



# The Switchlist

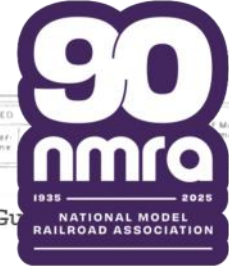
Official Publication of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association

February 2025

Form 255  
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

SWITCH-ENGINEEMEN'S DAILY REGISTER

FOREMAN	No. of Help-ers	ENGINEER AND FIREMAN	Com-pared Time	Job Work-ed	Highest Run-ner Number	Left Round-house or Store Track	SHIFT WORKED		Arrived Round-house or Store Track	HOURS WORKED		
							Began Work	Quit Work		Meal Per-iod	Straight Time	Over Time



## Illinois Central G Switchlist

5, Friday, February 7, 1982 at: Reserve  
 5 AM Throttle : 0 Next Yard : St. Rose, LA  
 Madere Origin : Reserve, LA  
 027 Destination: St. Rose, LA  
 701 Cabir: 199044

SPOT	NxtLoc	Tons	Contents	Hdg

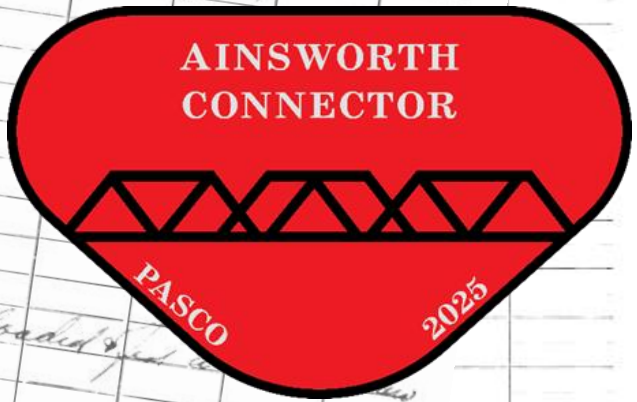
Hall 2 42 700M 4865

Form 818-A Standard—Small  
 SWITCH CARS CAREFULLY AND SAFELY  
 AVOID ROUGH HANDLING  
 Santa Fe  
 (Insert Name of Railway Company)  
 SWITCH LIST

At Station, 1-3-18

Train No.	Engine No.	Time	Initials	No.	Contents	Destination	Consignee	Tonnage
350/p	470/p	6/p						
			Williams	70	70	Broz		
				70	70	24		
				72	72	23		
				72	72	18		
				72	72	14		
				55	55	17		

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4				
5				
6				
7				



## The Switchlist

### Editor:

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406.589.6256

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*The Switchlist* is the official publication of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, and is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

*The Switchlist* is available free of charge online at the PNR website, [pnr.nmra.org](http://pnr.nmra.org). PNR members with current email addresses on file with the NMRA will receive an email notice when the latest issue is posted.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Readers of *The Switchlist* are encouraged to submit news, articles, photos, and drawings about PNR activities past, present and future. Articles on other aspects of model railroading are also appreciated.

To assist you with article preparation, the PNR website has posted a set of [guidelines](#) for formatting and submitting articles, photos, and other material for publication in *The Switchlist*. This also includes a style guide and list of key terms that should be helpful.

The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject, and edit contributions as space, time, and suitability of material dictate. The *Switchlist* does not pay for articles.

Please email your contributions to the editor at [switchlist@pnr.nmra.org](mailto:switchlist@pnr.nmra.org). Deadlines for submissions are:

February 1  
May 1  
August 1  
November 1

Complete staff and contact information is available in this newsletter and on the PNR website: [pnr.nmra.org](http://pnr.nmra.org).

### ADVERTISING

Non-commercial classified advertising will be accepted from PNR members at no charge as a member service. Email submissions to the Editor. Hobby stores that support model railroading may also include an advertisement. See the section titled "PNR Interchange" for more details.

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# Emerging Opportunities

Now that we are deep into winter here in the PNR, I hope you are taking advantage of this time of year to make progress on your layout, module, or a model that's been sitting on a shelf.

The Region has many opportunities aimed at supporting your modeling efforts. An approaching one is our annual convention (this year in Pasco), where clinics are offered on a wide range of topics, you can meet with fellow model railroading friends (both old and new) and "compare notes," and visit layouts for inspiration and ideas, among other things. You'll want to read the latest update (pp.2-4) from Convention Chair Bill Fassett, MMR.. Note that you'll be able to meet face-to-face with **NMRA President Gordy Robinson, MMR**, at the convention!

The second opportunity is the Modeling With the Masters (MWTM) program. This program has been offered in recent years at PNR conventions, and so is being offered in Pasco just ahead of the convention. You'll want to know that the program being expanded beyond the annual PNR conventions to increase access to the program for all of us. This is an NMRA-wide effort and you can read more about it on p.6.

Other announcements include the call for nominations for the 2025 PNR President's Award (p.5). Plus, President Jeff Herrmann, MMR, provides valuable information and resources to help with membership retention and recruiting efforts (pp.6-7).

The *In Memoriam* section (p.8) lists PNR members who have recently passed away. Please take a moment to remember these friends and colleagues and read the announcements specifically about the passing of Jim Crueger (1st Division) and PNR's webmaster Mark Johnson (6th Division). Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of all these members.

On page 10, you'll find a list of the PNR's newest members. Please review this list and help make these folks feel welcome. You can make a huge impact on their impression of the NMRA and PNR.

The feature articles this quarter include a visit to the South Olympic Branch layout of Larry Sloan (4th Division); an introduction by Dale Swant (5th Division) to the Inland Northwest Rail Museum in Rearden, Washington; some thoughts and ideas from Andy Doll, MMR (3rd Division); and an unusual opportunity to buy a huge model railroad (with the house included).

The PNR officer, staff, and division superintendent quarterly reports begin on p.20.

One more point about opportunities: the Timetable (pp.32-34) is once again loaded with upcoming events designed for you to get engaged. Besides being pure fun to attend, some of these may also offer opportunities to volunteer assisting with event setup/takedown, staffing an organization's recruitment table, presenting a clinic, bringing a module or model to display, or participating in operating sessions. Make no mistake—volunteering is also a ton of fun. There's no end to it!

I do hope to see you in Pasco. Don't hesitate to register soon because the early bird registration deal ends at the beginning of March!!

As always, stay safe and happy modeling!

Greg Kujawa, MMR, Editor

# PNR News and Announcements

## 2025 PNR CONVENTION: Now is the time to make your reservations

Bill Fassett, MMR – 2025 PNR Convention Chair

The 2025 PNR Convention—the Ainsworth Connector—will be held at the Pasco Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center from May 9 to 11, 2025, with pre-events on May 8. Updated information is available at <https://pnr5d.org/pnr-5th-division-home-page/2025-pnr-convention/>. You can also enter the following Google search terms: 2025 PNR Convention, or find the link at the [PNR Upcoming Events](#) page.



### ONLINE REGISTRATION AND ROOM RESERVATIONS

The early bird full fare registration is \$110 until March 1, after which the regular full fare registration fee is \$135.

About 1/3 of the rooms have been reserved already; now is the time to make your reservation so you don't miss out on the convention rate.

All convention activities will be completed by 1 pm on Sunday, so you can check out of the hotel on Sunday morning in most cases.

### MODELING WITH THE MASTERS®

There are still openings for the Modeling with the Masters® clinic on Thursday. Sign up during online registration.

### CALL FOR CLINIC AND MINI-CLINIC PROPOSALS

Easy to fill out proposal forms are on the website. If you don't enjoy standing in front of a group to present your modeling expertise, consider a mini-clinic on Saturday night. Mini-clinics will provide each presenter with a table to use for close-up and personal discussion of their favorite topic. Some examples that might be useful include demonstrating tools; soldering techniques; installing resistors on wheelsets; locomotive consists; quick and easy Arduino projects; tree making; use of Fast Tracks® jigs; or anything that can be shown within a 30-minute period. Every 30 minutes, attendees will be asked to rotate to another mini-clinic table. Please submit a proposal for a regular or mini-clinic by February 28, 2025.

### PF&S RAILWAY SUPPLY MANUFACTURING TOUR

Phil Miller has secured approval to tour the PF&S facility. PF&S is a long-standing retail hobby store, but has also been a manufacturer of supplies for many years. They currently produce Tomar, Precision Scale, and Utah Pacific brands and are expanding to a couple of other product lines. Tour times between 10 am and 2:30 pm on Friday, May 9, are listed on the website. Each slot will accommodate 10 guests. Individuals will need to use their own cars for a 12-minute drive to PF&S, and each half-hour tour group will have its own guide. There is no charge for the tour, and a sign-up sheet will be available at the convention registration desk, first-come, first-served.

### LAYOUT TOURS

Phil Miller has arranged for 11 layout tours, featuring N, HO, On3, and G scales. "On-the-way" tours on Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. include the Cambia and Black Mountain in Hermiston, Oregon, and the River City Western in Spokane. Private layouts in Kennewick will be open on Friday from Noon to 4 pm, and layouts in Pasco and North Richland will be open from Noon to 4 pm on Saturday. The Tri-Cities

### BREAKING CONVENTION NEWS

Just at press time, we learned that **NMRA President, Gordy Robinson, will attend – in person – the 2025 PNR Convention.**

Gordon Robinson, MMR, resides



on the Orkney Islands off the North Coast of Scotland, and he models O scale 2 rail, HO, and N scale. In addition to the presidency, he is a Division Superintendent, and Media & Events coordinator for the British Region.

You now have another great reason to attend the Ainsworth Connector and to take part in the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 10, at 8:00 am.

Model Railroad (TCMR) Club layout will be open on Friday, Noon to 4 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. All tours are self-driving.

## **OPERATING SESSIONS**

The TCMR operating sessions will be on Thursday and Friday from 7 pm to 10-ish pm. Motive power, rolling stock, and NCE throttles will be provided, but you can use your own TCS wi-fi throttle or the Engine Driver or Wi Throttle apps on your cell phone. Indicate your interest in an op session on the online registration form.

## **AP EVALUATIONS AND CELEBRATION ROOM**

AP evaluations will be conducted in half-hour appointments; a first-come, first-served sign-up sheet will be available at the Celebration Room check-in desk. You will need to complete the NMRA form 901 to submit your model for display or evaluation. Likewise, you may submit models for the People's Choice Contest, for Contest Judging, or for Display only at the Celebration Room check-in desk.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

### **Thursday, May 8**

- All day: Modeling with the Masters® – sign up during on-line registration
- 1 pm–4 pm: “On the Way There” layout tour – River City Modelers, Spokane; with possible other Spokane-area layouts
- 1 pm–4 pm: “On the Way There” layout tour – Cambia & Black Mountain RR, Hermiston, Oregon
- Late afternoon: sign-in at hotel
- 6 pm-9 pm: Operating Session at Tri-Cities Model Railroaders (first-come, first-served based on interest expressed during online registration)
- Afternoon: Free-mo setup

### **Friday, May 9**

- Sign-in at hotel – all day
- Plus One room open
- Celebration Room open
- Free-mo layouts open
- Afternoon: AP evaluations
- PF&S Manufacturing prototype tour
- Clinics
- Layout tours: Noon–4 pm
- 5 pm–6 pm: Mix, Munch, and Mingle buffet and no-host bar
- 7 pm–10 pm: Operating session at Tri-Cities Model Railroaders (first-come, first-served based on interest expressed during online registration)

### **Saturday, May 10**

- 8:00 am – PNR Annual General Meeting
- Plus One room open
- Celebration Room open
- Free-mo layouts open
- Clinics
- Mini-Clinics 7–9 pm
- AP evaluations
- Layout tours, Noon–4 pm
- Evening: Contest judging

### **Sunday, May 11**

- Plus One room open
- Awards displayed in Celebration Room
- Morning: Clinics
- 10 am: deadline to pick up models from Celebration Room

- Noon: Awards Luncheon with special appreciation for mothers present

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Convention Chair – Bill Fassett, MMR, [b.fassett@comcast.net](mailto:b.fassett@comcast.net); 509-979-5205

Clinic Chair – Ron Edgar, [redgar53@gmail.com](mailto:redgar53@gmail.com); put “Ainsworth Connector” in subject line

Convention Registrar – Lori Sebelley, [PNR2025Registrar@outlook.com](mailto:PNR2025Registrar@outlook.com)

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## PNR President’s Award—Call for Nominations

Dave Liesse, Chair

Nominations for the PNR President’s Award for 2024 are now open. Any member of the Pacific Northwest Region may submit one or more nominations following the procedures listed below.

The President’s Award honors a PNR member who has, through signal service to the hobby of model railroading, made the most significant contribution to the benefit and betterment of the PNR for at least the 12 months prior to the close of nominations.

This is not a popularity contest and nominations should be held in confidence. Send them directly to the committee chair, Dave Liesse, to be received no later than 31 March 2024. Please use one of the following addresses:

Email: [nmradave@liessefamily.net](mailto:nmradave@liessefamily.net)

Regular mail:

Dave Liesse  
c/o Skingco Services, Inc  
33720 9th Ave S, Ste 9  
Federal Way, WA 98003-6735

Nominations must include the following:

- Nominator’s name and contact information
- Nominee’s name and division
- Reasons for the nomination, preferably addressing one or more of these categories:
  - NMRA national service
  - PNR regional service
  - Divisional service
  - Club participation
  - Membership recruitment, retention, and service efforts
  - Public support of the hobby
  - Creative contribution to the NMRA, PNR, or division
  - Other significant contributions in support of the hobby
- Additional comments in support of the nomination

Previous winners may win the award again, but not if they’ve won in the last three years. Committee members, naturally enough, are also ineligible. The following are not eligible this year:

- Jeff Herrmann (PNR president)
- Bob Stafford (PNR vice president)
- Dave Liesse (committee chair)
- Bob Parrish (2024 winner)
- Greg Kujawa (2023 winner)
- Lori Sebelley (2022 winner)

For further information, please refer to PNR Policy M-2, found on page 24 of the PNR Policy Manual. The manual can be found on the PNR website at: [pnr.nmra.org/policies](http://pnr.nmra.org/policies).

# MODELING WITH THE MASTERS® Program to be offered in PNR

Jeff Herrmann, MMR, PNR President

As you may know, NMRA has a primary mission element for the education of members in the arts and skills of model railroading. To support the mission, Modeling With The Masters® (MWTM) was created to provide high level skill training and to introduce new materials and techniques to members. Modeling With The Masters is a benefit of membership and should be available to all members.

MWTM is a full day, hands-on session being conducted by a Master Model Railroader® (MMR) and assisted by an appropriate number of other MMRs. The objective of the MWTM Program is to teach modelers of all skill levels new techniques and opportunities in model railroading. To achieve that objective, the Program offers modeling challenges to individuals that will increase or enhance their modeling skills, introduce them to new modeling materials and techniques, and introduce them to various tools used in the modeling process. It follows that there will be a number of basic and advanced skills and techniques that will be addressed in the various challenges offered by the program.

Historically, MWTM has only been available in conjunction with NMRA national conventions. Starting three years ago, PNR began offering MWTM at PNR conventions. Now, PNR has been approved by NMRA to develop a full faculty of MWTM instructors who will be able to offer the program throughout the region in addition to regional conventions. This will make it more convenient and less expensive for our members to participate than the current plan offered nationally.

We are doing this because serving the Region membership poses numerous challenges. PNR extends from southern Oregon to the Arctic Circle, and from the Pacific Ocean to the eastern border of Saskatchewan and Montana. The Region includes major metropolitan areas of Seattle, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Spokane, Portland, Vancouver (BC), Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Vancouver Island, Salmon Arm, Boise, Coeur D'Alene, Medford, Eugene, Coos Bay, the Tri-Cities, Billings, Bozeman, and a bunch more. Those metro areas are separated east and west by several mountain ranges. The seven PNR divisions support over 1400 members who each deserve equal opportunity to participate in NMRA programs.

We are certifying our MWTM instructors now and will be conducting our first "trial run" on Saturday, March 1st in Kennewick, Washington. In addition to our regular MWTM session at the PNR convention in Pasco in May, we plan to schedule several courses throughout the region each year. If you would like to participate or need more information, let us know!

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## NMRA Division Retention Event Matching Fund Program

Jeff Herrmann, MMR, PNR President

Is your Division looking to retain its members? Are you planning a special Division event like a hands-on clinic, a Division picnic, maybe a Division tour to a railroad facility, or other event that will help your members understand what's so great about the NMRA? If you are, National NMRA would like to help defer some of your expenses with our Division Retention Event Matching Fund Program. Just fill out the simple application form for approval, hold the event, then turn in some receipts and paperwork, and you'll be reimbursed up to \$200 for one event per Division per year. This is an ongoing program, so take advantage of it every year for special retention-focused events.

To download the application form, click on the document link:

[Division Retention Event Matching Fund Form \(DOC\)](#)



The **NCR and SE Michigan** will be your host for the 2025 NMRA National Convention! This will be like no other convention you have ever attended!

**Convention Highlights –**

- ✓ One low price for everyone! includes layout tours & OPS!
- ✓ 90+ clinics - 65+ layout tours - 30+ OPS sessions
- ✓ 2 day National Train Show - 5 day Yard Sale Room
- ✓ RPM modeling displays - Full NMRA modeling Contest
- ✓ People Choice Voting w/awards - Saturday night banquet

....and **MUCH MORE!!**

**July 14-19, 2025**

<https://nmra2025.com/>



# Division Success Kit to be Available in March

Jeff Herrmann, MMR, PNR President

NMRA is launching a series of new initiatives focusing on unifying our branding and messaging throughout the Association. Included in the anticipated package will be helpful suggestions for conducting clinics, division activities, and appearances at Train Shows. To help in the effort, a series of “Rack Cards” will be available in quantity from NMRA headquarters. Each card will be printed on a glossy card stock and be approximately 4 inches wide and 8 inches tall. Each card will have a unique QR Code that will direct the recipient to the NMRA website. Four of the cards will be pre-printed with standardized text and photos as follows:

1. Membership Overview
2. Fellowship of NMRA
3. Member Discounts
4. Digital Resources

The fifth card will be a customizable template for Divisions or events to edit and create as they see fit. Here is a working draft of the prototype. Check the NMRA website for more information as these become available.

## Rack Cards



Membership Overview

Fellowship

Member Discounts

Digital Resources

Education

Customisable



## PNR Constant Contact Resubscribe

Any member who has elected to unsubscribe to the PNR Constant Contact direct email may resubscribe, but Constant Contact only allows this to be done once for each member.

Here are the instructions to resubscribe:

1. Send an email to your division superintendent with your name, NMRA #, email address, and a request to resubscribe.
2. Division superintendents will send this information to the PNR Office Manager who will then send the resubscribe Constant Contact request to the member.

## In Memoriam

This section is dedicated to the remembrance of those members of the NMRA Pacific Northwest Region whom we have lost over the past year. We extend our deepest sympathies, thoughts, and prayers to their families and friends. We will sincerely miss the fellowship of these folks and all their contributions to the NMRA and hobby.

### Deceased Members of the PNR — January 2024 through January 2025

Month Reported	Div	Last Name	First Name	City/Town	State/Province	Special Recognition
January 2024	5	Yager	John	East Helena	MT	
	7	Klit	John	Trail	BC	
February 2024	1	Soper	Leonard	Springfield	OR	Life Member
	4	Neupert	Stephen	Kingston	WA	Life Member
	4	Becker	Ted	Granite Falls	WA	Life Member
	1	Clune	Dave	Eugene	OR	MMR/Life Member
	2	De Jarnette	Monroe	Hillsboro	OR	
March 2024	7	Cullis	Frank	Richmond	BC	
		None				
April 2024	1	Bain	William	Newport	OR	Life Member
May	3	Roderick	Wayne	Pocatello	ID	Life Member
June 2024	2	Auburg	Doug	Battle Ground	WA	Life Member
July 2024	6	Bruneau	John	Camrose	AB	
	4	Liesse	Ed	Federal Way	WA	Life Member
August 2024	4	Mundy	Douglas	Gig Harbor	WA	
	4	Hamilton	Fred	Maple Valley	WA	
	4	Black	John	Mount Vernon	WA	
September 2024	7	Sparks	C D	Burnaby	BC	Life Member
October 2024		None				
November 2024	4	Moorman	Jeffrey	Ferndale	WA	Life Member
	4	Vaughn	Paul	Graham	WA	Life Member
December 2024	1	Crueger	Jim	Monroe	OR	
January 2025	2	Kaser	Fred	Molalla	OR	
	6	Bryce	William	Lloydminster	AB	Life Member
	6	Johnson	Mark	Edmonton	AB	Life Member

**Have you changed your address or other membership information?**

**Notify NMRA Headquarters**

email: [hq@nmra.org](mailto:hq@nmra.org)

Phone: 423-892-2846 (8 a.m.–4 p.m. ET)

Mail: P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328



## First Division Remembers Jim Crueger

Charlie Hutto, Superintendent, 1st Division

I was sad to hear about the recent passing of Jim Crueger. Jim was leader in First Division for many decades. In my time with the NMRA, he has served as board member, and on committees to help with the Regional Convention in Eugene a couple of years ago. He presented several clinics at mini-meets, and got me interested in simple paper models for the background of a layout or diorama.

I understand Jim coordinated with the Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club in Eugene, which hosted the 1987 NMRA National Convention in Eugene. I've heard this was the last national convention at a "small" venue like Eugene. The proceeds from this event are still used today in First Division to fund grants to local groups to further model railroading in this part of Oregon. Elaine Jones, whom he later married, and Jim arranged a separate admission event, the first National Train Show, at the Lane Events Center.

Jim will be missed by all of us in First Division.

-Charlie-

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## Passing of Mark Johnson

Rob Badmington, Highball! Editor, and other members of the 6th Division

Mark Johnson of the PNR 6th Division, a Life Member of the NMRA for 60 years, passed away on January 11, 2025, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was 74 years old and a life-long resident of Edmonton, AB.

Mark served as the webmaster for the PNR, as well as the 6th Division and numerous other model railroad organizations for many years. Mark was presented with the 2009 PNR President's Award for his service to the Region and the hobby. He was also presented with the 6th Division's Silver Spike award in 1984, 2005, and 2024 in recognition of his many contributions to the hobby within the Division.

Mark started model railroading at an early age and formed a club with other enthusiasts in junior high school. At the age of 15, he joined the Edmonton Model Railroad Club (Association), became a Life Member of the NMRA, and attended his first convention, the 1965 National in Vancouver, BC. He developed special interests in operations and the electrical and electronics aspects of the hobby. He spent many a night at the club wiring up surplus telephone relays to provide block controls on the layout before DCC became available.

I first met Mark when I joined the EMRA as a high school student. It wasn't long after that I attended my first convention with Mark, the 1971 PNR Regional in Calgary. When the club faltered due to waning interest in the HO layout, he designed a new layout with an emphasis on operations and a modern walk-around configuration. This led to a resurgence of enthusiasm and a surge in new members. As part of the fun, members of the EMRA took to calling each other "Spike", and we began to attend 6th Division meets as a group wearing colourful T-shirts. This was at a time when many attendees wore suits and ties to the meets, and our young group's irreverent attitudes didn't go unnoticed by the older members. When I think about it now, those "old guys" were mostly in their thirties and forties.

Mark particularly enjoyed attending the meets and conventions and was instrumental in planning and organizing many of them. He also liked to attend operations weekends like Van Rail and Sound Rails. As his illness progressed, Mark focused on family time, which included working on his own layout, the Alberta Great Western, especially with his son Ben. He had planned to host an operating session on the AGW for Northern Rails in Edmonton this past September, but held a layout open house instead. I know he was proud to show off the progress they had made on scenery and structures.

Mark was a great mentor to me and many others who became friends at the club or at NMRA events. His irrepressible sense of humour, quick wit, and love of puns and one-liners will surely be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by Marilyn, his wife of over 44 years, son Ben, and daughter Lisa.

Here is a link to his obituary: [Mark JOHNSON | Obituary | Edmonton Journal](#)



## New PNR Members

November 2024–January 2025

We extend a warm welcome to all new members of the Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA. Those listed below have joined the PNR over the past quarter. If you do not see your name listed, please be patient. Your membership is likely still being processed.

We are especially happy to welcome our new Rail Pass members (*identified in blue text*). We recognize that you are with us on a trial basis and we will have to work hard to convince you to stay with us. Please make sure to contact your Division Superintendent promptly (listing at the end of this newsletter) so you can be included in all Division activities.

Current Members: Please review this list for anyone living near you and consider initiating a connection with them through your Division Superintendent.

Div	Last Name	First Name	City/Town	State/Prov	Div	Last Name	First Name	City/Town	State/Prov
01	Bourne	Heath	Bend	OR	05	Evans	Peter	Medical Lake	WA
01	<i>Zabriskie</i>	<i>Jerry</i>	<i>North Bend</i>	<i>OR</i>	05	Mcdonald	John	Richland	WA
02	Ledwidge	Sean	Portland	OR	05	Murstig	Robert	Kennewick	WA
03	Seeds	Gregory	Twin Falls	ID	05	<i>Rose-Coleman</i>	<i>Kyler</i>	<i>Spokane Vly</i>	<i>WA</i>
04	Adame	David	Poulsbo	WA	06	Bruce	Kaelius	Calgary	AB
04	Barnes	Mark	Gig Harbor	WA	06	Cookson	Duane	Regina	SK
04	<i>Gallaher</i>	<i>Gary</i>	<i>Seattle</i>	<i>WA</i>	06	Galatiuk	Tobi	Clagary	AB
04	Jennings	Jeff	Buckley	WA	06	Galatiuk	Nolan	Calgary	AB
04	Jones	Dave	Oroville	WA	06	Mah	Daniel	Calgary	AB
04	<i>McCorison</i>	<i>Jim</i>	<i>Eastsound</i>	<i>WA</i>	07	Brechin	Chad	Abbotsford	BC
04	Ostrem	Kevin	Carnation	WA	07	Johnson	Toby	Langley	BC
04	Richards	Adam	Kingston	WA	07	Whyte	Philippe	North Vancouver	BC
05	<i>Ascolese</i>	<i>Frank</i>	<i>Loon Lake</i>	<i>WA</i>					



## Attention All PNR Members! Have you taken the PNR Survey yet?

Even though you may no longer consider yourself a “new” member of the National Model Railroad Association, we need your input to help us develop and plan programs, events, and activities that meet your needs as a member of the NMRA in your area. Please take just a couple of minutes to fill out our on-line survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K98F93Q>

Thank you in advance for participating in this survey to help the PNR deliver benefits to you!

## Not getting the bi-monthly NMRA eBULLETIN?

The new **NMRA eBulletin** comes out every other month near the first of the month. Either your SPAM filter is blocking it, or you need to update your email address with us. Have HQ update your address at: <http://www.nmra.org/customer-service-request>

# Features

*Editor's Note: In the February 2022 Switchlist, we began running a series of articles featuring PNR members' layouts and modules, and this also includes PNR club layouts. The intent of this series is to have an easy way to share your ideas, vision, modeling interests, and progress across the vast distances of the PNR. These articles can be as simple or detailed as you want. You can review past issues of the newsletter to see what your fellow PNR members have submitted.*

***Please consider submitting an article about your home or club layout or module.***

## The South Olympic Branch

Article and images by Larry Sloan, 4th Division

The South Olympic Branch is my proto-freelance model railroad. Extra emphasis should be placed on the freelance part of that description. It's inspired by the trains I saw growing up in Elma, Washington, in the 1970s and 80s. My parents' house was about a mile from the yard and I would go to sleep on misty winter evenings to occasional coupler crash echoing up and down the valley, along with diesels spooling and horns signaling movement from the engines switching the yard. People asked me how I put up with that, but it became like a lullaby. And I can tell you that it's way more pleasant than living next to a major thoroughfare, as I have in the Seattle area. The trainmen in the engine or caboose would wave as they passed the house when we were outside playing or working.



**The Elma yard goat awaits its next assignment on its storage track.**



**At Montesano, the Ventron switcher is awaiting a crew. The crew here will also work Pacific Ready Mix on the other side of the tracks .**

Out in Grays Harbor County, the timber industry reigned, but I wanted some other things as well. So, while there is going to be a lumber plant and a paper mill, some other industries not present in the era will also be included. This includes a food plant, a custom fabricator, cement plant, and an intermodal facility. A chemical plant is just south of Elma, but fits better “west” of Elma, so that’s where it’s going.

The chemical plant (Ventron) and the paper mill (Grays Harbor Paper) are what I would call “signature industries.” As such, I am attempting to make both resemble the real thing. This has been challenging as the research has shown me that both had major changes over the years. And so many details. The paper mill was torn down some years ago, so it’s not there at all now. The structures that I think would give the industries the character I’m going for had parts that aren’t “off the shelf.” Tichy has the closest window type. I’ve leaned on a couple of friends that do 3D printing for some other small parts and I’m trying to design a model of a thing called an “Anodic Chamber.” LOL

Another industry I am including is a grain transload facility. Currently, there is a grain transload facility in Hoquiam that was constructed about 2008.

I plan on having a couple of small passenger stations—one in Elma and one in Aberdeen. Real passenger service to Hoquiam was discontinued in August of 1956. Maybe there will be excursions consisting of ex NP, GN, and SP&S equipment pulled by either some F7s or 4-8-4s. Sounds like a good time to me.



This is an overview of the engine facilities at Elma. Eventually, the sanding towers on the right will be painted and installed and the caboose track will probably be where the Southern Pacific locomotive is sitting.



This photo shows the west end of the Elma Yard with one manifest waiting for a crew.

The railroad is built for switching. I like letting a train run around from time to time while I'm working on a project, but I really enjoy operations. I'm lucky to live in an area where there are several operating layouts. The only downside of this is that I spend a significant amount of time operating when I could be working on my own layout. But, hey, creating the scene and operating in a scene are enjoyable and one only has so much time when you work ~~for~~ I mean "full" time. I'm also involved in a couple of clubs, including the Puget Sound Free-mo Group and the 4D HO Modular Group. Luckily for me, my wife is quite tolerant of my train addiction.

Anyway, back to the railroad. Currently, two decks are constructed. The third will be above the other two and will constitute staging. This would represent Centralia, Washington, where the prototype railroad connected to the Burlington Northern main line from Seattle to Vancouver, Washington, and points east.

The middle (main) deck includes the main yard and service facilities, Olympic Foods, Martin and Son Custom Fabricators, Pacific Ready Mix, and Ventron (the chemical plant as it was called back in the day).

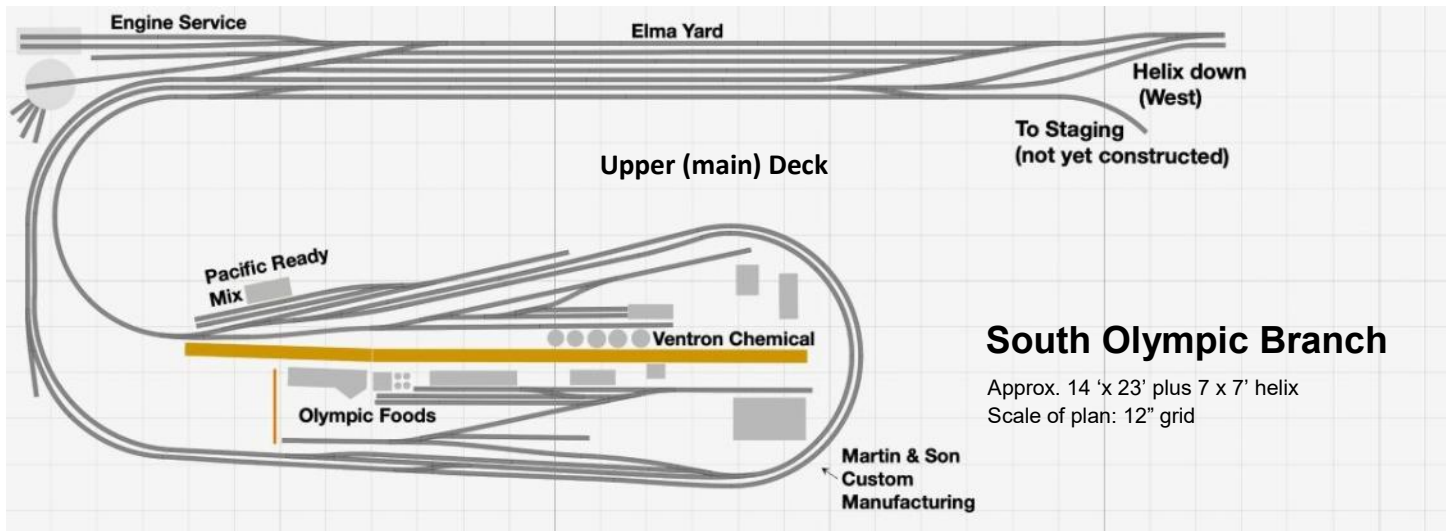
Leaving the main deck westbound, you will enter the helix and descend at about 2 percent to the lower level that represents the cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam. This is where the lumber plant (not yet named), the Aberdeen Yard, Grays Harbor Soy Transload, Grays Harbor Paper, and the intermodal yard will be. This level is 25 inches off the floor and will allow me to sit on a stool and switch. Trains can also proceed around the peninsula and end up eastbound back to Elma.



This photo shows the west end of the Elma Yard with one manifest waiting for a crew.

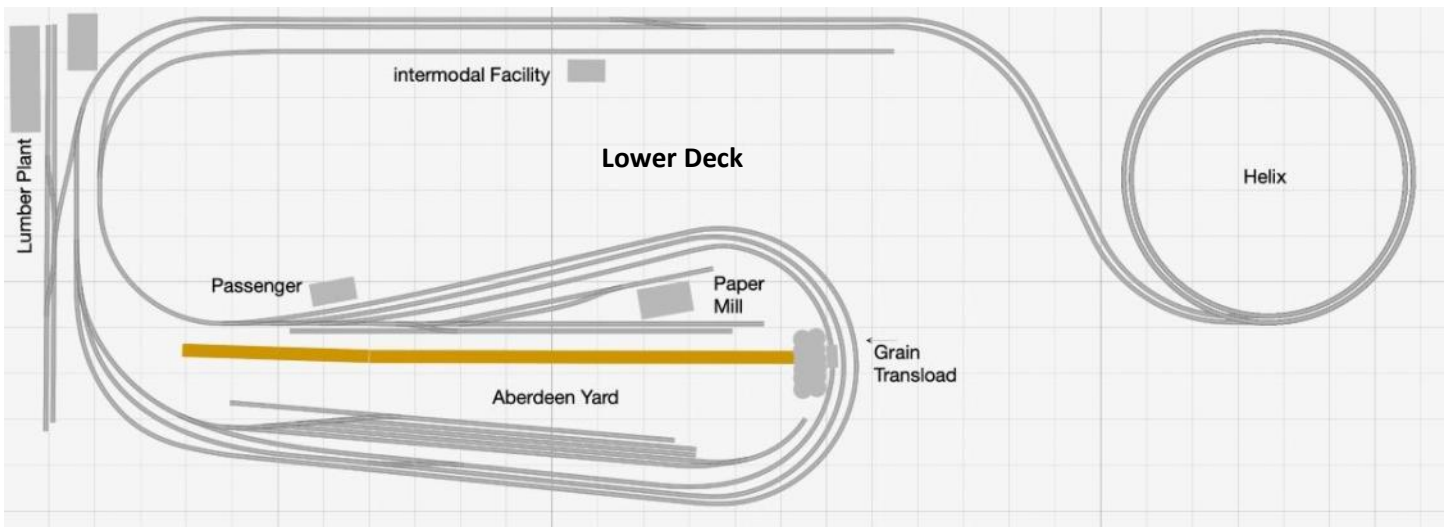


This photo shows the west end of the Elma Yard with one manifest waiting for a crew .



## South Olympic Branch

Approx. 14' x 23' plus 7' x 7' helix  
Scale of plan: 12" grid



### Layout at a Glance

**Railroad name:** South Olympic Branch

**Scale:** HO (1:87.1)

**Size:** 14 x 23 feet, plus 7 x 7 feet for the helix

**Prototype/theme:** proto-freelanced

**Locale:** Elma to Hoquiam, Washington

**Era:** 1970-1995, basically the Burlington Northern era

**Style:** shelf with a peninsula

**Mainline run:** currently about 325 feet. This will change when the upper helix to staging is complete

**Minimum radius:** 31"

**Minimum turnout:** #4; #8 on the main line

**Maximum grade:** 2.1%

**Train length:** about 18 grain cars

**Benchwork:** currently two decks; a third is planned for staging. Shelf brackets support the wall sections and 2 x 4 wall-type framing supports plywood girders on the peninsula

**Height:** 25" on the lower deck; 48" on the main deck; staging will be at about 6'

**Roadbed:** cork

**Track:** code 83 PECO Flex track

**Turnouts:** mostly handlaid with some PECO turnouts

**Backdrop:** panoramas captured with an iPhone 13 Pro, adjusted in Photoshop Elements, and printed on PVC or styrene sheets

**Scenery:** commercial and handmade trees on the plywood deck or foam for hills and valleys. Water features in resin

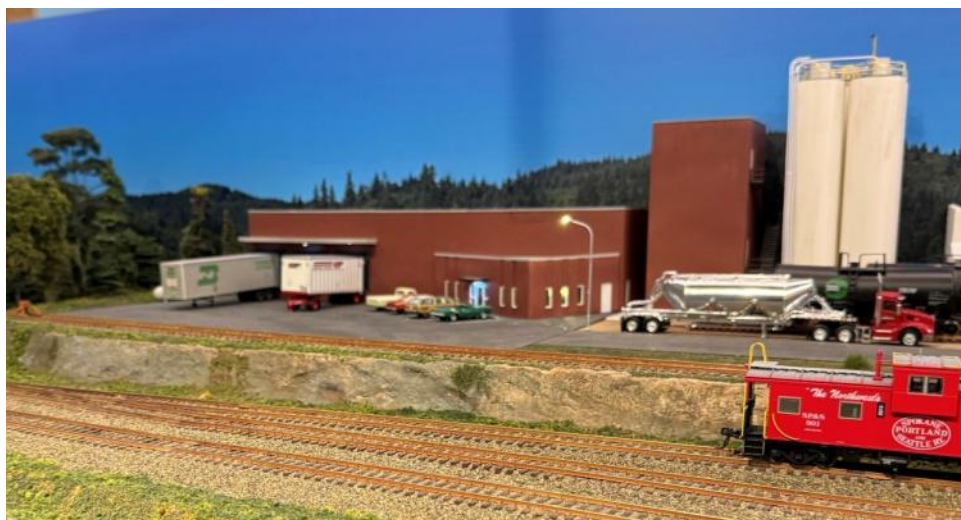
**Control:** Digitrax DCC Duplex Wireless and a Raspberry Pi running WiThrottle Server

**Operations:** Not yet! But likely will be card cards and waybills

**Online presence:** YouTube Channel: [railroad1970](#);  
Facebook: [South Olympic Branch](#)

The railroad is basically “dark territory.” However, I like signals, so there are some on the South Olympic Branch. It’s just another one of those differences between what was and reality.

The railroad is built in a space that you could say was purpose-built. That’s because Mary and I could not find the perfect house that we could afford when we started looking in 2017. We bought this one after I confirmed with the city that that building an addition was permissible. The house had 984 square feet when we got it. I was my own general contractor and did a lot of the work myself, adding 1-1/2 bathrooms and more space in the master bedroom. That took four years to get to. Do I wish I could have added more? Sure. Do I have time to build more layout than I have? Well...



The office and warehouse at Olympic Foods still has people working as the street lights start to come on. A tanker truck is getting loaded with corn oil directly from a tank car.



The crew at Martin & Son like to get started early and that’s beneficial to the farmer who came by to pick up a part and the dog that rode along.



SP&S 97 crosses the Wynoochee River bridge.

# Inland Northwest Rail Museum

Dale Swant, President, IERHS, 5th Division

Photos courtesy of Inland NW Rail Museum

A loosely organized group of retired railroad workers and interested railfans came together at the old Union Station in Spokane in the late 1960s to discuss formulation of an official organization that was ultimately incorporated as a non-profit in 1974 and named *Inland Empire Railway Historical Society*. The group became a chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society at the same time. Their goal was to collect and save from the scrapper and garbage can railroad cars and memorabilia from current and expired railroads.

In 1967, the group accepted their first piece of rolling stock (Union Pacific #3206 steam locomotive) donated to them by the City of Spokane after having it on display at Natatorium Park, which was to be closed in 1968. Prior to accepting the locomotive, members negotiated with the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds for space and were allowed to build track for a rail car and museum train display. For over 40 years, these railfans collected additional rail cars and memorabilia all housed in a small depot for storage along with a small model train display. As a fundraiser, they were allowed to run a 2-foot gauge train ride during the annual county fair. In 2010, fair management “invited them to leave” as the county had plans for the space and gave the group an impossible moving deadline that would eventually be extended to 2016.

Moving over a dozen rail cars, memorabilia, library, tools, and 40 years’ worth of collecting parts, nuts, bolts, etc., was not an easy goal. Finding a new location was first priority—there were a lot of parameters. Location had to be next to an existing railroad line, close to highway access, and affordable. Word was broadcast that the group was looking for a new home and solicited proposals. After many considerations, the present-day location on 30 acres, two miles west of Reardan, Washington, was chosen.

Over the span of four years, volunteers hauled rock and ties and graded track rights-of-way to build a switch from the main line and display tracks on the property. Donations, bequeaths, and loans afforded the group an opportunity in 2014 to begin construction of a building named after its largest benefactor as the Lee Tillitson Conservation & Restoration Center. At the same time, the board reorganized and expanded its vision for the organization and building to be a museum with a gift shop plus restoration center. They named the facility the **“Inland Northwest Rail Museum.”**

2025 marks the ninth year since the facility opened to the public. Contents of the building undergo constant change as families of retired, deceased, and present-day railroad workers donate on a regular basis. In addition, many of those same donors are, or were, model train enthusiasts and donate collections, some of which are part of our working layout in the museum. Children begin their love of trains with models, often stimulated with exposure to “Thomas” and other cartoon characters. We continue to expand that interest through school tours, events, and full-size train rides throughout the year. The museum continues to expand its collection of railroad cars and locomotives and always has a restoration project in progress.

The museum has one operating layout with O scale and On30 models, an N scale model display awaiting some restoration, several displays of scale models of historic trains, and displays of scratch-built live steam rolling stock for 7-1/2” gauge. It also operates a 2-foot gauge “mining train” called the “Reardan Rocket,” pulled by one of two working locomotives, the oldest of which was built by the Plymouth Locomotive Works in 1935.

The museum is a Sustaining Member of the NMRA and NMRA members receive a discount on admissions with presentation of their membership card (although it is the same discount as given to seniors, so most won’t need their card!). The museum maintains a close working



relationship with many model railroaders and the River City Modelers. Several members of the PNR serve on the board of directors: Dale Swant; Jeff Herrmann, MMR; Bill Fassett, MMR; and Greg Tripp. Other PNR members have been involved in creating and maintaining the model train layout at the museum, including Bill Voogd (5th Division Superintendent), Jerry Fey, and Tim Bristow.



The museum is home to NP passenger car #589, which is one of a set that Rapido has announced in HO scale. We are also in the process of acquiring SP&S #804, an F7A that Bowser has scheduled for production in HO scale. Our collection is a great source of 1:1 scale examples with which modelers can get up close and personal to identify details for modeling. Among our most popular items: UP Pacific #3206, GN SD9 #598, SP&S café-lounge car *Mount St. Helens*, GN caboose X-237, the last remaining Spokane street car Brill #140, a UP dining car, and UP passenger car *American Scene*. We own NP F9 #6703-A and just recently acquired NP GP9 #317.

Since the PNR convention scheduled for May in Pasco is within easy driving distance, museum members invite attendees to drop by Thursday-Sunday that weekend between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The museum is offering a special \$6 admission for NMRA members. You can check out the museum at <https://inlandnwrailmuseum.com/> or call 509-796-3377 for additional information.



## NMRA Model Railroad Directory

Now, whether you're at home or traveling, you can contact other NMRA members for a layout tour, to talk trains, or even to join in an op session! There are maps, descriptions, photos, videos, and more. And it's only available to NMRA members.

Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org), click on "Member Home," then "Directory" to see layouts in your area or to list your own layout (as long as it's an operating home or garden railroad). Join in the fun!



# My New Garden Layout

Andy Doll, MMR, 3rd Division

I was sitting on my back porch the other afternoon nursing one of my favorite brews while thinking about what I could do next on my mostly completed HO scale model railroad layout. There is no more room for structures, although I seem to keep finding space for one more building. Sometimes, I make space by retiring a building that no longer is up to my current modeling standards.

Trackage is a totally different story. There is actually no place I can even fit in a one-car spur. Well, I did, for a very brief moment, consider building a peninsula down the middle of my layout room. By brief, I mean real brief; so fast I'm not fully aware of visualizing the expansion of the railroad. Anyway, forget that I even mentioned that subject.

From my chair on the porch, I am looking at my half-acre back yard. There is my 1:1 scale garden shed and 20 to 25 trees and large shrubs. Now my mind turns back to my previous home that was on a one-acre parcel of land. Before the Airport bought me out, I had partially designed a G scale empire. That was five years before I joined the NMRA in 2003 and began meeting all of my good friends in the Third Division.

I had accumulated two G scale train sets, two flatcars, a couple of gons, a boxcar, about 100 feet of nickel silver track and I was saving up to buy a steam engine. Those G scale dreams slowly faded away during the subsequent move and the beginnings of my HO scale Pennsylvania & North Western Railroad.

My backyard now has my full attention. In my mind I can see where a roundhouse and turntable could be located. Along the back fence, there is room for double trackage to allow for trains passing in opposite directions. I couldn't have built the garden shed in a better location for use as a storage and a staging area. With a little work, I can have the shed looking like a depot in no time at all.

I think I will probably go with dead rail, battery pack, and radio controlled operation to avoid electrical shorts in the rails caused by rain or mud. I'm planning to do away with metal rails altogether. I'm going to have the millwork plant in Payette, Idaho, make cutting tools and mill my rails from teak wood in the profile of G scale rails. The teak should offer fairly good weather protection. I shouldn't have to worry about expansion and contraction as with metal rails, and any damaged section of rail will easily be repaired by a simple splice. Tight curves will probably not be possible, but any normal radius can be realized by notching both sides of the rail's bottom flange and carefully bending the rail into place. The ties will also be cut from teak. Rails will be painted rail brown with a faded gray top. Ties will be painted a weathered black.

Or, if you really feel like going primitive, you can resort to the time honored method of steaming the rails with boiling water after notching the rail flanges. A 30-foot prototype rail would be represented by a scale rail of a little more than 12 inches. This short length makes bending very difficult. Bending rails into curves becomes a little more manageable if the rails are three to four feet long.

Roadbed will be prepared by removing dirt and sod from a trench 1-1/2 inches deep and 5 inches wide. Lay a strip of 1/2-inch exterior plywood 5 inches wide in the bottom of the trench. Using a good grade of exterior glue, fasten the ties to the plywood. Lay tie plates on the ties and fasten the rails down with glue and G scale rail spikes. Ballast with your favorite crushed stone and you're ready to go.

My dog is going to be very busy keeping the squirrels from gnawing on the rails and digging holes in the roadbed to hide the peanuts that most of my neighbors so generously provide for them during the summer. Then in the winter they come back to re-dig the whole backyard trying to find what they planted during the past summer.

If, for some reason, these plans don't work, I can always fall back on Plan B. There always has to be a Plan B. This would be tying a long shoe lace to the locomotive's front coupler and hiring my grandson to pull the train around on the tracks.

Andy Doll, MMR

01 April 2025

*Editor's Note: As you can see, Andy dated this April 1. Ideally, this article would be published on April 1st, but unfortunately, that date doesn't coincide with The Switchlist's publication schedule.*

# Hobbyists Race to Save a Railroad

## Wanted: Home buyer who loves trains—and us!

Article by Betsy McKay, Rocky Hill, N.J.

*Editor's Note: This article was first published in the Wall Street Journal, January 16, 2025. PNR President, Jeff Herrmann, thought we might find it interesting. It certainly is a unique situation. We've included a few photos from the Pacific Southern Railway Club's website: <https://pacificsouthern.org/>. The layout was also featured in Model Railroader, November 2023, in an article by Lou Sassi.*

Jeff Bernardis had to keep the trains running on time. Perched at a bank of computer monitors, he relayed orders to the engineers of nearly a dozen trains ferrying oil, beer and circus animals on a dizzying network of routes. “You want to come out of C52, not C50,” he called to an engineer. “Take down that signal,” he said to an associate to get a train headed in the right direction. Bernardis wasn't in a Union Pacific control room. He was in the basement of a suburban home.

Bernardis is head of the Pacific Southern Railway, a club of about 30 model railroad hobbyists who on Wednesday nights transform into trainmasters, dispatchers and engineers. They run model locomotives and railroad cars over about 3,500 feet of track in the sprawling basement, through a vast world of factories, towns and mountains. The club runs Pacific Southern like a real railroad. “We're not just people running trains around the Christmas tree,” said Bernardis, a retired software engineer. But now, Pacific Southern faces a possible derailment. The owner of the home where the club has operated for six decades plans to sell it, after her husband, a former club president, died last year. The four-bedroom, 3,400-square-foot residence, on 2 acres of land, is too much to take care of alone, said Anne Pate, 74. “It's time to move on,” she said. Pate and the club's members are searching for a buyer who won't sidetrack the club. “We need somebody that wants to keep the railroad and somebody that wants to keep us,” said Jim Albanowski, a retired information technologies director. Club members park every Wednesday night in the driveway, enter the house through a back door, and use a bathroom off the kitchen when the need arises. Buying the house would mean instantly having 30 of “your strangest new best friends,” Albanowski said. Model railroaders are deeply devoted. Hobbyists spend hours and thousands of dollars meticulously constructing elaborate layouts with train routes running through lifelike miniature cities and landscapes. But many are aging and looking to downsize. Not every home buyer wants to inherit someone else's passion project, and the layouts can be hard to dismantle and move. The house that serves as Pacific Southern's depot has always been owned by a club president. That puts the club in “a very unique situation,” said Stacey Walthers Naffah, chief executive of



Wm. K. Walthers, a large family-owned and operated producer and distributor of model railroad equipment. Clubs don't usually have their model railroad layouts in private homes, she said. Pacific Southern was formed in 1964 by the home's original owner, a hobbyist who built an open basement to accommodate a model railroad layout. Anne and her husband, Carlton Pate III, bought the house in 2016 when the second owner grew older. For Carl, a retired banker, it was a dream come true: He had been in the club for



A few members of the Pacific Southern Railway Club.

decades, and he and Anne visited the house regularly to help with train shows. The house “has been part of our family history,” Anne Pate said. The move meant relocating from Connecticut and upsizing. Not one to be railroaded, Anne set conditions: The club must hold train shows and attract new members. And she wanted a new kitchen. As president, Carl set high standards. He taught members how to add tiny details to make buildings look real. He green-lit and assisted an architect club member, Francis Treves, in upgrading scenery, landscapes, and buildings. He reintroduced annual train shows, raising money for local first responders, and had shirts made for club members. During Covid, the club ran the trains through Zoom. This time, no one in the club has stepped in to buy the house. Some can’t relocate. Others say they’re too old. “I’m pushing 83. I’d love to be able to do it, but I can’t,” said Tom Lavin, a semiretired accountant. Catherine Plunkett joined a little over a year ago. Initially drawn by the scenery, the 37-year-old scientist is now apprenticing with Bernardis as a trainmaster. Plunkett hopes the sale of the house doesn’t mean the end of the line for the club. “I really hope that someone could see this and step up,” she said. “If any of us hit the lottery, this is what we’re spending it on.”



Under the Big Top of the Pate Brothers Circus Tent.



## NMRA Video Library

Did you know the NMRA Video Library has over 150 videos of clinics that were presented at National Conventions from the last 30 years. Virtually every model railroading topic you can think of has been covered ... from scenery to operations to prototypes to electronics. If you missed the last few decades of National Conventions, you can still see some of the best clinics around.

Just log into [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) as a member, click on “Member / Member Home” and click on the big red box that says “Watch Clinic Videos” next to the photo. It’s that easy!

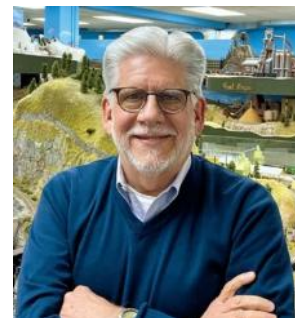
# Officers' Reports

## From the Engineer's Side of the Cab

Jeff Herrmann, MMR, PNR President

Sometimes if you have a good idea, it pays to stick with it and make it known! Here is an example of how persistence paid off and the result was a great benefit to many.

In 1959, the United States added two territories, Alaska and Hawaii, as states to the union. This presented a small problem to Congress. You see, Congress is responsible for the design of the flag and how the white stars appear on the blue background. With 48 states it was easy to show the 48 stars in six rows with eight stars in each row. But how do you add two more stars and still have a respectful pattern? A teacher in Lancaster, Ohio, gave this problem to his class as a project. A student named Robert Heft had an idea. He thought that if the pattern alternated between a row of six stars followed by a row of five stars there would be a regular and symmetric pattern. Altogether there would be 5 rows of six stars and four rows of five stars, giving a total of 50 stars. Robert spent hours sewing stars on a piece of blue cloth. However, when he turned his project in, he received a B minus for his efforts. But that didn't stop Robert. He knew he had a good idea, so he sent his design to his Congressman. Congress liked the idea and the new US flag bore the design of Robert Heft, a schoolboy from Ohio.



Perhaps not quite as noteworthy as Robert Heft's idea, here are a few NMRA ideas that have come to my attention that I would like you to consider:

- In March, NMRA will be issuing a new "Division Resource Kit" to help divisions in recruiting and retention and unify our marketing message. See the article elsewhere in this edition of *The Switchlist*.
- Has your division taken advantage of the matching fund program for efforts in recruiting and/or retaining members? See the article elsewhere in this edition of *The Switchlist*.
- Modeling With The Masters ® will soon be available all around our region on a regular basis. See the article elsewhere in this edition of *The Switchlist*.
- The 2025 PNR Convention "Ainsworth Connector" is being held May 9-11 in Pasco, Washington. Perhaps a 3-day event over a weekend will encourage more attendance? See the article elsewhere in this edition of *The Switchlist*.
- The NMRA Board of Directors adopted a Code of Conduct. Like many organizations, the Board recognized the need to set expectations for the behaviors, conduct, communication, and interactions between members, officers, and directors. The Code addresses behaviors and conduct for engaging with other NMRA members, participating in an event or meeting, engaging on a social media platform or other sponsored extension of the NMRA (whether National, Regional, or Division). Importantly, the Code also includes general guidelines on the appropriate use of social media for NMRA matters at any level. See the NMRA website for more information ([Code of Conduct](#)).
- NMRA has made arrangements with Grouper and Medicare Advantage and some Medicare Supplement plans to cover NMRA membership dues. If you have Medicare as part of your medical insurance coverage, check out <https://www.hellogrouper.com/NMRA>
- PNR has been distributing member surveys to assist divisions in developing programs that are attractive to members and available locally. We look forward to your participation! If you have not filled out our on-line survey please do: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K98F93Q>
- On the first weekend in September (Labor Day weekend in US), NMRA will mark its 90th Anniversary. Divisions and 100% NMRA Clubs are encouraged to start thinking about events and activities you can hold at that time that promote our hobby to the public.

If you have some ideas you would like to share or think that I can be helpful in getting NMRA members more engaged or expanding our membership in your area, let me know. My focus, and that of our PNR Board of Directors, is to find ways to enhance the value of your NMRA membership.

I wish each one of you good health and clear tracks ahead! I am humbled and excited to serve as President of Pacific Northwest Region.

# From the Fireman's Side of the Cab

Bob Stafford, Vice President

No report available this quarter



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## Treasurer's Report

Rick Martin, MMR

Greetings fellow Region members.

I trust that all are finding ways to adapt to the weather changes. Our hopefully brief cold weather change will go away soon.

We start a new annual budget that was submitted to the board. FY2024 had some serious expenses that were not fully covered by income monies. Without naming areas of expense costs, safe to say it was an unusual year. From a reporting side, we had two payments for our D&O insurance in the calendar year. This is since we pay when due but can only report when the check hits the bank account. For the 2024-25 insurance year, we decreased our premium that was paid at the end of the year.

Some of the unusual costs were a result of our Canadian convention. Not to blame Division 6 and 7 for the outcome, it was how we reported and managed the income/expense reporting. Larry and his folks made sure monies were handled equitably between US and Canada. KUDOs to Larry and all those in Canada.

As we look to the new year, we need to keep in mind that our hobby is fun and we need to share it with others. I believe the PNR does a fantastic job of doing this. We should all be proud to be members of this organization.

Having said the above, if any have questions, I would be more than happy to answer. Send me an email at [rick.martin5727@gmail.com](mailto:rick.martin5727@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Martin, MMR  
PNR Treasurer



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## Office Manager's Report

This report to the Members of the Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA, covers the months of January 2024 through January 2025. As you can see in Table 1, the Pacific Northwest Region, which consists of seven (7) divisions, currently has a total of 1,382 members, of which 11 are Rail Pass members. Unfortunately, we had a loss of 23 members due to death.

Table 2 shows that we brought in 132 new members over this same period, of which 25 are Rail Pass members.

**Remember —Membership retention is the job of every member!!**

Much of this report (Tables 1 through 4) centers on the relationship when individuals come on board as a new member and the time they go on the 30-60-day Past Due Reports. Look at the tables to see how your division is performing.

**Table 1. Membership showing Rail Pass (RP) portion by Division**

Div	Jan-24		Feb-24		Mar-24		Apr-24		May-24		Jun-24		Jul-24		Aug-24		Sep-24		Oct-24		Nov-24		Dec-24		Jan-25		Net +/- over year Jan-Jan
	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	
1	85	1	84	3	80	2	76	1	77	2	76	1	81	2	81	1	79	2	75	2	76	2	72	2	76	2	-10
2	108	2	112	1	110	2	109	2	108	2	106	0	109	0	111	0	106	0	104	0	108	0	110	0	108	0	-2
3	69	5	75	5	72	4	77	6	77	6	77	5	75	4	75	4	79	3	82	3	81	2	78	2	80	2	6
4	414	9	442	8	442	7	440	8	443	7	446	4	449	4	448	6	448	5	447	4	434	3	433	4	432	4	9
5	196	3	201	3	201	3	203	2	202	2	205	2	198	2	200	3	197	2	198	3	197	4	197	4	196	3	-3
6	258	1	259	0	253	0	257	1	256	1	257	1	252	1	266	1	241	1	242	0	245	0	243	0	240	0	-19
7	266	5	274	5	276	5	279	6	279	4	280	6	260	5	273	3	275	1	269	2	267	0	265	0	250	0	-21
<b>Tot</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1434</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1454</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1425</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1408</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1398</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1382</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-40</b>

**Table 2. New members showing Rail Pass portion by Division**

Div	Jan-24		Feb-24		Mar-24		Apr-24		May-24		Jun-24		Jul-24		Aug-24		Sep-24		Oct-24		Nov-24		Dec-24		Jan-25		Total	
	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	5	3
2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	4
4	6	1	2	0	6	1	0	0	6	0	4	0	3	1	3	1	7	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	5	1	46	7
5	5	0	3	0	5	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	1	1	0	25	4
6	4	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	3	0	6	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	28	2
7	2	2	4	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	16	5
<b>Tot</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>25</b>

**Table 3. Members 30-days Past Due showing Rail Pass portion by Division**

Div	Jan-24		Feb-24		Mar-24		Apr-24		May-24		Jun-24		Jul-24		Aug-24		Sep-24		Oct-24		Nov-24		Dec-24		Jan-25		
	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	
1	2	0	1	0	4	1	2	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	1	0	6	0	1	0	
2	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
3	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	
4	10	4	8	2	10	0	3	0	7	1	2	1	5	1	7	0	9	0	4	0	14	0	3	0	10	0	
5	1	1	2	0	3	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	4	1	5	0	
6	3	0	6	0	12	0	1	0	7	0	4	0	8	0	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	
7	2	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	7	1	0	0	7	0	5	2	2	0	14	0	
<b>Tot</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	

**Table 4. Members 60-days Past Due showing Rail Pass portion by Division**

Div	Jan-24		Feb-24		Mar-24		Apr-24		May-24		Jun-24		Jul-24		Aug-24		Sep-24		Oct-24		Nov-24		Dec-24		Jan-25	
	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP	Mem	RP
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	4	1	2	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	5	0
2	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
4	3	2	8	4	7	2	7	0	2	0	4	1	2	0	5	1	6	0	8	0	3	0	13	0	3	0
5	1	2	1	1	2	0	2	1	4	1	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	4	1
6	4	1	3	0	4	0	12	0	1	0	6	0	4	0	8	0	0	0	9	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
7	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	7	1	0	0	7	0	5	2	2	0
<b>Tot</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>

## Achievement Program Report

Bill Fassett, MMR, AP Manager

**Congratulate our newest Master Model Railroader®: Greg Kujawa, MMR #787**

In late December, Greg completed his AP Certificate for Master Builder – Scenery, in time to become the 6th PNR member to earn the MMR in 2024. As noted below, this kept the region from being in second place among the 17 regions in any category.

Greg earned his first two certificates—Association Volunteer and Model Railroad Author—in 2021, followed by Master Builder – Structures, Model Railroad Engineer – Civil, and Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical in 2023, and then Master Builder – Cars and Master Builder – Scenery, in 2024. He has also received a Golden Spike Award. Greg is in the 5th Division, but the 5th Division thanks Bob Parrish, MMR, AP manager for the 3rd Division, for helping spur Greg on.

## Region AP Metrics in 2024

Jack Hamilton, MMR, HLM, once stated that “AP stands for *aggressive pursuit*.” Because our region continues to embody this approach of reaching out to members to encourage participation, we continue to lead the NMRA in member achievement. Thanks to the efforts of our members and our division AP managers and superintendents, PNR generated 112 total awards in 2024, including Golden Spikes, AP Certificates, and MMR@s, or 21% of the 527 total awards issued worldwide by NMRA. The next highest region generated 48 total awards. I understand we are one of the larger of the 17 regions by membership, but we are definitely “punching above our weight.” The following is a breakdown by award type:

Award Type	PNR Total	World Total
Golden Spike	21	79
AP Certificates	85	413
MMR@	6*	36

\* PNR tied with the Midwest Region in this category

Your division AP managers have copies of the full 2024 national report.

## Recent Changes to AP Certificate Requirements and SOQ Forms

Some recent changes have been made to the requirements for certain AP categories as the NMRA attempts to modernize the AP program.

- “Low-Relief” Structures. Modelers may now submit for Merit Award evaluation low-relief structures, typically utilized against backdrops, provided that the structures are at least 10 scale feet in depth. Up to three (3) low-relief structures may be counted among the twelve (12) structures required for the AP certificate in Master Builder – Structures.
- Model Railroad Author. Proposed changes were submitted to the NMRA Board meeting in January. Previous sections of the Statement of Qualification (SOQ) covering Instructional Video Tapes and Multi-Media and Electronic Publications have now been combined into one section, and podcasts will earn the same credit as clinics presented in non-Division-sponsored events. Evaluation of articles is now done at the region level. Up to 21 points may be awarded for electronic publications.
- Recognition of first awards. A check box will be placed on revised SOQ forms where the modeler may indicate that this is their first AP award.
- Division AP manager review. Revised SOQ forms will include an optional section where Division AP Managers may indicate they have reviewed the form.

Watch the NMRA website for new SOQ forms. I have agreed with Ray Persing to revise our current SOQ forms into fillable PDF documents that should make it easier to complete the forms with clarity. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of February.

## NMRA National Director Plans for 2025

Ray Persing, the national AP manager, has announced several initiatives for 2025:

- Updating the content on the NMRA Achievement Program website pages, including the aforementioned SOQ forms and separating “additional guidance” from the published requirements.
- Revisiting the guidelines for evaluating models, including removing references to “judging” in favor of “evaluation.” Additional guidelines are being developed on evaluating 3D printing, and better guidance on evaluating scenery.
- Creation of new materials for training individuals to evaluate models.
- Consideration of a Mentorship Program to work with members to improve their modeling skills.

## Awards Earned Since the Last *Switchlist*. [division numbers in brackets]

**Golden Spike Award** – The following members have been awarded a Golden Spike certificate:

**Frank Ascolese [5]**

**Sylvain Duclos [6]**

**Merit Awards** – The following members have earned Merit Awards:

**Frank Ascolese [5]** – Scenery

**Raymond Brady [5]** – Civil (3) [Awarded in MCoR]

**Jerry Barsness [5]** – Scenery, Structures (3)  
**Warren Bjornson [6]** – Structures (4)  
**Jerry Thomas [3]** – Civil (3), Structures  
**Gary Thurow [5]** – Scenery

**Achievement Program Certificates – The following member have earned AP Certificates:**

**Alan Armbruster [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Raymond Brady [5]**—Model Railroad Engineer – Civil [Awarded in MCoR]  
**Bert Cripe [4]**—Chief Dispatcher  
**James Durst [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Lawrence Ellison [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Nate Elsner [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Peter Elsner [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Valerie Fairchild [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Ryan Matthews [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Keith Nore [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**David Dutt [5]**—Association Volunteer  
**Victor Gilbert [7]**—Association Official  
**Greg Kujawa [5]**—Master Builder – Scenery, Master Model Railroader®  
**Andrew Packee [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Melissa Spicer [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Steven Spicer [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Gary Thurow [5]**—Master Builder – Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical  
**Jerry Thomas [3]**—Master Builder – Structures  
**Norman Van Den Handel [4]**—Association Volunteer  
**Patrick Williams [5]**—Chief Dispatcher

**Featured Picture – Prototype Models**

Greg Kujawa, our newest MMR, completed Scenery as his final certificate. Greg models a prototype setting in Great Falls, Montana, and his Merit Award was for the General Mills complex and 9th Avenue Spur off the Great Northern main line. He is also using this setting to complete the requirements for the Prototype Models certificate. A prototype picture and Greg’s scene are shown below.





## Prototype Modeling as a Springboard

By Bob Parrish, MMR, 3rd Division

There are any number of interests in the railroad modeling world. Also, as learning styles vary, so do construction styles. Some modelers dig in and work on a kit or project from start to finish with few interruptions. Others will have a number of things on their workbench which may include completely different areas of modeling. This speaks to the differences in people.

There is a wide range of opportunities from the previously mentioned highly focused modeler to the scattered attention span of people like myself.

This has an impact on how a modeler may proceed in their entry into their Achievement Program (AP) quest; that is, whether they start in one area and stay with it until completion of a certificate in structures, for example, or dabble in several modeling areas concurrently. Either way is completely acceptable.

When previously asked by a modeler where I might suggest they make their start, my reply was usually a question of where their interests lie and then offer suggestions.

In a conversation several weeks ago with Duane Richardson, AP manager for the Lone Star Region of the NMRA, the Prototype Models certificate came up. He observed that much of the modeling in this area may also be used toward other Merit Awards. In our conversation, it was also noted that Prototype Models is probably the least pursued certificate of the eleven possibilities on the AP trail and is often the final objective.

Duane stated that he had adjusted his thinking on this topic and shared a story of guiding a nephew into the AP. He spoke of a direction that I had long thought about but had no great ability to articulate until now. That is, "The Prototype Models certificate really can be the springboard to many other categories."

A quick reading of the rubrics for this category outlines the necessary components that must be modeled from a prototype scene or a historical photograph of a scene. Those elements include: motive power, rolling stock, structures, and associated scenery. Reading further will reveal that any of these components may be further evaluated for Merit Award and recognized in those specific modeling areas.

Also, pursuit of the Prototype Models certificate may become an additional gateway towards the Civil Engineering category and contribute to the square footage count in the Scenery category.

This revising of my thinking has now brought me to what now seems to be a better response for the probing question of an AP starting point. Prototype Models truly is a springboard for a foray to the hobby. Inside of this, a modeler may still focus in on those subjects of particular interest; but in the end, this category opens doors wide to the possibilities of this hobby.

Please consider the Prototype Models certificate when plotting your own AP course or in conversations with other modelers regarding their plan of pursuit.

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## Education Program Report

Lee Calkins, Chair

The NMRA is full of Educational Opportunities. The Achievement Program (AP) Association Volunteer category is the topic for today. Volunteering is one of the facets of model railroading that does not require any specific skill set and is easy to accomplish, if you can find the time.

To qualify for the Association Volunteer certificate, you must:

"Serve actively on one or more NMRA committees (National, Region, or Division) and/or as an Officer long enough to accumulate sixty (60) certified time units (TUs)." The TUs you receive for various types of service are can be found at <https://www.nmra.org/volunteer>

You don't need to serve in a leadership position to achieve this AP certificate. You can also be a judge for an NMRA event. Hosting an operating session during a qualifying event gets TU credit for you and your "crew." If you are into the modular layout world like me, attending a qualifying event also earns you TUs. Doing a clinic is also a way to get TUs. There is also an opportunity to get involved in the Scouting Program. If you are the councilor for the Railroading Merit Badge, you will receive one TU for every scout who receives the Merit Badge. Newsletter editors of 100% NMRA clubs having 10 or more members also qualify with some restrictions.

Serving on a committee is also a way to get TUs. The following is an excerpt from the NMRA AP webpage on the Volunteer:

*So what exactly constitutes a "committee"?*

*Basically, just about any office or function that isn't covered under Association Official. Most other officers in a Division (or Region) are considered Committee Chairs/Managers. For example, if your Division has a person who runs the contest at the monthly meeting, they can be considered the "Contest Committee Manager", your*

local AP representative is a member of the "Region AP Committee", and so on. Conventions (at all levels) are chock full of committees (**Only** the convention General Manager receives "Committee Manager" points—all others receive "Committee Member" points, even if their title includes the word "Manager"). Individuals who work just the day of the event (for example at the convention registration desk) receive credit for one month's work as committee members.

If you want to join the PNR Education Committee you can earn TUs towards your own Volunteer AP certificate There are plenty of openings.

For my Volunteer certificate, I did the following:

- Portland 2015 National Trains Show Free-moN layout
- Salt Lake City 2019 National Train Show Free-moN layout
- Railroading Merit Badge Counselor (which I forgot I could count and wasn't included in my SOQ)
- Dallas 2023 National Convention Operations Committee Member
- Dallas 2023 National Convention Free-moN Operations Road Show Layout
- Dallas 2023 National Convention Clinic
- Multiple times in attending the Spokane Washington Spring and Fall trains show with Free-moN Layout.



Portland 2015 NMRA NTS Free-moN Layout .

My favorite event that I attended was probably the Dallas National Convention. I worked with a group of *Freemonites* to provide a layout for the Operations Roadshow Organization to provide 11 3-hour clinics on TT&TO operations. We had between 12–18 operators on the layout for each clinic. We set up the layout in the largest ballroom in the Convention Center. We were open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily for most of the convention. As you can see this actually took a lot of time., but it was relatively easy.

Things I have learned as I have worked on this. I learned that I can give a clinic without any problems. I actually gave it twice while in Dallas—the first time qualified points towards my Author certificate; the second time was towards my Volunteer certificate.

It is easier to keep track of your service as you do it than it is to try and fill it in later and then go find people that remember that you were there and have them sign off on it.

Question: Can you submit time served prior to becoming a member of the NMRA? I did. My points achieved before March of 2023 were all before I joined the NMRA. The events that counted were NMRA events. I just had to find friends that participated with me who were NMRA members at the time.

Remember to check out the resources available from the NMRA. Email me if you have any questions, comments, concerns, snide remarks, or if you want to join the Education Committee.

Next Episode...working on my Author AP.

Lee Calkins  
Education Chair  
PNR Division 5  
[oregonshortline@gmail.com](mailto:oregonshortline@gmail.com)



Dallas 2023 NMRA National Convention Free-moN Operations Road Show Layout.

# Division Reports

## 1st Division

Charlie Hutto, Superintendent

First Division is planning our first mini meet of 2025. This event is tentatively scheduled to take place later in the spring at the Coos County Fairgrounds in Coquille. Additional details to follow as we work through the details. We look forward to seeing all First Division members.

## 2nd Division

Jeff Shultz, Superintendent

Second Division held their first meet of 2025 on January 18th at the Wilsonville Public Library. Attendees enjoyed three clinics: The Square Foot Challenge (by Pat Latorres), Building a Peninsula with an Unusual Backdrop Material (by Robert Leatha), and Economy Locomotive Roller Test Track (by Ross Ames, MMR). During the meet, Dave Holden was presented with his NMRA President's Award for Service to the Division, and Dave provided an update on the plans for the 2026 PNR Convention, to be held in Tigard, Oregon (Portland area, but not Portland). A video of the meet is on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/q0tl-8T4ODw>. The next meet for Second Division will be at 11 a.m. on President's Day, Monday, February 17th, at a still-to-be-named restaurant in the Portland metropolitan area.

## 3rd Division

Shelley Shelstad, Superintendent

The Third Division has been enjoying a good “winter modeling season” with lots of activities.

The Great Train Show visited Boise in early January, giving everyone the chance to examine the wares of numerous traveling and local vendors in search of that special find that will fill that special need. After visiting the show, about 25 of us gathered at a local restaurant for pizza and discussions of what we saw/purchased.

We continue to have numerous regularly scheduled events, including four general gatherings spread across each month where we gather for 1) morning coffee, including various demonstrations of individual projects; 2) an evening pizza with train discussions; 3) an evening ZOOM meeting to talk trains and current modeling projects; and 4) monthly “Lunch and Layout” where we visit a local home or club layout.

Next, the local HobbyTown store has a work space at the rear of the store where they allow us to gather every Tuesday afternoon to build models and share techniques. Every week we typically have 4-6 members bring a project to work on. It is proving to be a great experience.

Finally, in March, we will have our annual spring road trip to Twin Falls to meet modelers from the Magic Valley area (part of the 3rd Division located about 120 miles southeast of the Boise area). Then our annual 3rd Division Spring Meet is scheduled for April.

## 4th Division

Mike Stepner, Superintendent

I will be naming Cole Van Gerper as Chair of the Education Committee. Cole is an educator, and owner of CVG Trains.

In Memoriam: Paul Vaughn passed away around Thanksgiving. Paulk was a member of the Pacific Northwest On30 Modular Group. He was owner of Precision Vintage Classics, model train products. He had a home layout in Sn3.



## 2nd Division Meets Online

2nd Division has scheduled Meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month. For more info, see: <https://2dpnr.org/html/events.html>. Recorded Zoom Meets are at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWMrJ-wg0pHqoke3px4F66g>

We just finished our third train show of the season (first for me)—the Great Train Show in Puyallup, Washington. It went well. I don't know the attendance numbers but it seemed well attended. The group I'm with, 4D NMRA Puget Sound Free-Mo Group, was well staffed. It looks like we will be gaining two new members, which also will bring two new members into the NMRA (if they aren't already; I forgot to ask) Larry Sloan and I have been in communication with them for a few months.

The next train show is Feb 22/23 in Monroe, Washington, at Evergreen Fairgrounds supporting 4H organization.

4D is working to bring ETE (European Train Enthusiasts) under our umbrella. Having an in-person meeting Feb 1 to work out details.

Magnus and Robin have been chipping away for 4D to host the NMRA 2027 national convention. And their efforts have paid off because **it's now official that 4th Division is on for hosting the 2027 convention**. So, we'll need all hands on deck.

It may look like I'm doing a great job, but I can't do it without my Board and members of 4D. Thanks to all of you.

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## 5th Division

Bill Voogd, Superintendent

Greetings from Bill Voogd and the 5th Division. Spring is right around the corner and with it, the first train show of 2025 is drawing near. The River City Modelers Spring Train Show is scheduled for March 9th at the Spokane County Fairgrounds. It is a large show with 200+ vendors tables and usually a half dozen or more operating layouts. We have arranged that NMRA members can get credit toward their Volunteer AP certificate by helping at the show.

5th Division continues to do clinics with River City Modelers anytime there is a 5th Thursday in a month. On January 30th, there was a presentation by Ron Edgar on enhancing yard operations on club layouts. The premise was that if you always break apart trains at one end of the yard and build them on the opposite end, it will result in a natural flow across the yard and the strings of cars needed to be pulled to build new trains will be substantially shorter. We also talked about returning turnouts to their proper alignment when leaving a switching area as a common courtesy to your fellow operators and also in compliance with the operating procedures of prototype railroads.

Work is continuing on the 2025 PNR Convention to be held May 9-11 at the Red Lion in Pasco. It promises to be a great event with valuable clinics, contests, prototype tours, and some great local model railroads to tour. Additionally, non-local enroute tours are being set up May 8th for drivers arriving from various directions. Stay tuned for more details. The convention will also feature HO and N gauge Free-mo layouts. Registration is open. Sign up early for the best rates.

The 5th Division Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, April 19th. While still in the Spokane area, it will be at a new and unique location. Let's just say that the proprietor of the location has a hobby centered around old street cars. Reserve the date and plan to attend.

That's all for now. I look forward to seeing many of you at future 5th Division events.

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## 6th Division

Ed Molenkamp, Superintendent

I begin this report with the news that Mark Johnson has passed away. He was a fixture of the PNR and the 6th Division and will be missed. When I got involved with the 6th Division, Mark had already been the Division Secretary for 30 years. I have to add that Mark was my guy to lean on when I was 6th Division Superintendent. Our drives to conventions in the early years were a blast. There is an obituary in this *Switchlist* from some of Mark's oldest and dearest friends and it is wonderfully written.



## 4th Division Online Resources Open to All

The 4th Division has a lot of resources available on its *Grab Iron* webpage: <http://4dpr.com/grab-iron-posts/>

These include announcements of upcoming online clinics and layout tours plus a YouTube Channel that includes recordings of past clinics and layout tours and other presentations. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/4DPNRMovies>

Other news from the 6th is that we have our conventions lined up for the next three years and I'm looking forward to them. Membership is steady once again and, as we start our spring lineup of shows, I am confident that will grow.

I'm also looking forward to the Regional convention in Pasco this May.

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## 7th Division

Victor Gilbert, Superintendent

No report available this quarter

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## NMRA Partnership Program



The partners listed below give discounts to NMRA members when orders are placed using a special discount code. Newly added partners are in **red**. Check them out! 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.

### 18ten designs

Bespoke Rail	Ipswich Hobbies	Ram Track
CatzPaw Innovations	ITLA Scale Models	RR-CirKits, Inc
CB Train Junction	K.I.S.S. Method Inc	Scale Model Plans
Clever Models LLC	LaBelle Woodworking Co.	Scale Railroad Models
CMR Products LLC	LARC Products	Scenery Solutions
Coastmans Scenic Products	Logic Rail Technologies	Showcase Miniatures
Composite Designs, Inc	MAC Rail	T-TRAK by Denniston
Conowingo Models	Micro-Mark	Team Track Models
Cowcatcher Magazine	Mine Mount Models, LLC	The Model Railroad Benchwork Store
Daylight Sales	Miniprints	The N Scale Architect
Deepwoods Software	Model Train Catalogue	The Old Depot Gallery
Deluxe Materials	Modelers Decals & Paint	Tichy Train Group
Diorama Hobbies	Motrak Models	Touch of the Brush Model Weathering
Dwarvin Enterprises, Ltd.	MRC (Model Rectifier Corporation)	Train Installations, LLC
East Coast Circuits	MrTrain.com	Train Show, Inc
Enterprise & National Car Rentals	Mudd Creek Models	Trainmasters TV / Model Railroad Hobbyist Store
Evan Designs	New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings	Trainz
Feight Studios	Nick and Nora Designs	TSG Multimedia
Fusion Scale Graphics	Northlandz	UGEARS
Gatorfoam	N Scale Works	USA Airbrush Supply / Badger Airbrush
Great Decals!	Old Depot Gallery	White Rose Hobbies, LLC
Green Frog Productions	Old West Scenery	WiFi Model Railroad LLC (AKA LocoFi)
Highways and Byways Model Railroad Graphics	R & J Details	Yelton Models
Hot Wire Foam Factory	<b>R. Duck Woodkits, LLC and R. Duck Locomotive Works</b>	

# PNR Interchange

The **PNR Interchange** is a free service for PNR members wishing to buy, sell, donate, or exchange model or prototype railroad related items. Commercial enterprise transactions and advertisements are not allowed except as provided for hobby stores below. Members may also use this service to request or solicit hobby or railroad related information, research results, and other resources or materials from other members. Members' classified ads and notices are restricted to text format only (no graphics) and length should be no longer than 120 words. Sequential ads of the same nature or having the same or nearly same content are not permitted. The suitability of submitted classified ads for publication is determined at the sole discretion of the Switchlist Editor. Email your submission along with your NMRA membership number to the Editor at [switchlist@pnr-nmra.org](mailto:switchlist@pnr-nmra.org). Hobby stores that support model railroading may include an advertisement in PNR Switchlist. The ad is limited in size to a business card size and should be provided in ready to copy and print format as determined by the Switchlist Editor. Advertisements for hobby stores that provide a discount for NMRA members shall be so identified with the advertisement. Hobby store ads may be run sequentially issue to issue.

## Twin Mills at Deer Creek Sawmill — **ASSEMBLED AND FREE!!**

After removing the HO scale layout of a friend who had passed away, I am now in possession of a fully assembled "Twin Mills at Deer Creek" by Sierra West. This is an HO scale craftsman kit. It is attached to a 42" square plywood base. I have the original box, manual, and extra parts, and buildings. Since I am modeling a contemporary timeframe, the model is of no use to me, so I would like to donate it to anyone interested in using it for their layout. It will require some effort to detach the buildings from the base. I have pictures if you are interested.

The 'catch' is that I am located on Whidbey Island (near Langley). Contact: Jon Wilbert, C:(909) 263-4770 or [jwilbert@whidbey.com](mailto:jwilbert@whidbey.com)

02/25



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Do you have "excess" model railroad equipment, kits, or supplies?  
Searching for that "special run" or hard-to-find locomotive?  
Looking for prototype or historical photos, track diagrams, or other information?  
Place your classified ad here in the PNR Interchange and connect with fellow PNR members!

We were asked by MCR Cincinnati Division 7 to make the PNR membership aware of the following opportunity. –Editor

## Limited-Edition, HO Scale N&W HC-46 ACF 2-Bay Covered Hopper Available for Sale/Purchase Through MCR, Cincinnati Division 7

Cincinnati Division 7 is offering a limited-edition, HO scale freight car for sale/purchase: a N&W HC-46 ACF 2-Bay Covered Hopper in a unique repaint scheme with patched-out data.

The following link provides details about the car as well as pricing, shipping, and ordering information:  
<https://division7mid-centralregionnmra.godaddysites.com/car-projects>

We thank you in advance for your support!

*Paul Maciulewicz*

NMRA; MCR; Cincinnati Division 7  
Car Projects Chairman



## The *NMRA Turntable* makes the Internet a little smaller.

If you're spending hours doing Internet video searches, you're wasting valuable modeling time! The *NMRA Turntable* brings the best of the best model railroading videos to your email box every month. It's one more benefit of NMRA membership!

**If you're not receiving it, contact NMRA HQ and make sure they have your current email address.**

# Timetable

To add your events or activities to the Switchlist Timetable, PNR web page, and PNR Train Orders, contact the Timetable Editor, Peter Ulvestad at [timetable@pnr.nmra.org](mailto:timetable@pnr.nmra.org).

Also, if you want to add your events or activities to the [NMRA.org Calendar](http://NMRA.org/Calendar), please send the event information via email to [calendar@nmra.org](mailto:calendar@nmra.org)

## 2025

### Feb 15–16, Saskatoon, SK

Annual All Aboard Model Train Show will be held at The World Trade Centre at Prairieland Park, 803 Ruth Street E, Saskatoon. If you would like to participate or for any other information, please email us at [allaboardtrainshow@gmail.com](mailto:allaboardtrainshow@gmail.com).

### Feb 22–23, 2025, Monroe, WA

United NorthWest Model Railroad Club presents the 32nd Washington State Model Railroad Show & Marketplace. Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe, WA. For more info: <https://unwclub.com/unwshow/>

### March 1, Yarrow (Chilliwack), BC

Yarrow Community Model Train Swap Meet 2025. 4670 Community St. Yarrow (Chilliwack), BC. Sales of model trains of all scales, books, magazines, scenery, photographs, DVDs, videos, a wide variety of train hobby items and much more. Railroad safety (CN/CP Police), history, and demonstration skills.

### March 8, Portland, OR

Willamette Model Railroad Club Swap Meet. Kliever Armory, 10000 NE 33rd Drive, Portland OR from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. For more info: <https://wmrrc.com/>

### March 8, Spokane, WA

River City Modelers Open house, 4 to 8 pm at 1130 E. Sprague Ave. Visit our HO River City Western Model Railroad layout. See what progress has been made. Contact 509-535-3462 or visit our website <http://www.rivercitymodelers.org/>

### March 9, Spokane, WA

SPOKANE TRAIN SHOW – Sponsored by the River City Modelers. SPOKANE County Fair & Expo Center, Ag A, B, & C Buildings, 404 N. Havana St., 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. \$8.00 ADMISSION cash – 12 and UNDER FREE. There will be over 200 tables of railroad related items for sale - model and toy trains, photographs, books, toy autos and trucks, bridges and buildings. Train memorabilia - old lanterns, signs, china, linen, switch locks and keys, and more. Operating train layouts in N, HO, Lego and O scale. A large HO and N Scale Free-mo setup will be running and Operation Lifesaver will be there too. The Wooden Wtrak train will be set up for kids to play with. Free parking! FOR TABLE RENTAL OR GENERAL INFORMATION – CONTACT: SHIRLEY SAMPLE, P.O. Box 3065, Spokane, WA 99220; call 509-991-2317 OR EMAIL: [shirleysample13@gmail.com](mailto:shirleysample13@gmail.com).

### March 22–23, Moose Jaw, SK

Thunder Creek Model Train Show, featuring a variety of displays from across the Prairies. If you have an interest in model railroading or admire craftsmanship, you won't want to miss this amazing show. Located at the Moose Jaw Western Development Museum, 50 Diefenbaker Drive, Moose Jaw, SK

### March 22-23, Squamish B.C.

Sea to Sky Model Train and Hobby Show. Located at the Railway Museum of British Columbia 39645 Government Road, Squamish, B.C. For more info: <https://www.wcra.org/model-train-hobby-show/>

### April 5–6, Calgary, AB

SUPERTRAIN 2025 — Canada's Largest Model Train Show. Featuring over 58,000 square feet of operating model railroad layouts, displays, Lionel, Lego Trains, Thomas and Friends, garden railroads, photo exhibits, merchandise for sale, live demos and more. To be held in the Olympic Oval at the University of Calgary. More information available at <https://supertrain.ca/Info.html>

### April 5, Elsie, OR

The Pacific Model Loggers' Conference will be held April 5th, 2025 at Camp 18 Restaurant and Logging Museum. 42362 US 26, Elsie, OR. For more information, go to <https://pacificmodelloggerscongress.org/>

### April 13, Nanaimo BC

Nanaimo Model Train Show Beban Park Recreation Centre, 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC. For more info: <https://www.nanaimotrainshow.com/>

### April 19, Edmonton, AB

MMRF Spring Swap Meet - 2025 Central Lions Seniors Recreation Centre, 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta 11 AM - 3 PM. Free parking in rear. More information available at [https://www.mmrf.ab.ca/spring\\_swap\\_meet](https://www.mmrf.ab.ca/spring_swap_meet)

### April 26–27, Regina, SK

Regina Railfest 2025 – Model Railroad Show. Over 25,000 sq. ft. of model railroad layouts, displays, exhibits, and vendors. Caledonian Curling Club, 2225 Sandra Schmirler Way. More information available at [www.reginarailfest.com](http://www.reginarailfest.com)



**April 26, Livingston, MT**

33rd Annual Livingston Swap Meet. Livingston Depot Center, 200 W. Park St, Livingston, MT 59047. 9:00 am–2:00 pm.

**April 27, Helena, MT**

[43rd Annual Helena Railroad Fair](#). Helena Civic Center, 340 Neill Ave, Helena, MT 59601. 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admission \$5; under 12 free. The largest railroad hobby event in the Northern Rockies. Up to 200 tables of railroad items, tinplate and toy trains, scale models, railroad collectibles. Buy, sell, or swap. Info: 406-459-3470; email: [rrfair@mt.net](mailto:rrfair@mt.net).

**May 9–10, Calgary, AB**

Railroad Prototype Modellers Meet. Theme: Freight Car Loads. St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 703 Heritage Drive SW, Calgary, AB

**May 9–11, Pasco, WA**

2025 PNR Convention, "[The Ainsworth Connector](#)". Pasco Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center. Activities include self-guided layout tours; Free-mo layouts; operating sessions; clinics; Celebration Room; AP evaluations; non-rail program; Annual General Meeting; Sunday awards luncheon with keynote speaker, raffles and prizes; Modeling With the Masters (pre-convention clinic on May 8). Info: <https://pnr5d.org/pnr-5th-division-home-page/2025-pnr-convention/>



**May 23–25, Burnaby, BC**

[Railway Modellers' Meet of British Columbia](#)

**July 14-19, Novi, MI**

2025 NMRA National Convention [Station No.VI](#). Hosted by the North Central Region of the NMRA.

**October 18-19, Melville, SK**

Melville Model Train Show. CN Community Centre, 10:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. both days. Cost: \$10.00 - adults, \$5.00 - youth 6-17, \$25.00 - family, free - under 6. For more info, email Ron at [melvillemodelrailwayclub@outlook.com](mailto:melvillemodelrailwayclub@outlook.com)

**NOTE: Because event conditions may change rapidly, be sure to double-check the status of specific events by visiting the PNR website's list of Upcoming Events, the website of individual events, or contact the person in the specific event's listing.**

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**You are invited to the Pacific Coast Region 2025 Daylight Limited Virtual Convention!  
March 27–30, 2025**

**Registration is now open!**

This year we are offering:

- 3 days of clinics
- Recordings of the clinics so you don't miss any
- Tour of the contest room by an MMR, the entries and a discussion on judging, how items are judged and how to be a judge
- Special Interest Group gatherings
- Vendor focus
- The opportunity to vote on the clinics you would like to see in the virtual event for everyone registered early
- Prototype tours ...just like at an in person convention!
- and more!

Our convention website has all the details: [www.pcr2025.org](http://www.pcr2025.org)

To register: <https://pcr2025.org/registration/> **We hope to see you in March!**



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
2025 National Convention

# STATION No. VI

Hosted by:  
the NORTH CENTRAL REGION

## July 14-19, 2025

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend! **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

Our location – Sheraton Detroit-Novi, MI  
A suburban location with FREE parking!

### CONVENTION GOALS and HIGHLIGHTS -

- \*\* Lowest possible entry costs for individual, spouse and children
- \*\* Everyone pays the same prices!!
- \*\* Shorter convention starting 1pm Monday and continuing through Saturday afternoon with a banquet Saturday evening.
- \*\* Registration includes all layout visits, operating sessions, clinics and admittance to the National Train Show. (*Modeling with the Masters and some proto-tours are extra costs*)
- \*\* Support for all the traditional activities of the SIG's.
- \*\* National Contest will be fully supported and run by the National Contest team.
- \*\* Model Display room for those simply wishing to display models. This also includes the option of entering the People's Choice Contest.
- \*\* We will have several prototype tours
- \*\* We expect to have at least 90 clinics and each will be given twice.
- \*\* We expect to have at least 60 layouts open for tours.
- \*\* We expect to have up to 20 layouts with OP sessions. All layout tours and op sessions will be self-guided so you can take your time.
- \*\* We will have a YARD SALE room. Bring stuff to sell! (*NOT an acution!*)
- \*\* Pizza Party on Friday night!
- \*\* Two Day National Train Show, Saturday & Sunday

**<https://nmra2025.com/>**



## NMRA Calendar Online

Are you interested in knowing what NMRA-sponsored events, other model railroading events, and train shows are scheduled beyond the PNR boundaries?

Then check out the online **NMRA Calendar**.

The calendar is available at: <https://www.nmra.org/calendar>

If you want your upcoming event posted on the NMRA calendar, send the event information to [calendar@nmra.org](mailto:calendar@nmra.org).

# Pacific Northwest Region Staff

## Officers

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**Secretary:** *Position open. Volunteer today!*

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### Pacific Northwest Region National Model Railroad Association

-  **Division 1:** Southwestern Oregon
-  **Division 2:** Northwestern Oregon, Southwestern Washington
-  **Division 3:** Southern Idaho, Eastern Oregon
-  **Division 4:** Western Washington, Alaska
-  **Division 5:** Eastern Washington, Northeastern Oregon, Northern Idaho, Montana
-  **Division 6:** Alberta, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories
-  **Division 7:** British Columbia, Yukon

