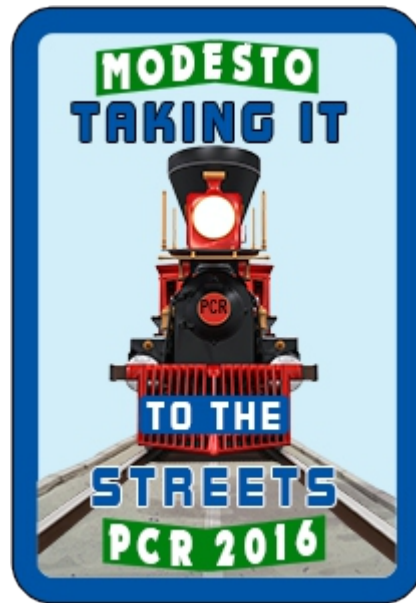
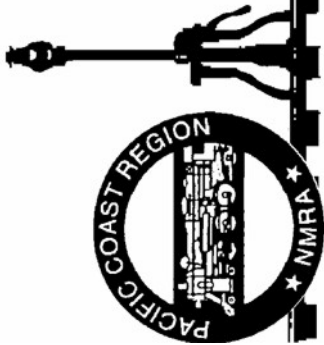


April-May-June 2016

PCR Joins with Feather River Rail Society for 2016 Convention

BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION



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2016 PCR Convention in Modesto,
April 20-24 Page 4

John Marshall Honored Page 15

Gene Mayer Memorial Page 20

Waiting for Paint to Dry?

YOUR Joint PCR/FRRS 2016 Convention

Taking it To The Streets

by Steve Wesolowski, PCR 2016 Publicity Volunteer

I hope you are putting the Finishing touches on your Railroad themed Arts, Crafts, Models and/or Photos you're bringing for Contest judging or to Display/Show & Tell at Your PCR/FRRS 2016 Convention, Taking it To The Streets, April 20-24. (Paint = Finish, Right?)

Many of us eagerly anticipate learning new techniques and new ideas from seeing your and others' creative work, whatever prototype & media you choose to express your energy. Bring it/them on! In addition to bringing Models & Photos for Contest Judging or Display, I hope you bring your railroad themed arts & crafts work. I know most modelers and photographers also enjoy other creative pursuits.

My promise: If I have anything ready, I'll bring my work to share because your constructive criticism improves my work. I know many of us bring our work to improve our skills. Any color ribbon is an unexpected surprise. With the very high quality of most other entries, my odds are slim because I'm still learning.

Discount Hotel Rate "Expires" 30 March

As I write, less than 20 Discounted rooms @ \$109 per night are available, only for bookings through 30 March. Parking is Not free, but reduced from \$11 to \$6/day for hotel residents.

Our 2016 Convention hotel is the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Modesto, 1150 Ninth Street, Modesto, CA 95354-0823.

It's important our block of rooms is booked to get the rooms needed for clinics, contests, banquet and our other activities. We commit to a block of rooms to get the spaces we need. If we don't fill the room block, those areas will cost the convention committee additional money. Please help us by staying at the convention hotel.

Outside Tours

Our Outside Tour Volunteer, Scott Inman, worked hard to arrange some fun tours and activities during our convention, around and near Modesto, listed on the convention web site at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/outside.html>.

Saturday, April 23 - A tour of Modesto's historic sites, then a tour of the Modesto Empire and Traction shops. I've heard this is a fun tour I hope to enjoy. Cost is \$50/person and includes bus transportation, one convention car, and refreshments at Beard Brook Park (location of 4-8-4). Space limited.

Friday, April 22 - A tour of the Sierra Northern's shops in Oakdale followed by a round-trip excursion over the Sierra between Oakdale and Warnerville

(possibly Cooperstown). Start time TBA but it'll be all afternoon. Cost is \$65/person and includes bus transportation. Space limited.

Thursday, April 21, from 1-5 pm - A tour of the Port of Stockton and Central California Traction's operations there. Cost is \$35/person and includes bus transportation. All attendees must provide full name, address, and a valid driver's license number for the Port police. Space limited. If we don't have enough sign ups to cover costs, a tour may be cancelled. Please sign up now/ASAP.

Clinics: Many are New!

As we hoped, our joint convention with Feather River Rail Society means even more clinics, including:

Shorty Steel Coil Gondolas, Prototype History & HO scale modelling of WP's short steel gons, by Bill Gilbert.

Western Pacific Fan Trips, A look at Western Pacific fan excursion trains, by Evan Werkema.

Rocky Mountain Refugees, History of ex-Rio Grande steam on WP family railroads, by Eugene Vicknair.

Death of a Branch: the Terminus Branch, A look at the end of the WP's Terminus Branch, by Wayne Monger.

Western Pacific's First 50 Years, Video from the new DVD by Catenary Video, by Warren Arthur Haack.

Western Pacific in the Rain, a Virgil Staff film.

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Second Generation Western Pacific Passenger Equipment, A look at some of Western Pacific's heavyweight passenger cars. by Kyle Wyatt.

The San Jose Branch. Mail by Rail - Bob Clark - Mail was sorted in Railway Post Office cars on passenger trains for over 100 years. Railroads also moved mail in a variety of other car types and services. This clinic illustrates and discusses these car types and services, their operation in passenger trains, and the evolution of hardware and sorting procedures.

Milk Cars and Trains - Bob Clark - The transportation of milk by rail will be described. The wide variety of milk car types and lettering schemes is shown for modelers. Suggestions on how to model milk services on your layout.

The California Western, A Layout Design - Gus Campagna - A digital slide show exploring the California Western Railway and Navigation Company and how the presenter went about designing a layout based on what he found.

Exploring Tourist Railroads - Steve Miller - Digital slide show describing various tourist railroad attractions.

The Gemco Yard - Dave Bayless - A description of operations at SP's Southern California Gemco Yard.

Simulating Stucco Siding, circa 1929 - Chip Meriam - Constructing a small municipal water pump

house.

Clifornia Zephyr-Silver Thread to the West - Mark Williams - Traces the History of the Zephyr, " The most talked about Train in the Country." from its birth to its demise.

CB&Q Trains of the Gods and Goddesses - Mark Williams - History and Design of these longest serving trains.

Pioneer Zephyr - The First of The Silver Trains - Mark Williams - The History of the first Zephyr

SketchUp and 3D Printing - Jack Burgess, MMR.

More info on our website as convention nears: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/> .

Registration.

Full Registration for \$99 includes Registration, Awards Banquet, and PCR Breakfast. There is no fare differential between Rail and Non-rail registrations; but Non-Rail includes the Non-Rail Lunch, not the PCR Breakfast. A "First Timer" fare of \$79.00 is available for PCR members that have not registered for the past 5 conventions. Youth fare of \$50.00 includes full registration, without food events. Awards Banquet Only fare is \$45.00. A Day Fare of \$40 is good for 1 day's attendance: the Awards Banquet is not included, but available for an extra-fare. All fares include convention registration, clinics, contests, and layout tours. There are charges for tours/events if tickets, transportation, or

materials are required. Q's re Registration?: ask Registrars, Jim Dieckman or Richard Klammer. Register at: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/registration.html>
NMRA or FRRS Membership

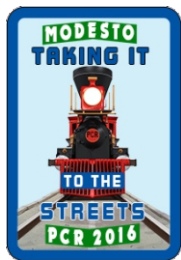
Because of the Joint Convention, NMRA membership is Not required to register/attend, but Only NMRA members may enter models, photos and crafts for NMRA judging and awards. FRRS members may bring & share their models and photos as Display Only. A 6-month Rail Pass is available to have a 'look-see' at NMRA without long-term commitment. Also available are full NMRA memberships with/without the NMRA magazine. All levels of NMRA memberships may be requested and paid for on the registration forms. For More Info on NMRA membership: <http://nmra.org/>

Volunteer to Learn

Conventions always can use more volunteers. More hands makes tasks easier & more fun. Volunteers benefit the most from volunteering. Volunteers are needed for all areas: as Clinicians, Contestants, Layout Owners, Registration, and more. I assume we all attend conventions to learn something 'new'. I enjoy learning; its often easier with someone "more experienced" who enjoys sharing what they've learned. IMO, We can all improve.

Besides learning in

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Volunteers are needed for all areas: as Clinicians, Contestants, Layout Owners, Registration, and more.



All usual NMRA contest categories are open for entering your models, photos, arts and crafts.

clinics, layouts, tours and other train fun, volunteers learn more: Every volunteer I've met has taught me everyone completes most tasks differently, especially creative modelers! I learn if another way works better, often I learn new skills. Every one of us brings different skill sets to every task we do. We're all unique, with unique skill sets. Although working a new way is often slower at first, volunteer learning curves don't affect your next performance review or pay grade as a Volunteer! Have Fun: Try Something New! The earlier you volunteer, the more chance you have influencing YOUR conventions to include more activities YOU enjoy. Use the emails at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/committee.html> to Volunteer for area(s) you're interested in enjoying even more in Stockton. We will welcome you & your ideas.

Finally, Volunteers to Judge and to staff the Contest Room are welcome. Contest judges earn 2 time units towards the AP Association Volunteer Certificate.

Convention Car

Our convention car is a 53-foot Evans Double Door Box Car painted for Modesto and Empire Traction (M&ET), Available in 4 road numbers, either as a complete set of 4 for \$90, or individually for \$25. Cars MUST be ordered BEFORE the convention & picked up there; no shipping. Info: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv>

2016/convention-car.html

Our 2016 Convention Logo is included as a separate decal, for those who don't want it on their cars.

Contests and Show and Tell

This should be No Surprise: all usual NMRA contest categories are open for entering your models, photos, arts and crafts. For complete information: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2016/contests.html> Again, I encourage EVERYONE to bring at least one or more contest entries in different categories to share your talents. If we each bring one or more of our best models, photos, art and crafts, they will teach & encourage us to become better crafters, we encourage more creative making. We also might award all prizes in every category, something I've not seen in many convention I've attended.

Bringing and sharing your work helps encourage every one of us to be better modelers, photographers and craftspersons. I hope YOU will share YOUR unique talents and vision with us.

And, If you prefer any of your work not judged, please bring them for Display: we still learn from your unique vision and talented work. By sharing and learning from your work, whether judged or not, we may improve our talents and skills.

Happy Trains to you, Until we meet in Modesto, April 20th! 🚂

Branch Line Deadlines for 2016

JUL-AUG-SEP 2016 Issue
Articles due by **June 10, 2016**

OCT-NOV-DEC 2016 Issue
Articles due by **September 10, 2016**

JAN-FEB-MAR 2017 Issue
Articles due by **December 10, 2016**

APR-MAY-JUN 2017 Issue
Articles due by **March 10, 2017**

If there are any questions contact the Branch Line Editor, Chuck Harmon at harmonsta@yahoo.com or phone (559) 299-4385.

PCR Membership Gauge

- February 28, 2015—998
- March 31, 2105—996
- April 30, 2105—1,004
- May 31 2015—1,007
- June 30 2015—1,013
- July 31 2015—1,010
- August 31 2015—1,012
- September 30, 2015—1,012
- October 31, 2015—1,012
- November 30, 2015—1,012
- December 31, 2015—1,000
- January 31, 2016—1,003
- February 29, 2016—989

Convention Layout Tours Adding More Daily

Taken from the Convention Web Site
Scott Inman, Layout Tours Chairman

There are currently 4 layouts open for self-guided tours during three of the days, so far. More information will be available at a later date. Here are the layouts that are currently planned: [as of 1-21-16]

Owner: Steve Cavanaugh
Name of Railroad: Western Pacific Third Subdivision
Scale: HO

Owner: Tom Milam
Name of Railroad: Wolf Creek Railway of California
Scale: HO

Owner: John Zack
Name of Railroad: Sierra RR and Westside Lumber Co
Scale: HO, Hon3

Owner: Dave Stanley
Name of Railroad: Morada Belt
Scale: HO 🚂

For more photos and the latest information on layout tours see the convention Web site.



Cavanaugh - Oroville Yard Office



Cavanaugh - Keddie Wye



Milam - Wolf Creek Railway of California - circa 1927



Milam - Snake Pit Charity Mine