



# THE CALLBOARD



OF THE REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

Visit RED at Website: <http://home.earthlink.net/~campgus/>

January – March 2007

All Railroad enthusiasts are welcome to enjoy an afternoon of model railroading fun on Saturday, February 24th.

*There is no charge to attend.*

## February Meeting

at the

Napa Valley Northern RR

The next meeting of the Redwood Empire Division will be held in Napa on **Saturday** February 24th starting at 1 PM. The hosts for this meet will be the Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society, operators of the Napa Valley Northern Railroad. They are located in Napa on the grounds of the Town & Country Fairgrounds, at the Third Street gate.

Doors open at noon. Plan to have lunch before arriving or bring a bag lunch with you.

The Napa Club invites you to bring your pet locomotives and rolling stock to run on their layout. The only requirement is that the equipment meets NMRA standards and has properly aligned Kadee type couplers. The decision on any questions will be at the discretion of the Napa Club.

RON PLIES will be giving a clinic on the NWP; a brief history followed by modeling hints. He will bring his models of the Eureka Station

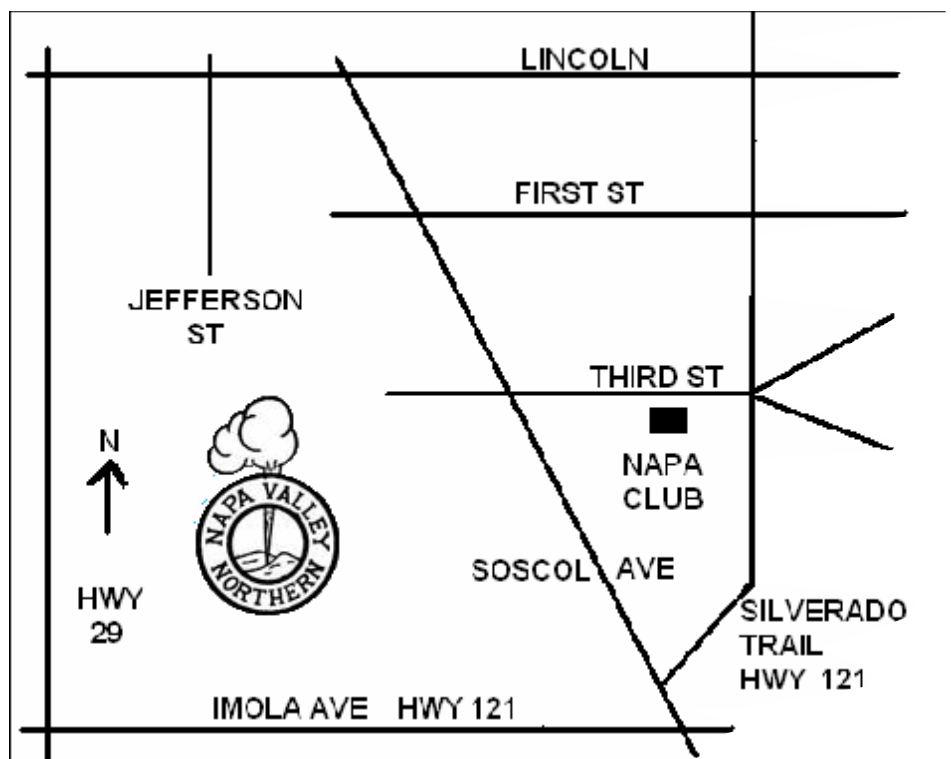
and the Eureka Roundhouse. Also for your entertainment will be Paul Scoles new video on Building Scenery. It is a very informative DVD and showcases Paul's Pelican Bay Railway and Navigation Co layout in Sn3.

As usual, everyone will get a free door prize ticket. If you are wearing your Division name badge, it will be worth an additional free ticket, as will bringing at least one guest and/or any equipment to run on the Napa Club layout. Tickets can be purchased (3

for each dollar) for the special door prize, which will be a one year subscription (or renewal) to the **Model Railroad Craftsman** magazine, which is being donated by editor Bill Schaumberg.

A short RED business meeting will be held to accept nominations for superintendent and chief clerk.

We hope to see you on Saturday February 24th before 1 PM.



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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT BY GUS CAMPAGNA

Well, a lot has happened since the last time I wrote this column. The PCR board met in Santa Cruz; and not only were the Redwood Empire and Sierra Divisions having trouble getting volunteers, the Daylight Division and the Region itself were also struggling. No one could be drafted to run for PCR president, and only one member volunteered to run for vice-president. The current vice-president, Dave Connery, decided not to run for president and the nomination chair could not find a single candidate to run for president. Since that meeting, Ron Plies of the Redwood Empire Division has decided to run for PCR President, so there will be a name on the ballot (and a very qualified one at that). I think that Ron and Pat La-Torres (running for VP) will do a good job running the region.

In other PCR matters: there is still no resolution to the "surplus funds" from the NMRA 2000 Convention in San Jose. Part of the difficulty stems from the controversy over the ownership of the funds. The CEO of the corporation that was set up to run the 2000 convention has declared that they are PCR funds and would be transferred to the PCR upon request. However, although a request was made to transfer the interest from that account into the PCR account, it hasn't yet been done. Further complicating the situation is the fact that the PCR Treasurer does not believe these are PCR's funds, and so he has not requested them from the corporation. VP Dave Connery had a good idea; that is, to set up an endowment fund will all the PCR money invested aggressively to get high returns. The funds to run the region with would come from these returns and sales of estates (we currently have one

that will last for 2-3 more years). There was a lengthy discussion of this and nothing was decided...

Some changes in the division Directorships are in the works as well. Jim Long, Director from the Sierra Division, has agreed to become the Sierra Division Superintendent. Mary Moore-Campagna has volunteered to run for Sierra Division Director to fill out his term. I am resigning as Redwood Empire Director and Nolan Alexander has volunteered to finish out my term as Director. As noted in my very first report (for this term), I did not quite make it a year as your Director.

Very special thanks to Steve Skold for deciding to run for the Superintendent's job and to Ed Merrin for running for Chief Clerk. The Redwood Empire Division will be in good hands, and that is important for all of us. There are still staff jobs in our division (layout tour chair, contest chair, refreshments chair, etc.) that are unfilled. Please consider serving in one of these capacities - your participation will make a difference!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meet in Napa.



**From the  
SUPERINTENDENT  
BY NOLAN ALEXANDER**

Welcome to a new year of model railroading. RED is starting off with a full program in Napa on February 24th; I hope I see you there!

One of the greatest advantages of belonging to an active group of model railroaders is the way we can share ideas and techniques with one another. This was really brought to my attention recently at an operating session of the **Hi-Ballers** club at one of their member's layout. He had designed and built a railroad that operates very much like the railroad that was on my drawing board right now. We had a good session and the layout ran pretty well, for its first operating session, but it left me with the realization about what I like in a layout. A bridge route with lots of long, through trains and limited way switching wasn't nearly as satisfying as I thought it would be. I discovered that I like shorter trains and lots of work along the line.

Fortunately, the only track I have at home right now are lines on paper. And with a good eraser and some pencils anything is possible at this point. If I were a lone-wolf modeler, like so many are in our hobby, I would only have found out that I was modeling the wrong concept. (Wrong for me that is, my host was modeling the perfect thing for him.)

So, I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to say thanks to all the modelers in our Division who have shared their layouts and design philosophies with the rest of us. I'm looking forward to the next year of clinics, and layout tours where I can gather lots more ideas and learn from the experience of others. I hope you'll be there too.

Happy railroading!

**CHIEF CLERK'S  
REPORT  
BY STEVE SKOLD**

The November meet was held at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. There were 22 people in attendance including a contingence of the Redwood Empire Live Steamers. They gave an update on their efforts to have a permanent layout in one of the Santa Rosa City Parks.

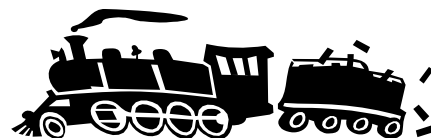
At our February 24th meeting, nominations from the floor will be entertained for Superintendent and Chief Clerk/Paymaster. So far nominees are STEVE SKOLD for Superintendent and ED MERRIN for Chief Clerk/Paymaster. The ballot will be in the next **CALLBOARD**, with the election at the May meet.

RON PLIES, who will be presenting a clinic at our February 24th meeting, is running for PCR President. Please vote for him and mail in your ballot (included in the next PCR **Branch Line** newsletter).

A reminder that nametags are available from the Chief Clerk at \$8.00 each. I need a minimum of three orders as there is a \$25 minimum charge.

This years **O Scale West** is Feb 16 & 17 in Santa Clara. BILL WELLS and STEVE SKOLD will have their layouts open on Sunday February 18 and RED members are welcome to attend. Bill's O Scale layout will be open from 10 until 4 and Steve's On3 layout from 10 until 5. Refreshments and coffee will be provided.

I look forward to seeing you at Napa.



**EDITOR'S NOTES**

Future **CALLBOARD** schedules are:

**April – June CALLBOARD**  
**Staff Meeting:** 7:30 PM, April 17  
**Text Deadline:** April 24  
**Mailing:** May 1  
**Meeting:** Saturday, May 19

**July – September CALLBOARD**  
**Staff Meeting:** 7:30 PM, July 17  
**Text Deadline:** July 24  
**Mailing:** July 31  
**Meeting:** Saturday, August 18

**October – December CALLBOARD**  
**Staff Meeting:** 7:30 PM, October 16  
**Text Deadline:** October 23  
**Mailing:** October 30  
**Meeting:** Saturday, November 17

**Submit all articles, calendar items, adds, comments and corrections to the Editor.**

Attention **CALLBOARD** readers:

Please advise if you are willing to read future newsletters on-line at the RED website (vs. reading a printed mailed copy). Any or all pages can be printed by you at any time. We've started a notification list to advise, by email, when future issues are available at the website.

Please send your "ok" by email to the Editor at: [jrolston@pacbell.net](mailto:jrolston@pacbell.net). List "Yes Notification" on the email subject line. No message is required **except** your first & last name. Send it again IF your email address ever changes.



# THINK SMALL #51

## A Numbers Game

You and I share this hobby called model railroading. I can't really define our hobby because it is a bit different every time I look. Years ago model railroaders improved toy trains or built their own from cigar-box wood, odd auto parts and small stuff begged from the local print shop or ma's sewing basket. During later years we enjoyed ever improving kits for cars and locomotives. Today the industry standard for rolling stock is "ready to run" or short run cast resin kits to build very specific prototypes.

Discussions of DCC and scenery fill the magazines. Decoders have grown smaller as their capabilities multiplied. This often makes operation of our little trains a challenge as we struggle to understand the many complexities built into these fancy electronic marvels.

Green sawdust, plaster and wire brush trees from the dime store are definitely passe'. We scrutinize pictures in the magazines for a clue that it is really a modeler's layout - not a photo of a real mountainside. With rubber molds and fancy stain jobs the rocks beside our rails sometimes fool geologists. They want to scratch at our plaster to prove that it is not really rock..

Structures along the rails are a sub-hobby today. Detailed kits make beautiful structures available to all of us. If we follow the instructions, the completed buildings are amazing. If we feel a need to build from scratch, a bountiful supply of materials are available. Easy to work styrene is offered in a multitude of shapes and dimensions. Various common siding types are available. There are doors and windows in sizes and designs beyond what a real world builder's supply would stock.

Sound is the new kid on the block,

but I hear the whistle of another train coming down the track and the little people on the train are 1/4" scale. Our aging average model railroader is often optically challenged. We HO and N modelers might be a shrinking market.

O scale was the leader when our hobby blossomed during the depression years. Lionel, Ives, American Flyer and Marx all offered their best variety on 1 1/4" gauge track. 17/64" scale is a match for 1 1/4" gauge. ( 17/64 = 0.266 56 1/2 - 12 = 4.71 0.266 x 4.71=1.25 ) But 0.25x 4.71 =1.18 The fly in the ointment is: 1.18 = 1 23/128 .

The Russian gauge of 60 became the O scalers standard because modelers measured in inches with rulers graduated in 1/16 ths and hated both fractions and decimals. 1/4 inch to the foot on 1 1/4" track just seemed more sensible. After all, the 3/16" scale Flyer trains looked pretty good.

For several generations the elite modelers in the king of scales have been content to run beautifully detailed models of American trains on Russian gauge track. 1:45 scale would match the models to 1 1/4" GAUGE track but the 1:45 scale, like my 1:55 for three foot gauge, never caught on.

Time has proved that fudging a tad more than 6% in gauge is no big deal.

After all, the discrepancy is under the cars where it is hard to see.

Another bit of fudging has only been challenged in recent years. NMRA Standard S 4 sets a minimum tire width for 1:48 at 0.172" or 8 1/4 scale Inches. In the real world the measure is 5 1/2 inches.

That is a 50% error by my calculations! The HO tire width at 0.108 " would be quite close. Both the

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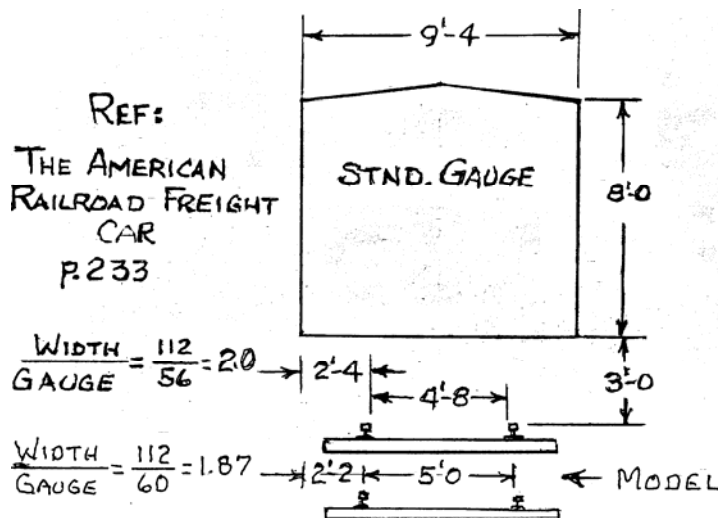


wheel tread and gauge discrepancies of 56 1/2" gauge models push the errors into our faces. The 3 foot gauge models on 2'-6" gauge tuck the mismatches further under the cars. This holds true even when we use the narrow cars of Carter Brothers early years to make our comparison.

The manufacturers pushing 3 foot prototype O scale on HO track are not dummies. The existing HO tooling will save them a bundle. For us, the narrow gauge railroads ran trains that are a much better fit for our garages and spare rooms. The old king of scales may be bringing

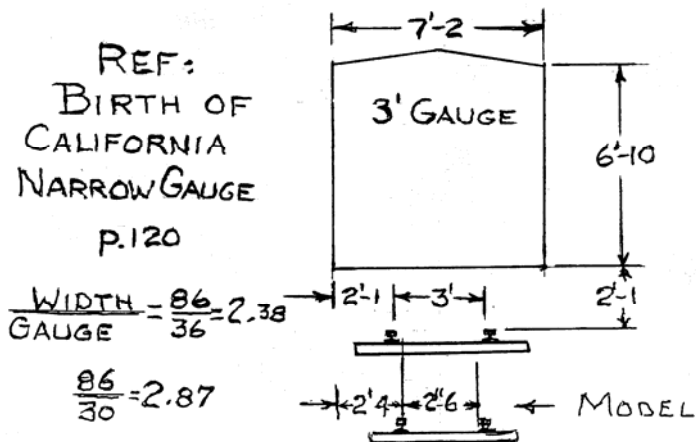
us a game where everybody wins.

In the era of narrow gauge everything was smaller – trains, buildings, even the towns. Space dividends are tremendous! The era is historic. Those of us who were



(Continued on page 5)

(THINK SMALL Continued from page 4)



there are too old to trust our memories. You can take liberties with facts and still smile.

A 3 foot gauge model train with 4 or 5 cars 24 or 30 feet long looks good and is true to prototype. The big railroads abandoned lines that ran short trains. Modern freight cars are 50 feet or longer and a ten car consist is

probably a cut in the yard. Face it, a home layout is usually too small to run main-line trains. The typical multi-engine diesel lashup with a reasonable train takes most of the length of your garage. With narrow gauge, a 2-6-0 with 5 cars and a caboose

would be a prototype freight and stretch about 4 1/2 feet when modeled in O scale. THINK SMALL - This narrow gauge stuff is tempting.

For prototypes we have a rich history of narrow gauge in California. North Pacific Coast rails became part of our NWP. I told you about my love of the NCNG in the last **Callboard**. The C&C and the NCO

ran trains along the California - Nevada border. San Luis Obispo had a neat narrow gauge and there were others. The towns they served were small with small buildings suitable for modeling. The countryside served are assorted - farmland, seaside, foothills and desert. You have a smorgasbord of settings to choose from and prototypes that will fit in the space available even if you model in the king of scales.

If I was 40 years younger, 1:48 scale would threaten the rails in that upstairs room where I play trains.

Bill Williams The Ancient One



**Redwood Empire Garden Railway Society (REGRS)**, No. 1 gauge, various scales. If you are interested call Ken Brody at (707)526-0195 or email [westie@sonic.net](mailto:westie@sonic.net)

**Napa Valley Model Railroad Historical Society**, HO layout. Meets Fridays 7:30 PM at Napa Fairgrounds, 575 Third St., Napa. For information call: Clubhouse (707)253-8428 or Ron Rogers (707)224-4040 or John Rodgers (707)226-2985. [www.nvmrc.org](http://www.nvmrc.org)

**Lake County Model Railroad Club**, HO layout. Meets Wednesday at 7:00PM in the old National Guard Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds on Martin Street, Lakeport. Call Mike Ernst at (707)263-4949

**Coastal Valley Lines**, HO modular. Meets 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at Sam's For Play Café, 2630 Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa. Call Brad Squires (707) 568-4298 or Don Hanesworth 823-9615  
<http://home.pacbell.net/jrolston/>

**Sonoma County Model Railroad Soci-**

## CLUB SCHEDULES

**ety (SCMRS)** is looking for members to help create a large permanent HO scale model railroad display to be located in Sonoma County. Modeling items are currently stored at the historic Healdsburg Railway Depot building. Contact Dave Gibbons at (707)526-2057 or email [rrgibbons@sonic.net](mailto:rrgibbons@sonic.net)

**NPC Operators**. An On3 operating group meets one Sunday each month. Contact Steve Skold (707)539-1782 or email [SandCSkold@aol.com](mailto:SandCSkold@aol.com)

**Redwood Empire Live Steamers**. A new group is forming with the goal to build a 7 1/2 inch track facility in a local park. For information, call Don or Ann Bruner Welch at (707)578-4414 or write to PO Box 4594, Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
[www.redwoodempirels.org](http://www.redwoodempirels.org)

**Bay Area S Scalers**. Contact Lee Johnson at (925)943-1590.

**Mendocino Coast Model Railroad &**

**Historical Society**, a Fort Bragg area group that promotes the hobby of model railroading. This group meets the 3rd Saturday of each month. At present, HO modules are being constructed. Contact Phil Miller at (707)937-3605 for more information.

**North Coast Live Steamers**, a group, from the Fort Bragg-Willits area, that promotes the hobby of large-scale railroading and other steam related history. Contact Bill Shepard at (707)961-0329.

**Eel River Valley Model Railroaders**, HO Scale layout. Meets each Friday evening at 7:30 P.M. at the Humboldt Co. Fair Grounds, Ferndale, CA. Write to P O Box 950 Fortuna CA 95540 or contact Ron Plies at (707)725-9063 or email [rlplies@cox.net](mailto:rlplies@cox.net) for more information.  
[www.eelrivervalleyrr.org](http://www.eelrivervalleyrr.org)

[www.eelrivervalleyrr.org](http://www.eelrivervalleyrr.org)

**Humboldt Bay & Eureka**, HO layout, Eureka, CA. Contact David Berriman, PO Box 915 Arcata, CA 95518. (707)825-7689.

## Register Now for the Suntan Special, PCR 2007

by Steve Wesolowski

A first timer to these pages, I'm inviting all of RED to the Suntan Special, your PCR Convention, May 2-6 in Santa Cruz. **Register by Feb 14 for \$10 off**; also our \$30 First Timer/Long Lost PCRer's Discount ends March 1st. Register online or download forms from our website: [www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007/index.shtml](http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2007/index.shtml). Our website was recently updated, listing many confirmed layouts you can tour, pictures of our prototype tours and some clinic descriptions. Keep checking as more updates will occur!

Currently our Proto tours include a Granite Rock Quarry where you'll see full size Convention hopper cars loaded; the Davenport cement plant I've been wanting to see for over 30 years (2 blocks north of a concrete church built in 1912); a food processing plant (no E.Coli jokes, please); later maybe more I can't mention until/if they're confirmed.

The world class layouts open to tour include Howard R Lloyd's new layout (February 2007 **Model Rail-roader**); John LaBarba's wonderful HOn3/HO layout; Jim Vail's awesome HOn3 and Bob Brown's various Narrow Gauge layouts & models you've seen in Bob's NG&SL Gazette. Some layouts have never been open before. You can see great modeling from N to 2.5"n3 plus all scales in between. Check our website where many are listed already, even some pictures!

If anyone is really dying to see Nn3 models, let me know; I'll bring some in Altoids tins. I can't fit my 2.5"n3 modeling in my pockets but Ken Burns & Kim Beard will have clinics on Scratch building 2.5"n3 Rolling Stock & How to Build a

Live Steam Locomotive. You will see some great 2.5"n3 modeling and learn techniques I've also found useful in Nn3, HOn3, HOn30, 2.5"n3 modeling and even 1:1 scale efforts.

Although we are still scheduling, on Wednesday there will be clinics & layout tours; Thursday & Friday more clinics, layout tours, prototype tours; a swap meet on Friday evening and also Saturday AM; and more clinics Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon through evening is reserved for our four 1:1 train rides & a banquet dinner. Sunday after breakfast is our PCR annual meeting.

The four train rides Saturday include diesel power trains to/from the



Boardwalk & Roaring Camp (RC), and steam trains to/from Bear Mountain's summit & Roaring Camp. EVERY registration includes all 4 train rides & the banquet dinner at RC. For kids under 12 we feature a hamburger & fries type meal instead of a banquet meal.

Our Suntan Special should be fun for the whole family, even any who aren't foamers or train lovers. So consider bringing your family/staying longer for more fun together at Monterey's Aquarium, UCSC's Arboretum or Farm & Garden, Cannery Row, Point Lobos, Carmel, Santa Cruz & Monterey & Big Sur's beaches and coast; all before schools let out and everywhere is more crowded. After 4 years of living in Santa Cruz, and 50+ years just Over The Hill in Silly Conehead

Valley, I know I've still barely scratched the surface of all the Monterey Bay's offerings.

All Convention Lodging includes a daily FULL breakfast. Our housing rates are family friendly: \$89/night (plus tax) for 2 occupants; more than 2 per room costs \$10 each – which includes breakfast. As I write this, the UCSC Inn is nearly full so a second hotel is being negotiated within walking distance at the same rates (including breakfast at the Inn).

If you are coming alone, consider sharing a room with someone you know who can't or won't otherwise attend. Because registration coupled with convention lodging also includes breakfasts and Saturday's dinner, sharing a room and/or transportation costs could mean the difference that allows a younger or older train friend to attend, maybe someone you know. I've shared transportation and rooms at conventions, which left more \$ for meals & rides to great layouts I would never have seen otherwise, and I've made new friends. Ride & Room Sharing can work, so please consider them.

Lastly, I volunteered for the Suntan Special's publicity role to thank RED's volunteers for their great Napa Convention, and many other volunteers for their Sacramento, Concord, SLO & Seattle conventions I've enjoyed. Conventions use volunteers and I learn from other volunteers even when I've given just a little time. Every volunteer brings new talents and ideas that enrich us all. So, if you find you have some free time while in Santa Cruz, consider volunteering during or before the convention. We'll welcome your help.

Regardless, I sincerely hope you can join our fun and board PCR's Suntan Special Convention in Santa Cruz on May 2-6, 2007!



## COMING DOWN THE LINE

### NWP Centennial Exhibition Schedule:

January 1-March 31: The Depot Park Museum, 270 First Street W, Sonoma W-Sn 1-4:30 pm

February 1-April 8: Petaluma Historical Library Museum, 20 Fourth St., Petaluma

March 1-May 3: Marin County Library, Room 414, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael

April 4-June 30: Fortuna Depot Museum, 3 Park Street, Fortuna

April 20-July 29: Western County Museum, 261 South Main Street, Sebastopol Th-Sn 1-4 pm

February 16-18: **O & S Scale West**, Santa Clara. [www.oscalewest.com/osw2007.html](http://www.oscalewest.com/osw2007.html)

Details on two layouts open on 2/18 in Sonoma County are listed on page 3

February 24: **RED** meet in Napa. See page 1 for details.

March 18: **Coast Division** meeting, Santa Clara

April 21: **20th Annual Logging Modelers Convention** (West Side Reunion), Sonoma.

<http://www.westsidereunion.com/>

May 2-6: Suntan Special **PCR 2007 Convention**, Santa Cruz. See page 6

May 19: **RED** meet in Santa Rosa

June 27-30: **National Garden Railway Convention**, Las Vegas

July 22-29: **NMRA Convention**, Detroit, MI. [www.gle2007.org](http://www.gle2007.org)

August 18: **RED** picnic meet at the Western Railway Museum, Suisun City

November 17: **RED** meet, location TBD

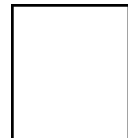


*Many of the art items used in this newsletter are courtesy of Ken Houghton Rail Images or came from the web site: [www.rrhistorical.com](http://www.rrhistorical.com)*

**Visit RED at Website:** <http://home.earthlink.net/~campgus/>

## CALLBOARD

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## FIRST CLASS