

The Passing Track

March-April 2012

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Goodbye, Wil

Wil Cleveland, a long-time active and much loved club member passed quietly in the early morning hours at home Saturday, February 25, 2012. Several members of our RVMR Club attended Wil's Memorial service. His family told wonderful stories of his career and life. One account of special interest to our club members was how much he enjoyed coming to the club house and participating in the building and operations of the layout, especially showing off to the public on run days, as well as his many conversations with members. He told them it gave him satisfaction to participate in such a rewarding and worthwhile endeavor.

Son of the late Lyle Hazen Cleveland and the late Pearl Irene Sparks, he was born September 18, 1922, in Gooding, Idaho. Moving to California as a child, he met Ida Katherine "Ginger" Coatney and her friend, Muriel Virginia "Mimi" Callendar. In the months after December 7, 1941, he successfully joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and during leave from training, married Ginger on December 10, 1943, in San Jose, Calif. From 1944, until the end of World War II he flew 60 missions in the Pacific Theater, mostly in A-20 attack bombers.

He remained in what would become the Air Force, first in the reserves and then on active duty, and retired in 1968 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. In the latter portion of his military career, he served at the Strategic Air Command Headquarters. Post-retirement, he assisted the U.S. Forest Service in transporting fire fighters and equipment and was a gentleman rancher for the next two decades in Joseph, Ore. He suffered the loss of Ginger only a few years after retiring. He married Mimi on December 13, 1975, in Campbell, Calif., and they enjoyed each other's company until her death in

2007. In his later years, he traveled extensively, enjoyed a variety of activities, including building model airplanes and trains, and never stopped enjoying learning.

As a tribute to Wil, the Pacific&Eastern assembled a special run of business cars with the final car being the funeral car, a dark gray-black observation car with red interior curtains and trim. On its run from Klamath Falls to Medford, the train stopped at the Cascade Crest and the line went silent for a moment for each of the P&E personnel to remember Wil and say a final farewell.



Wil's Last Run...

Wil Cleveland's Funeral Train has completed its journey over the line from Medford to Klamath Falls, after stopping at Summit for a moment of tribute. Wil Cleveland's stool, at his favorite position at the end of Lake Ewauna, sits empty as his train crosses the lake. The train pauses once more as we reflect on Wil and our many memories of this wonderful man and how he touched all of our lives.

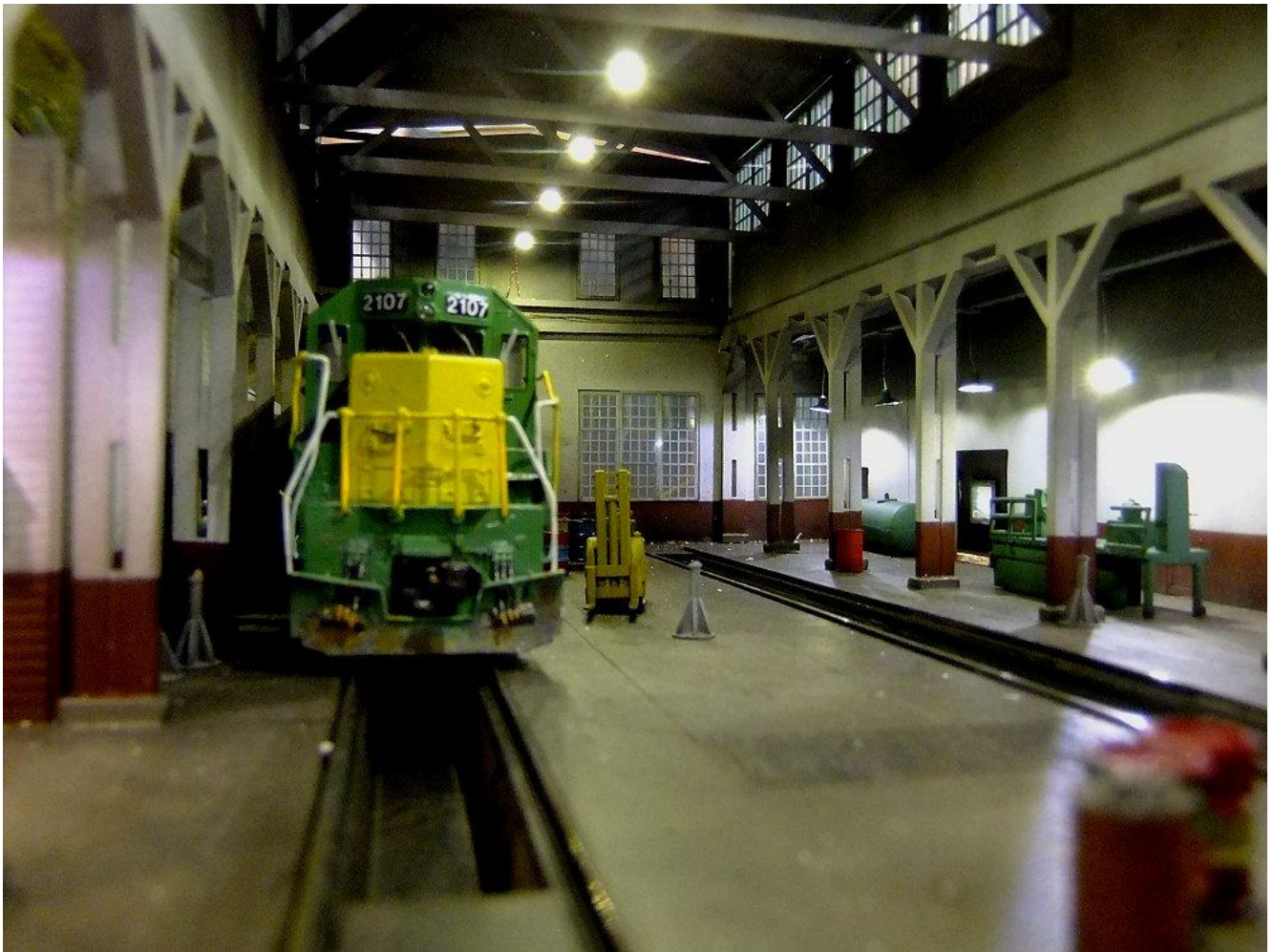
What's New?

There's been a LOT going on with the railroad the past several months. Dave Spakousky has strung miles (well, scale ones anyhow) of wire under the middle (Eagle Point, Derby, Butte Falls) section and with assistance from Ed Kleinman is ready to fire up the new S-mini board to run the signals. Jerry Helinga has put resistors on likely 100's of cars now on the layout, while E. Don keeps fixing and setting us up for operations. Bruce Kelly has the logging branch scenicked and running. Bruce McGarvey has made bunches of trees and created a growing forest up on the hill east of Summit while E. Don, John Wilson, and John Gerritsma have made many boat loads of trees (well John and John made a few while E. Don is a tree-making machine!) toward the foresting effort at several locations.

Larry Tuttle has been brushing (i.e., adding, not removing as is the normal meaning of "brushing") along the edges of Lake Ewauna. Tim Jamin has finished the spectacular high trestle to be spanning the gorge west of Butte Falls. Larry, Jerry, and Jay Mudge have been creating the structures and scenery at the P&E yard, while Tom Baldwin has been slinging ballast in the vicinity of Lake Ewauna, the BN, SP, and Crater yards, and along the Cascades. Bruce Kelly has also begun foresting the canyon at Derby. A hilltop fire lookout will make sure that any fires starting in the region will be quickly spotted. Ron Harten continues to build and place the grade crossing structures (the latest being the crossing under the McAndrews Street bridge and at Vilas Road).

While some of us focus entirely on the layout, others like Jim Dougal keep the place clean and Dick Stark keeps us politically clean, tending to the park committee and other duties. There are countless others who have "just stopped by" only to end up spending many hours doing one thing or another. Need proof. Take a look at these amazing photos!





Top to Bottom...Cascade Crest; Lake Ewauna and the P&E yard; inside the P&E engine shop.

February/March Board Meeting Notes

40 tables have been spoken for and new exhibits are expected at this fall's Medford RR show. Ed and Dave are starting the planning for demonstration of signal system at the May convention. The Club is still planning for Thursday/Friday op sessions however current convention update has op session planned for Wednesday/Friday. The Club will open slots each night for approximately 15 operators and 20 guests who can view the operation from a designated view area. We need to have all the current P&E power checked out to make sure it runs and reacts well and which units will work together. We may want to build some check-out sheets to record tests results.

Last month's discussion on programs was good. What can we do to encourage more participation? Suggested we have E. Don give a teaching session on the fine art of modeling trees. Larry possibly on how to model shrubs and low brush.

3 members were added to the membership and include Allison Keller of Redding, California, Ryan Rabjohn of Applegate and Roger D. Rasmusen of Port Orford, Or. E. Don has some 30 boxes of magazines from Roger Phillips. Jim will use to fill voids at the library in current collection with the balance going to the Historical Society to sell.

New decals have been received. An additional set was ordered to overcome an administrative error in the sizes that were ordered. We have 50 sets of 12 pt and ordered an additional 25 sets of 16 pt lettering (for engines). Power-X update: batteries cost 11.00 and chargers around 47.00. Ron Harten has a charger available in the back room. Turn charger off and remove batteries from charger when done. Not recommended that batteries be left in charger when charge is complete. Max life of batteries is obtained after the 3rd completed charge/use cycle. Power-X batteries can be used in the older Digitrax controller models.

Rusty's layout to be placed on Craig's List at 500.00 or OBO. Let's see what happens. We will not include buildings from layout stored under layout if price is lower than expected. Dave S. will check with Pacific Electrical Contractors to see if any of their obsolete wire spools still reside in their upstairs storage vault.

Brad Fawcett will be leaving the area in March for Las Vegas. Family interests have prompted the move. Brad has done a lot for the club and has played a large part in the Fall Show planning and implementation. Brad will be missed.

April/May Calendar

Saturday, April 14 and May 12--Operations Session 10 AM to 4 PM

Saturday, April 21, April 28, and May 5--Work Session from 9 AM to 4 PM

Wednesday, April 25--General Membership Meeting from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Wednesday, May 2--National Convention Op Session 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM

Friday, May 4--National Convention Op Session 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2012

Apr 21-22 – 24th Annual Model Railroad Swap Meet & Train Show, Willamette Cascade Model RR Club, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Ore. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Info: Lee & Diane Temple, 541-954-4917 or 541-225-7394, ttanddt@ram-mail.com

May 2-5 - Siskiyou Summit 2012, Joint PNR/PCR Convention, Red Lion Hotel, Medford, Ore. Clinics, tours, exhibits, model contest, and more. Info: <http://www.pcrmmra.org/conv2012/> Check the Online registration form and sign up.

May 5-6 – Model Train Swap Meet & Show, Rickreall Grange Hall, 280 MainSt. “Hwy 99W”, Rickreall, Ore.

Sat & Sun 10 – 4. Info: Tom at 503-606-0398, pry626@juno.com

May 11 – “Siskiyou Railroading” by Tony Johnson. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

May 12 – National Train Day Concert and Street Fair - Ashland Historic Railroad Museum events include railroad songs by local Ashland musicians, presentations by historians, model railroad layout, refreshments and more. Noon till 4 PM at the “A” Street Arts Building, 258 A Street, Ashland, Ore. Call 541-482-RAIL for more information.

<http://www.nationaltrainday.com/events/other/?st=OR>

Jun 27-Jul 1 –National N-scale Convention, Red Lion Hotel, Medford, Ore. Presented by the N Scale Enthusiast (NSE) and Micro Trains Line. Info: <http://www.nationalscaleconvention.com/>


Jul 7-11 – Great Northern Historical Society Convention, Klamath Falls, Ore. Convention Headquarters will be the Shilo Inn in Klamath Falls. Info: http://gnrhs.org/2012_k_falls.htm

Looking ahead:


Next Division 1 PNR/NMRA Mini-meet October 8, 2012 Bend, Oregon. More Info to be published.

November 24-25 Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show, Medford Armory, Medford, Oregon.

You Might be a Model Railroader if:

 *You honestly feel that, if your wife buys a new video tape, that entitles you to buy a freight car, and a new outfit for her means an engine for you. Fair is fair.*

 *You've ever worried about spelling the coupler "Kadee" or "KD."*

 *You've ever traced the route of a wire under your layout by pulling on it.*

04/11/2012 bhm