



## The Passing Track

June, July, August 2010

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

Home page is <http://rvmrc.net>

### The Long Summer

While summer is the same length each year, some just seem to space themselves longer between the busier spring and fall model railroad seasons. The pace of activity at the Club has certainly been noticeably slower. Nonetheless, the Club has been entertaining our publics each open house; there have been several operations sessions where shortages of operators have provided opportunities to double up on jobs or find efficiencies within jobs; the Board has been meeting regularly with gusto attendance among the membership; improvements continue on the DCC system and on the scenery; and donations of personal collections continue to roll in. Most importantly, a number of us incorporated some kind of railfanning or prototype experience into the summer and our vacations. And sadly, one of our members, Fred Christian, passed away. It's been a long summer.

Dick and Carol Stark and E. Don have brought regimen to the parking process during the public run Sundays. Counts taken on Sunday have consistently indicated high amounts of visitation. With the cooler weather last weekend, the car count was over 500. Based on previous people counts, it was estimated some 1300-1500 people enjoyed the railroad park that day. The shade hut at the fire department lot entrance is a great improvement for those working the entrance. Those of you working inside the park are not aware of the "show" the fire department personnel put on occasionally for the little tykes as they return to the fire department lot from the railroad park. Many a youngster has had a chance to squirt water from a real fire hose, as well as given a fire truck tour. That effort by the fire department enhances the overall experience families have at the Park, the second most visited park in Medford!

Replacement of some of the older DCC equipment has led to improvements in our system, though we have had several bouts with DCC gremlins. While frustrating at times, the DCC system gives us operational realism that makes our hobby so much fun. The massive problem earlier in the summer that shut us down for one of the open houses has, however, been resolved.

With a number of collections and layouts being donated to the Club, Jay Mudge and several others will begin the process of cataloging and pricing items for the swap meet portion of the Medford Armory annual show only 90 days away! A long summer now quite a bit shorter.

## Remembering Fred Christian



Fred M. Christian, 87, passed away Saturday, July 3, 2010, in Medford, Ore. He was born May 12, 1923.

Fred served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. He spent 50 years as a carpenter, specializing in finish work. A highlight of his carpentry career was when he worked on the set of *The Waltons*, a very popular 70's TV show.

He was a member of New Hope Christian Church in Central Point, Ore. Fred enjoyed fishing and model railroads and was a member of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club.

Survivors include sons, Sean and Fred Christian; daughters, Karyle A. Pasley and Karen Hondow; sister, Melba Johnson; and brothers, Dallas and Don Christian. He was preceded in death by wives, Betty S. Christian and Margie M. Christian; parents, Fred and Mabel Christian; brothers, John, Richard and Charles; and sisters, Wanda and Mabel.

Fred was buried at the Eagle Point National Cemetery. Some of Fred's model railroad collection was donated to the Club.

## July Board Meeting Notes

The Board of directors met July 14. Thirteen members were present, including four board members. Our club remains in good financial standing; additional funds were had with some items sold on ebay.

Grass around building has been mowed by Tony Johnson. E Don reported ant problems in the building and has sprayed most of the areas affected.

Jay reported that the PM42 has been replaced by the PSX3. Still having problems in the BN/SP power district. Section will have to be adjusted to reach operating requirements. UR92 still exhibits some problems. Needs to be reset too often. Ur92 may still be set to factory defaults. Cause of problem could be cell phones, radios, etc. Jay asked if Dave's car was part of the problem. "Isn't it Japanese?"

Jerry reported that most members have renewed. Some associate dues continue to trickle in.

E Don continues to find anomalies in track where it appears people are leaning on the track or placing heavy items on the tracks. Some switches still need work. E Don and Jim D. cleaned "all" the tracks on the layout for the July 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday run. Jay noted that Kadee couplers do not fit in the new Athearn Genesis cars.

Rick Walsh reported that the city has given tentative approval to fill requests for improvements to the park facilities. Rick is trying to get representative from each of the groups at the park for a meeting with city officials. Brad Fawcett volunteered to represent the club. Dick Stark volunteered to be the backup. Dick and the parking crew have been counting patrons to the park and the numbers have been between 1100 and 1500.

UPS installation will happen after steam season is done. Larry said his plate is currently full with steam runs and work around the house.

Dave Carr asked, "When can we expect the decals?" Jerry will continue to pursue as time permits. Tim said he could drop off during lunch to which Jerry replied that he needs to take in the art work necessary for the decals to be developed.

Larry has not had any contact with the party from Redding interested in purchasing the Bill Jacobs layout we have stored in several locations. Appears that purchaser may have lost interest.

“No Food or Drink” signs have been placed on the front doors. Adjustments will be made to perfect the location of the message so we can accommodate Club members on lunch breaks during the public run session. The intent, however, is to discourage food and drink anywhere near the layout.

Dick Stark asked, “What can we do to entice more visitors to enjoy our layout?” A small layout? A Thomas layout? It was mentioned that fewer trains with more cars seems to hold visitors attention longer as kids love to try to count the trains. We ran longer trains on the previous run Sunday and it seemed to work.

E Don found several cars with low glad hands that may have been causing the derailments we experienced last Sunday.



*Working the P&E at MedCo. This and many other assignments are available each operating session.*

## September 2010 Calendar of Events

**General Construction/New Layout**  
**Saturdays**  
Generally From 10:00 AM to 4 PM

**Board Meeting**  
2nd Wednesday of each month  
**September 8**  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**Operations Session\*\***  
2nd Saturday of each month  
**September 11**  
10 am to 3 pm

**General Membership Meeting**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month**  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
**September 22**

\*\*Please sign up for engineer and conductor assignments upon arrival. By coming before the session starts, you have time to setup/acquire throttles, radios, and motive equipment, if needed, as well as become familiar with the assignment. Operations session begins promptly at 10:30.

## **Rogue Valley Model RR Club**

**P.O. Box 1362  
Medford, OR 97501**

### **RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2010**

**Sep 1** – Early Bird registration (\$99) deadline for **2011** NMRA National Convention, Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, Calif. July 3-9, 2011. More information and registration form at: [www.x2011west.org](http://www.x2011west.org)

**Sep 10** – “The Science of Steam” by Bill Ainsworth. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm.  
Info: 541-261-6605, <http://www.ashlandrrmuseum.org/>

**Sep 29-Oct 2** - 2010 Annual SPH&TS Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, Calif. Info:  
<http://www.sphts.org/> Download printable brochure: [http://www.sphts.org/convention/sphts\\_sac2010.pdf](http://www.sphts.org/convention/sphts_sac2010.pdf)

**Oct 8** – “The DeAutremont Train Robbery” by Scott Mangold. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm.  
Info: 541-261-6605, <http://www.ashlandrrmuseum.org/>

**Oct 9-10** - Eastern Cascades Model RR and Central Oregon Live Steamers Open House, Bend, Ore. HO club and 1½ inch railroads on 5 forested acres. Info: <http://www.ecmrr.org/default.aspx> or 541-317-1545.

**Oct 16** – Div 1 PNR Fall Mini-Meet; Corvallis Society of Model Engineers hosting at their club house, 7155 NE Vandenburg Ave in Adair Village, about 5 miles north of Corvallis on Hwy 99 W. Doors open at 8am, clinics start at 9 am – Info: <http://pnr.nmra.org/1div/> Clinic presenters needed. Contact Gene at: [geneneville@earthlink.net](mailto:geneneville@earthlink.net)

**Oct 23-24** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Model Railroad Show & Sales Event, Klamath Rails Model RR Club, Klamath County Fairgrounds, Klamath Falls, Ore. Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4. Info: Steve Hart 541-892-2550, Joe Brick 541-883-3071.

**Nov** – ESPEE-N-OREGON 2010 will be held in Salem, Ore. Check web site for dates and location,  
<http://espee-n-oregon.com/convention.html>

**Nov 27-28** - 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show, Medford Armory, Medford, Ore. Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4.  
Info: Brad at 541-535-7952, Bruce 541-890-8145 or [iwccr@charter.net](mailto:iwccr@charter.net)

**Dec 4** – Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Willamette Valley Model Railroad Club, Polk County Fairgrounds, Hwy 22 & 99W, Rickreal, Ore. 10 am – 3 pm, Info: Judy 503-581-6071 or [macinnej@msn.com](mailto:macinnej@msn.com)

*Train Trivia: “GANDY DANCER: Track laborer. Name may have originated from the gander-like tremulations of a man tamping ties, or from the old Gandy Manufacturing Company of Chicago, which made tamping bars, claw bars, picks and shovels.” 08/23/2010 bhm*