

New Member Training/Intro – Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society, Inc.

Welcome to the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society (SMRHS)! The following information is presented with the goal of helping you get the most out of your membership.

Organization

The SMRHS is a not-for-profit, IRS designated 501(c)(3) corporation, registered in the State of California. A seven member board of directors manages the business of the corporation, with elected positions (yearly) of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and 3-year board member at large. Elections are held on the last Friday of September, and our fiscal year starts October 1st.

The board of directors typically meets at the SMRHS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, open to the membership to observe; bi-monthly general business meetings, open for participation by all members, are held typically on the last Friday of each odd-numbered month.

Dues

Dues are \$20/month and we encourage you to pay ahead if possible. Your membership will be in jeopardy when your dues slip behind – defined as not paid for the current month when the next month begins. In other words, your June dues are payable any time during the month of June, if not paid by the first of July you are in arrears. You may either mail in your dues or pay on site. On site, if paying by check, just drop it in the dues box; if cash be sure to fill out an envelope (located by the dues box) and seal the cash inside and deposit in the dues box.

Information resource

The SMRHS maintains an Internet web site (<http://www.smrhs.com>) where you will find a lot of information on what we are doing (calendar page) as well as an archive of documents (resources page). It is recommended you start with the incorporation documents and read through those to gain an understanding of our rules and regulations.

The SMRHS facility

We are usually open Tuesday and Friday nights, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM at minimum. Be sure to check the calendar page on our web site. Members with keys to the building may open the facility at other times to work on projects; we do ask that you keep the doors closed and locked if you are alone at the facility. Panic bars on the front and rear doors allow quick exit without the need to unlock the doors.

The phone number is 916-927-3618; address is 1990 Grand Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95838.

When entering the front door immediately to your left on the wall is a pair of light switches – these turn on 1) the EXIT sign and 2) a spot light midway through the main room to illuminate your way to the tool room. In the tool room is a bank of light switches for the main room. The back room has light switches immediately to your right as you walk into the room; as well as another set of light switches by the back door.

The layouts

There are two HO scale layouts at the SMRHS. The front room holds the standard gauge layout; the back room holds the 36" narrow gauge layout. Both layouts employ Digitrax DCC (digital command control), meaning your motive power must have DCC decoders installed to operate on either layout.

If you are new to the DCC world, take your time to learn about it by participating in our operating sessions. The hobby now features many 'ready to run, DCC-equipped' locomotives – often times a great place to start.

We have a few SMRHS-owned throttles that can be used until such time as you decide to buy your own. (Hint: bring your own 9 VDC battery with you to use in a loaner throttle.)

Your Equipment – Our Standards

Your rolling stock and motive power is welcome on our layouts – after it first passes standards inspection. A great way to learn about the standards is to ask one of our certifiers to go through one piece of rolling stock and one piece of motive power (doesn't have to be your own). Again, refer back to our Internet web site for the standards documentation.

DCC Programming

The SMRHS provides two computer stations for programming DCC decoders, using [DecoderPro](#) software. There is one free-standing desktop computer station as well as the laptop that is connected to the standard gauge layout. Ask a member to show you how they work – if you are new to the DCC technology, you can bring in a DCC-equipped locomotive and begin the process of learning how to set and change operational parameters.

DCC Installation

Are you ready to dive into converting a non-DCC locomotive? Schedule a meeting with one of our experienced members to step you through the process; bring the locomotive in for inspection and ask for advice on the equipment you will need to perform the 'surgery'.