Culemeyer trailers and associated tractors, Culemeyer terminals, a survey of HO scale models and a brief overview of an actual Culemeyer operations.

- **Chris Skow – “Western Pacific Final Years (part 2)” Thurs. 3:30-4:30pm Room D (Virtual).**

On-Line, DVD, and slide presentation with audience participation and discussion

CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS Thursday

• **Steve 'Breezy' Gust** - "Basic TWC, Track Warrant Control, Practice and Operations" **Thurs. 3:30-4:30pm Room B.** An introduction to and suggestions on how to apply this traffic control system used on prototype railroads to your model railroad. Breezy will provide examples of forms, verbal communications, and some brief rule applications. Will also look at how TWC procedures and operations are conducted by the Union Pacific Railroad.

• **Al Turnbull** - "Basic Scenery Tips and Techniques" **Thurs. 3:30-4:30pm Room C.** This is a beginner type class that shows how to achieve the 'magic' of making a railroad. I will show examples of different methods of constructing, painting and adding the elements that make a scene come to life. I'll discuss some the techniques used between portable and home layouts.

• **Chris Skow** - "Western Pacific Final Years (part 3)" **Thurs. 5:00-6:00pm Room D (Virtual).** On-Line, DVD, and slide presentation with audience participation and discussion.

• **Dave Clemens** - "Timetable & Train Order (TT & TO) Basics and Challenges" **Thurs. 5:00-6:00pm Room B.** This clinic will discuss the basics of the Operating Rules, the responsibility of train crews, and how a Dispatcher "weaves" trains across the railroad when things don't go as planned. In addition to the "basics", this Clinic will be "hands on" with participants playing Roles and "applying the Rules" to situations they may encounter.

• **Thomas Blinn** - "Keeping Trains on the Track" **Thurs. 5:00-6:00pm Room C.** The purpose of this clinic is to help model railroaders understand and fine tune their layout so that it operates with the least number of derailments. We will go over the causes of derailment on the prototype RR and the model RR. Also, we will start with how rails and wheels are designed, steps in reducing derailments, the use of track gauges, operator errors, track, wheels, couplers and turnouts. Also, we will talk about car diaphragms, long passenger cars, temperature variations, and car weight. We will finish up with simple tests on rating your layout's performance.

Dinner Break 6:00-7:30pm

• **Thomas Blinn** - "JMRI Layout Wiring" **Thurs. 7:30-8:30pm Room D (Virtual).** How might you integrate JMRI (JAVA Model Railroad Interface) into your layout? I will present a structured Plan that will walk you through all the steps for getting started. How to organize the wiring. How to apply the software to your situation. I'll cover auxiliary equipment to support JMRI, and what to do when you get stuck. I'll review the various forms necessary to install software. I will identify other resources that will help.

• **Seth Neumann/Jim Providenza** - "LDsig OPsig Roundtable" **Thurs. 7:30-8:30pm Room B.** Introduction of SIG members and others wanting to discuss layout design and operations. General introductions of people and their modeling/operating interests. We'll pick topics (including plans brought for review) and discuss for layout design. After a short break we'll re-convene and dis-

CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS Thurs-Fri

Discuss operations topics, preferably about the same layouts if appropriate

• **Ken Rattenne - "Twenty Years of Western Pacific, 1955-1975" Thurs. 7:30-8:30pm Room C.** Show will cover the WP power and trains in the 1960's, Will feature the Jim Lexas Collection, Winterail type digital show with live narration.

• **Ty Smith/Michael Dufau - "Teaching Through Trains" Thurs. 9:00-10:00pm Room D (Virtual).** At the heart of the California State Railroad Museum's movement toward formal education is the idea that the museum can and should be more than field-trip destination. Model railroading is a wonderful hobby, but it can also be instrumental in hands-on education. This clinic highlights the new exhibit and asks how we can use it to teach and learn.

• **Seth Neumann/Jim Providenza - "LDsig OPSig Roundtable - continued" Thurs. 9:00-10:00pm Room B.** Continuation of the LDsig and OPSig Roundtable after the break with discussion of operations.

• **Bill Scott - "Contest Judging Demystified" Thurs. 9:00-10:30pm Room C.** Judging models is a very rewarding experience and a great way to improve your own modeling skills. The process is straightforward and well documented. In this clinic the judging procedures and matrices will be presented and discussed. Learn how to become a GOOD judge, and how to fill out the contest forms to better showcase your entries and increase your scores. This clinic will be more of a discussion than a lecture.

Friday April 28, 2023

• **Jim Collins - "Designing and Building a Square-Foot Diorama" Friday. 8:30-9:30am Room D (Virtual).** This clinic will consist of a discussion/demonstration with photos of the process to build a square-foot diorama from scratch (mostly), for the Square-Foot Challenge.

• **Chip Meriam - "Forms, Signs, and More Part 2 - Signs, Logos, Photos, etc." Friday. 8:30-9:30am Room B Part 2** will cover using An Electronic Spreadsheet, Excel, to Create and Print Signs, Logos, and More.

• **Frank Markovich, MMR- "Modeling Westside and Inspiration for a RR Name" Friday. 8:30-9:30am Room C.** I will cover what I did and how I used West Side Lumber as my main inspiration. Parallels will be covered. Also, I will talk about construction techniques, what I learned and what I would do differently.

• **Kerry Cochran - "FRRS Historical Archives Webpages" Friday. 10:00-11:00am Room D (Virtual).** This clinic is a presentation on the FRRS Historical/Archives, Western Pacific RR/Western Pacific RR Museum Archives on the FRRS website. Has copyrighted material used with permission - no photography allowed.

• **Tony Thompson - "Operating a Small Layout with Realistic Waybills" Friday. 10:00-11:00am Room B.** The clinic describes the operation of my small layout with prototypical waybills. The layout is switching-intensive but does have mainline operating also. The presentation concentrates on car movements and the use of prototype-format waybills to route cars, in order to maintain variety of operation in each successive operating session.

CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS Friday

• **Jim Zeek - "Modeling a Sawmill for Model Railroad Operations" Friday. 11:30am-12:30pm Room B.** Clover Valley Lumber Co., Loyaltown, CA is the focus with respect to rail operations, both internal and external, covering the most relevant topics in logging. Emphasis will be on a review of sawmill structures, equipment, operation support facilities, and often integrated remanufacturing plants, operations with information on creating a viable and authentic lumber mill scene and operations for the modeler.

• **Dave Stanley - "Black & White Favorite WP Photos" Friday. 11:30am-12:30pm Room C.** This clinic will feature my own B&W images of the WP and feeder railroads. All black and white power point show consisting of my favorite WP photos and the shortlines that fed it.

Lunch Break 12:30-2:00pm

• **Kyle Wyatt - "Western Pacific First Generation of Passenger Cars" Friday. 2:00-3:00pm Room D (Virtual).** A survey of the first passenger cars used on the Western Pacific, purchased in 1909-1910 by the Denver and Rio Grande for use by the WP and ultimately returned to the D&RG in the late teens and 20's.

• **Dave Clemens - "BN in Spokane, Concepts for a New Layout" Friday. 2:00-3:00pm Room B.** UP/MILW concept circa 1955 in and around Spokane. The IMR&N was featured in MRP 2007 and was open during the X2011W National. After eliminating one peninsula, and consecutive fall vacations watching the BNSF/UP "parade" around the Vancouver WA Amtrak station, the BN 1976 "flooded back" and the die was cast to "Circle Back to BN Yardley 1976" or, as I call it, BN Yardley "Think Small".

• **Bob Rohwer - "LED Locomotive Lighting" Friday. 2:00-3:00pm Room C.** This clinic is on how to replace the light bulbs and light tubes used on many HO locomotive with LED's and clear lens. We will discuss connecting and setting up the lights on the decoder.

• **Mike Coen - "Proto-freelanced Western Pacific Power" Friday. 3:30-4:30pm Room D (Virtual).** How I developed a realistic roster for my Proto-Freelance Western Pacific Oregon Division Layout.

• **Tony Thompson - "Transition Era Freight Traffic on SP's Coast Route" Friday. 3:30-4:30pm Room B.** The patterns of freight traffic of this specific part of the Southern Pacific are described and analyzed, both in terms of trains and the traffic they carried. This includes discussion of the distinctive yards and terminals on the route, the steam and diesel power used on the trains, helper operations, and freight movement patterns.

• **Michael Eldridge - "Creating Human Figures for 3D Printing" Friday. 3:30-4:30pm Room C.** This clinic describes the process of creating and clothing a human figure that can be 3D printed. I will describe my journey of discovery: methods I tried that didn't work well, and how I finally settled on a method. We will briefly look at 3D Capture software for your phone or pad, sculpting software, and character development software.

CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS **Friday**

• **John Stevens – “Magic of Scale Model Railroading Gallery at CSRM” Friday. 5:00 –6:00pm Room B.** Newly positioned director of the Howell Day Museum Exhibit at the CSRM. Background information on the development of the NMRA’s “The Magic of Scale Model Railroading Gallery” at the California State Railroad Museum” followed by a video tour of the exhibit. Has copyrighted material used with permission - no photography allowed.

• **Al Turnbull/Dave Bayless/Jim Moomaw – “MINI CLINICS: (1) Soldering Track and Feeders (2) Building a Pine Tree the Easy Way and (3) Demonstrating Easy Switch Controls” Friday. 5:00–6:00pm Room C.** Short audience participation with short mini-clinics, hands-on techniques for various subjects.

Dinner Break 6:00-7:30pm

• **Shane Starr – “A Brief History of the Nevada-California-Oregon Railway” Friday. 7:30–8:30pm Room D (Virtual).** Learn about one of North America’s longest narrow-gauge railways that once ran from Reno, NV to Lakeview, OR with a branch line to Davies Mill, CA. This little railroad in frontier country would become the predecessor to Western Pacific’s Reno Branch and the Southern Pacific’s Modoc Line. Today, the Nevada -California-Oregon Railway is one of the newest historical societies in the western states dedicated to preserving the 50-year legacy of the original railway. Society President, Shane Starr, will follow his presentation with an overview of the society’s mission and current activities, headquartered in Alturas, CA.

• **Al Turnbull – “Trees, Trees, and Stuff” Friday. 7:30–8:30pm Room B.** I will discuss the different types of trees and how to achieve the look. I’ll present examples of what I feel works best for portable vs home layouts. I’ll show how to put together different types with some emphasis on ‘bottle brush’ pines and how I make those.

• **Michael Eldridge – “Laser Cut Building and Kit Development - From Concept to Finished Model” Friday. 7:30–8:30pm Room C.** This clinic describes the process, tools, and materials I use to produce laser cut structure kits, including selecting an appropriate item to model, a brief comparison of laser cutters, the CAD processing, modern materials used, and a few points about the business of selling a kit.

• **Kerry Cochran – “Western Pacific MOW Equipment (part 4)” Friday. 9:00-10:00pm Room D (Virtual).** Will be discussing the Western Pacific’s MOW equipment, Part 4, and how to model it. Examples will be shown as well as a slide show and history of the equipment used.

• **Bob Rohwer – “Casting and Making Custom 3-Color LED HO Signals” Friday. 9:00-10:00pm Room B.** This clinic is on how to build the 3 color LED signals used by the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society. The first part is how to make custom signal parts and cast them. It will include making the pattern, silicone mold and casting the parts in resin. Next we will make the signal head using a 805 3-color (RGY) LED. Finally, we will make the signal. This will include making signal bridges, cantilever, pole and dwarf signal. At the end we will discuss where to find the parts.

CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS Fri-Sat

• **Phil Edholm - "Using PowerPoint to Make Modeling Images and Designs" Friday. 9:00-10:00pm Room C.** This clinic will cover methods and ideas to use PowerPoint as a drawing tool to create several modeling projects. The clinic will discuss how to use PowerPoint tools, how to set up large slides for high-resolution images and how to manage objects in large slides spaces. I will also cover how to use PowerPoint for general design and archiving materials (images, historical, concepts, etc.).

Saturday April 29, 2023

• **Jim Collins - "Layout Planning with AnyRail" Saturday. 8:30-9:30am Room D (Virtual).** This clinic will consist of a discussion/demonstration of using the layout design program, AnyRail, using a modular layout already completed. Will provide an Overview of AnyRail's features and walk through of its use to create two 30" by 4' modules.

• **Mike Roque - "Signals - Identification, Aspects, Types, and Meaning" Saturday. 8:30-9:30am Room B.** Will give general discussion on railroad signaling types, identification, aspects and meanings. Mostly will cover western railroad "route Signaling" from GCOR but will touch on NORAC "Speed Signaling" of eastern railroading signals. Learn the concepts behind signal aspects and discover how Automatic Block Signaling (ABS), Absolute Permissive Block (APB), Interlockings, and Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) keep trains moving safely and efficiently. This clinic focuses on Southern Pacific and Western Pacific practices, but the principles can be applied to most railroad signal systems.

• **Chip Meriam - "Authorship" Saturday. 8:30-9:30am Room C** This clinic will demonstrate the developing and submitting an article for publication. Creating ideas for worthwhile articles, submission guidelines from various publications, photography, getting the words out of your head and organized, transmitting text and photos to an editor, NMRA "Model Railroad Author" AP Certificate. Contains copyrighted material used with permission - no photography allowed.

• **Greg Elems - "Freight Cars on the WP" Saturday. 10:00-11:00am Room D (Virtual).** A PowerPoint presentation on modeling the various WP freight car fleet.

• **Dennis Drury - "The Southern Pacific Klamath Falls Subdivision in 1984" Saturday. 10:00-11:00am Room B.** This clinic will describe the Southern Pacific line from Klamath Falls to Crescent Lake Oregon as it was in 1984. Prototype information will be provided as well as a discussion of how that information helps in the construction of my layout. Operations will be covered as well as information on the signal system I'm using.

• **Mark Williams - "Riding with the Chiefs and the Captain: Post-war ATSF Passenger Trains" Saturday. 10:00-11:00am Room C.** We'll explore the origin and history of the Santa Fe's popular post-war named passenger trains to the land of citrus and sunshine... California! The Chief, Super Chief, and the El Capitan were some of the most popular ways west between Chicago and Los Angeles. Do you remember which was called "The Train of the Stars?" The Santa Fe Super Chief.

• **Seth Neumann - "Arduino-based Circuits for Operation" Saturday. 11:30am-12:30pm Room D (Virtual).** Arduinos can enhance operations on layouts without full CTC: Seth will

CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS **Saturday**

describe circuits for train order board control, approach bells for operators, grade crossings, "Arduino Relay" controllers for animation and staging ladders, automatic interlockings and also a stepper motor controller.

• Marvin Schurke – "Structure Mockup and Construction / Selective Compression" Saturday. 11:30am-12:30pm

Room B. Accepting an invitation to create mockups of SP Sacramento Shops building models for the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society (SMRHS) yielded many lessons learned, and laser-cut models created from those mockups are now on the SMRHS HO standard gauge layout. Boiler Shop selectively compressed length and width Erecting Shop selectively compressed length. Car Machine Shop selectively compressed length. Lessons learned from the SP Shops mockups were then put to good use in creating mockups of the SP Sacramento Passenger Station and Freight house recently put in place on the SMRHS layout. Passenger Station headhouse selectively compressed width Freight house selectively compressed width Both projects will be reviewed with details of decisions made to fit "correct-looking but compressed" model buildings into spaces far too small for full HO scale models.

• Ed Merrin – "Focus Stacking Using a Smartphone to Take Realistic Model Photos" Saturday. 11:30am-12:30pm

Room C. Over the past five years I have been presenting concepts and techniques used to produce photographs of model railroad scenes that mimic the types of perspectives and compositions resulting from taking photos of prototype trains from ground level. The challenges that present the photographer include the size of cameras and camera lenses, depth of field, and the difficulty avoiding unwanted things such as benchwork, light fixtures, and other objects from getting in the image. This clinic will go into more detail about these issues, including using smartphones, focus stacking software, photo editing software, dealing with common artifacts, and hiding unwanted background objects. Some enhancing effects that increase realism are also covered.

Lunch Break 12:30-2:00pm

• Steve Cope – "Art of the Steel: Modeling the SND, Sacramento Northern Detour Steel Trains" Saturday. 2:00-

3:00pm Room D (Virtual). A PowerPoint presentation on modeling the SND, (Sacramento Northern Detour), steel train as it ran between Geneva, Utah and Stockton. The story of one man's odyssey to model a day in the life of the Sacramento Northern and the history that inspired it. Sidebar time will be devoted to the history of the train and my own personal reasons for modeling it. (It's a long story, but... Cliff Notes version: It involves my dad, a hotbox, a small mountain of smoldering boxcars, and a flurry of irate phone calls to the Trainmaster's desk in Stockton.

• Tom Campbell – "Sacramento's R Street Switching District" Saturday. 2:00-3:00pm Room B. Using Sacramento's R

Street Corridor as an example, we'll look at some terminal operations. For decades the R Street Corridor was served by the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific. We'll end in the modern era to see how the Union Pacific served the Sacramento Bee. Contains copyrighted material used with permission - no photography allowed.

• Phil Edholm – "Building O-scale Structures Two Ways - Acrylic and 3D Framing" Saturday. 2:00-3:00pm Room C.

Phil will discuss building ruggedized contest quality O scale

CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS Saturday

structures for a module using two techniques. First, he will cover using an acrylic box as the structure for a large building. Two additional structures, one large and one small, use 3D filament printed framing with traditional material for both strength and appearance. The clinic will cover design, building, coloring and finishing for the structures.

• **Jim Providenza - "Freight Car Forwarding" Saturday. 3:30-4:30pm Room D (Virtual).** Freight car forwarding is a fascinating subject; figuring out how to do it prototypically on the model is also fascinating. This clinic looks at how to marry Excel and Windows files the output from JMRI Operations to create prototypical waybills for a model railroad.

• **Al Turnbull - "DC/DCC Wiring" Saturday. 3:30-4:30pm Room B.** Let's discuss layout wiring. How to, what to watch for and apply. I'll go over the basics with instruction on DC and DCC electronics with methods of wiring a layout or converting from DC to DCC. Explanations of Buss / feeders and techniques, and why we should consider doing certain things. Some math is included. Bring your slide rules!

• **Pat Raymer /Joel Morse - "Introducing the SurfLiner: Pacific Southwest Region Hosted 2024 National Convention Presentation" Saturday. 3:30-4:30pm Room C.** Our presentation describes the highlights of the upcoming SurfLiner 2024 NMRA National Convention, being held in Long Beach, CA. We will be featuring some of the finest layouts in Southern California, along with outstanding prototype tours. Southern California also offers a wide variety of activities for the entire family and, since our convention hotel is 2 blocks from the ocean, we will have comfortable August temperatures. Come and let us show you what a truly outstanding convention we are planning for you! Contains copyrighted material used with permission - no photography allowed.

LAYOUT TOURS

There are multiple self-driven layout tour opportunities during the convention. See the convention website for descriptions and pictures.

Don McKenney- Mill Valley Lumber Co and South Pacific Coast, both On30 Wednesday 9 am—noon, and Sunday 1pm-5 pm.

Phil Gulley- Union Pacific & Summit County RR, HO Thursday 5pm -10 pm.

George Hardy- Spokane Portland & Seattle California Sub , HO Thursday 5pm -10 pm.

Dave Houston- Southern Pacific, HO Thursday 5pm-10pm and Friday 5pm -9 pm.

Larry Moll- Northern CA Lumber & Mining, HO On3 Thursday 5 pm -10 pm.

Steve Redeker-Hetch Hetchy R.R. On30 Thursday 9 am -noon and 5 pm-10 pm. plus Friday 2 pm -10pm and Saturday Noon—5 pm.

Tom Weissgerber- UP Columbia River Gorge, HO Thursday 5pm-10pm.

Roseville Roundhouse- Donner Pass HO, U-Shaped N Scale, Friday Noon - 8 pm.

Bill Burg- Sacramento Northern Beltline HO, Friday 6 pm -10 pm.

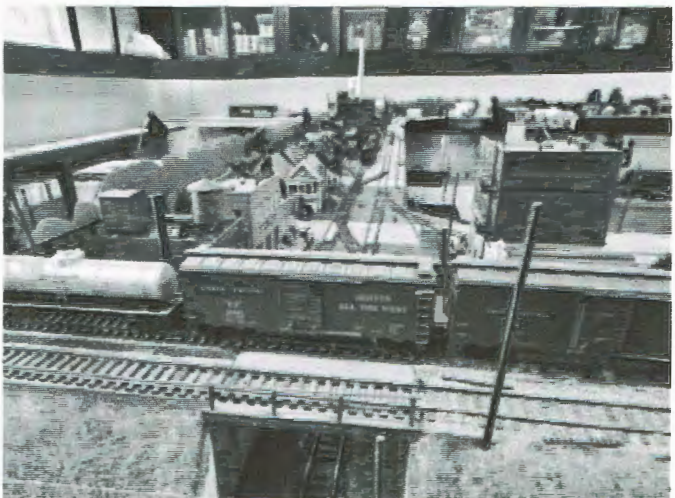
Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society-SP/ WP HO & large HO On3. Friday 6 pm -10 pm.

Mike Andrews—SP WP & SN in the Sacramento Valley, O Saturday 10 am—3pm.

Walt Schedler- SP's Shasta Division Gerber thru Dunsmuir to K Falls, HO Saturday 10 am -3pm.

OPERATING SESSIONS

Op sessions are being scheduled off-line by the Ops SIG. Thanks to **Walt Schedler, Bill Burg, the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society, Phil Gulley, and Richard Pashley** for making their layouts available for operating sessions.



Bill Burg's Sacramento Northern Beltline

BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER

STEVE MILLER

Steve Miller is a retired transportation analyst for the Department of Rail at the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans).

Steve worked for the Western Pacific as a summer job in 1965, after his first year of college. He spent three years in the Army, then ran a model railroad shop in Southern California in the 70s. After that, he returned to school, graduating from San Diego State University in 1978 with a degree in Sociology. He worked for Greyhound in the late 70s. In 1980, he went to work for Caltrans as a Transportation Planner in the Division of Mass Transportation. In 1988, he became the Amtrak Thruway bus coordinator. In 1990, The Division of Rail was created and Steve worked there until he retired in 2007. In addition to managing the Amtrak bus network, he was also involved with passenger information, including Amtrak California Timetables and the posted information at bus stops and train stations.

Steve joined FRRS a couple of years ago and is active in several other organizations including National Railway Historical Society, Central Coast Railway Club, Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association and the La Mesa model Railroad Club which has built a model of the Tehachapi Pass in the San Diego Model Railroad Museum.



Wednesday, April 26

Activity/Time	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	
Registration																														
By the Pool																														
Layout Tours																														
Op Sessions																														

Open 3:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception

McKENNEY On30 x 2

SCHEDLER- SP'S SHASTA DIVISION GERBER THRU DUNSMUIR TO K FALLS HO

Thursday, April 27

Activity/Time	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00
Room D		NMRA Interchange PALERMO			Painting Brass HALL			Modular Signalling INGRAM		LUNCH BREAK			WP Final Years Part 1 SKOW			WP Final Years Part 2 SKOW			WP Final Years Part 3 SKOW		DINNER BREAK			JMRI Layout Wiring BLINN			Teaching Through Trains SMITH DUFAU		
Room B		Signs Part 1 MERIAM			UP Summit County GULLEY			Dispatcher's Office MOOMAW		LUNCH BREAK			Small Layout Ops PALEMRO			Basic TWC GUST			TT&TO Basics CLEMENS		DINNER BREAK			LDSig OPSig Roundtable NEUMANN			LDSig OPSig Roundtable NEUMANN		
Room C		50 Years Sac Central WITZENS			Train Simulation BRADY			WP Typefaces, Graphics VICKNAIR		LUNCH BREAK			Culemeyer SAMPSON			Basic Scenery TURNBULL			Keeping on Track BLINN		DINNER BREAK			WP 1955-1975 RATTENNE			Contest Judging Demystified SCOTT		
Non-Rail																													
Outside Activities																													
Layout Tours																													
Op Sessions																													

STATE MUSEUM COL

PCR BINGO

GULLEY - UP & SUMMIT COUNTY RR HO

HARDY- SPOKANE PORTLAND & SEATTLE CALIFORNIA SUB HO

HOUSTON - SOUTHERN PACIFIC HO

MOLL - NORTHERN CA LUMBER & MINING HO#3

REDEKER - HETCH HETCHY On30

WEISSGERBER - UP COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE HO

BURG - SACRAMENTO NORTHERN BELTLINE HO

REDEKER- HETCH HETCHY On30

MASTER SCHEDULE

Friday, April 28

Activity/Time	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00													
Registration										OPEN 9 a.m. 5:30 p.m.																																
Contest Room										OPEN 9 a.m. 5:30 p.m.																																
Vendor Room										OPEN 9 a.m. 5:30 p.m.																																
Hospitality										OPEN 9 a.m. 5 p.m.																																
Room D		Sq Ft. Diorama COLLINS			FRRS Hist. Archives COCHRAN					LUNCH BREAK	1st Gen WP Pass. Cars WYATT					Proto Freelanced WP Power COEN					DINNER BREAK	Brief Hist. of the N-C-O Railway STARR							WP MOW Equipment COCHRAN													
Room B		Signs Part 2 MERIAM			Sm Layout Ops Waybills THOMPSON					LUNCH BREAK	BN in Spokane CLEMENS					Trans Era Freight SP Coast Routes THOMPSON					DINNER BREAK	NMRA Exhibit CSRM STEVENS					Trees, Trees, and Stuff TURNBULL		Building 3-color LED HO Signals ROHWER													
Room C		Modeling Westside MARKOVICH								LUNCH BREAK	LED Loco Lighting ROHWER					Creating Human Figs for 3D Printing ELDRIDGE					DINNER BREAK	Mini Clinics TURNBULL (et al.)					Laser Cut Bldg/Kit Dev. ELDRIDGE		PowerPoint Modeling Desigrs EDHOLM													
Non-Rail																															YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (WOODLAND)											
Outside Activities					SIEMENS 9 a.m 11 a.m																																					
					CSRM 10:20 a.m. 12:10 p.m.																																					
Layout Tours					ROSEVILLE ROUNDHOUSE - DONNER PASS HO, U- SHAPED N SCALE																																					
					REDEKER- HETCH HETCHY RAILROAD On30																																					
					BURG - SACRAMENTO NORTHERN BELTLINE HO																																					
					HOUSTON - SP HO																																					
Op Sessions					SACRAMENTO MRHS - SP/WP & LARGE HO n3																																					
					BURG - SACRAMENTO NORTHERN BELTLINE HO																																					
					SMRHS - SP/WP HO																																					

MASTER SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 29

Activity/Time	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00					
Hobo Breakfast 6 - 8 am																																		
Registration			OPEN: 9:00 a.m to 4:30 p.m.																															
Contest Room			CLOSED FOR JUDGING														Pickup Contest Entries				Pickup Contest Entries													
Vendor Room			OPEN: 9:00 a.m to 4:30 p.m.																															
Hospitality Room			OPEN: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.																															
Banquet Room																			SOCIAL HOUR			BANQUET & AWARDS												
Room D		Layout Planning Anyrail COLLINS			Freight Cars WP ELEMS			Arduino for Ops NEUMANN		LUNCH BREAK			SN Detour Steel Trains COPE			Freight Car Forwarding PROVIDENZA																		
Room B		Signals ROQUE			SP Klamath Sub 1984 DRURY			Structure Mockup SCHURKE		LUNCH BREAK			R Street Sac CAMPBELL			DC-DCC Wiring TURNBULL																		
Room C		Authorship MERIAM			Post-war ATSF Passenger Trains WILLIAMS			Focus Stacking MERRIN		LUNCH BREAK			O Scale Structures 2 Ways EDHOLM			SurfLiner PSR 2024 RAYMER/MORSE																		
Layout Tours							ANDREWS - SP WP & SN in the Sacramento Valley												BURG- SACRAMENTO NORTHERN BELTLINE HO															
																			REDEKER - HETCH HETCHY On30															
																			SCHEDLER- SP'S SHASTA DIVISION GERBER THRU DUNSMUIR TO K FALLS HO															
Op Sessions							GULLEY - UP & SUMMIT COUNTY RR HO																											
																			PASHLEY -SP DONNNER PASS HO															

MASTER SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 30

Activity/Time	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	
Banquet Room	BREAKFAST		BUSINESS MEETING															
Layout Tours														McKENNEY On30 x 2				

NOTES

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11:00 am to 5 pm Saturday

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The layout tours will feature some of the most recognizable layouts in the country as well as some new entrants. We currently have over 20 layouts committed to be open and expect have at least 30 open by the time of the convention.



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Learn from some of the best modelers in the country at an array of clinics. There will be a Tech Line focus on new technologies in model railroading.

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- ✓ Swap Meet
- Layouts in
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- ✓ 3D Printing Demos
- the Hotel

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April 24-28, 2024

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