

2023 Convention Report

Kerry Cochran
Co-Chairperson - 2023 Convention

This year's Joint NMRA/PCR/FRRS Convention was held at the Courtyard by Marriott Cal Expo in Sacramento April 26th to the 30th.

This convention was the third joint convention in cooperation with the NMRA/PCR/FRRS (National Model Railroad Association/Pacific Coast Division/Feather River Rail Society), Like other convention held in Modesto (2016) and Sacramento (2019), the groups had a convention committee made up of members from each group that meet for several months planning the convention.

The convention started out on Wednesday April 26th with an evening reception and by early morning Thursday April 27th there was a busy schedule to get all the events set up and ready to start the opening clinics and presentations by 8:30 a.m. The PCR members were busy getting the contest room setup and ready for all the models, photos and displays for the contests held under the PCR rules and requirements. (FRRS worked within these requirements and the PCR handled all the contests entry and awards).

Several of the convention committee members were busy getting all the rooms and services ready to open the doors. Eugene Vicknair and Janet Steeper worked on getting the WPRM museum store ready and several of our other members were working to get everything ready.

The convention continued from Thursday to Sunday. There were several very good clinics and presentations by our members, our friends and members of the PCR.

Several outside tours, including the Siemens Mobility Factory in Sacramento and the California State Railroad Museum.

Through the convention Model Railroad layout tours were held with 12 layouts in the area. These layouts were in several scales and by



**Pacific Coast Region NMRA
&
Feather River Rail Society**

**2023 Joint Convention in Sacramento
April 26 – 30, 2023**




many well-known modelers.

Sunday morning a breakfast was held prior to the PCR business meeting.

Overall the attendance reached 150 members of both groups with the FRRS having 37 members some of which hold dual membership in both organizations.

A convention survey was sent out and 60 attendees responded with an overall Extremely Satisfied with the convention. While there were some noted issues with certain services that were not available during lunch time.

This year's convention had a new experience for the FRRS, clinic and presentation given were streamed live to attendees who registered for the virtual offering. One of those presentation on the FRRS Historical/Archive website is



FRRS President Greg Elems gave a presentation on WP Freight Cars.

Photo by Kerry Cochran



On Saturday our friends at the California State Railroad Museum, Chris Rockwell and Claire Phillips along with Bill Calmes (not shown) came to talk and display their archives display wall.

Photo by Kerry Cochran



Our Friend and Member Shane Starr with the NCO (Nevada-California-Oregon Railway) booth

Photo by Kerry Cochran



Saturday night the convention banquet was held in the combined conference rooms with the guest speaker Steve Miller (a FRRS member) talking about his work with the State of California, Department of Rail, Department of Transportation, (CalTrans).

Photo by Kerry Cochran

available on the FRRS website for viewing.

As for those members that may be interested in the NMRA/PCR convention next year, "The Tech Line" is being hosted by the Coast Division and scheduled to take place at the Sonesta San Jose Hotel in Milpitas, CA. April 24 through 28.

Planning for the FRRS convention in 2024 is currently in progress and we hope to be able to confirm the date and location soon. (Currently we are looking at holding it in Oroville, CA., on April 11th, 12th and 13th, 2024.)

Looking ahead into 2025, we are in discussions with the Rio Grande Modeling and Historical Society on holding a joint convention in possibly Eastern Nevada or Salt Lake City, UT.

As of this writing the final convention report is not completed yet and we hope to share that with the membership once it is completed and released.

The schedule of events from the convention along with photos and other information can be viewed on the FRRS website on the Conventions page that is listed on the Historical/Archive Department's home page. We have posted several photos of the event.

I would like to take the time to thank the following FRRS friends and members for helping make this another great convention.

- Chris Skow
- Dave Stanley
- Eugene Vicknair
- Greg Elems
- Ken Rattenne
- Kyle Wyatt
- Mike Coen
- Shane Starr
- Steve Cope
- Janet Steeper

Sorry if I missed someone in our group that helped out and made this another great convention. And of course all the PCR Staff and

all the other people that helped out.

Should you have any questions, please contact Eugene Vicknair or Kerry Cochran. You can always send a message via the convention team's email address: convention@wplives.org

