Design Challenge for the
PCR San Francisco Bay Area
Layout Design & Operations
Weekend Meet
January 31 – February 2, 2025

You are receiving this email because you have attended past Bay Area SIG meets. Information about the meet is available at http://bayldops.com/

This year's meet will be held both in-person in Sacramento and virtually.. This year's challenge is based on R Street in Sacramento.

The design needs to be based on a modular standard. Any scale is acceptable but the most common standards are for N and HO. Here are some links to the standards.
Free-mo - https://www.free-mo.org/standard/
FreemoN - http://free-mon.net/
Ntrak - https://ntrak.org/NTRAK-Standards
Speed-mo - https://speedmo.groups.io/g/main
[Note: you can find examples of all of these on YouTube]

We are not putting a hard limit on how many modules or what size modules you use for your design but we are suggesting you try to minimize your choice. Modelers using modules have been known to create huge layouts. Modular modelers have set up in the Union Pacific Shops in Evanston, Idaho several times and you can see the layout here.
Evanston modular 2021 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erBo2cZyLJE
Evanston modular 2024 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnUBvKs_PpQ

We are not looking for huge but a smaller layout using modules that reflects the character of R Street. All plans should reflect the prototype as much as possible, but modeling in the modern era as if the facilities still existed is

OK. Selective compression is allowed.

R Street has a long history. It was originally the 1856 route of the Sacramento Valley Railroad, the first railroad in California. Like many other railroads in California it was absorbed into the Southern Pacific (controlling interest 1865, complete inclusion by 1898). For many of its early years, it handled mainline freight and passenger traffic. Passenger traffic was ended in the 1920's and through freight traffic ended shortly afterwards Eventually, it became an industrial switching line. The street running and numerous street-side industries and warehouses make this an ideal line to model via modules. The line was abandoned in 1976. Rails are still visible along R Street, customer's docks and doors are still evident but the sound of locomotives and cars rolling through the area are now absent. You can bring it back with your design.

Here is a short list of places to look on the internet to get information the R Street area.

Abandoned Rails has an entry for R Street

https://www.abandonedrails.com/r-street-line

Tom Campbell has a blog about R Street. Here are two links including one that discusses the history and one on operations about 1958.

https://r-streetlayout.blogspot.com/p/r-streets-railroad-focused-history.html

https://r-streetlayout.blogspot.com/2016/02/ops-on-r-street-circa-1958.html

Here is another history related link.

https://www.moseleycollins.com/the-illustrious-history-of-sacramentos-r-street-corridor.html

Here is a link to a page from the City of Sacramento regarding the development of the area.

https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/content/dam/portal/cdd/Planning/Urban-Design/Preservation/Adopted-Historic-District-Plans/R-Street-HDP.pdf

Here is a Southern Pacific document, similar to SPINS that shows track layout and includes customers served:
https://archive.org/details/spins-60849/page/11/mode/2up
[Look at page 69 ff for special spotting instructions and sometimes commodities,]

This is a recent video of R Street showing some of the rails in the street, old businesses that were served but after abandonment.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCUkZTHJBvc

Here is a map of the R Street area

It's easy to participate: simply develop a layout design and/or a general operations plan or both for R Street along with a page or two of supporting information.

- Draw your plan
- Create your operation plan
- Be as detailed as you desire
- Put it into a presentable format.
- Send it to Bruce Morden brucedmorden@gmail.com

The organizers will pull submissions together into a computer presentation for discussion with the group. Each challenger will have ten minutes to present his or her design to the meeting on Saturday, February 1st. After the presentations of the designs, there may be questions and answers as well as discussion of the various approaches. If you're out of the area and will be attending virtually, just make sure to have a good internet connection to participate in the Zoom meeting.

The good news is that there is no winning or losing ... the bad news is you will not receive any lovely gifts for participating. If you are interested in participating in the challenge or have questions regarding the challenge,

please let Bruce Morden [brucedmorden@gmail.com] know by email as soon as possible.

Your submissions for the Design Challenges are due no later than January 20, 2025. This is not a lot of time and so we are looking at rough sketches and design thoughts and operational concepts not a finished ready to build design or operating scheme. Our goal is four or five participants. So pull out your design tools and operations resources and let's have some fun!