

The Passing Track

May 2012

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Ready, Set, Convention

**Pacific Northwest Region & Pacific Coast Region / NMRA
Siskiyou Summit 2012 Joint Convention
May 2-5 in Medford, Oregon**

Events involving the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club:

Wednesday, May 2, Operations Session from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM

Friday, May 4, Operations Session from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM

Saturday, May 5 Club Open House from 1 PM to 5 PM

Ron Harten and George Booth Home Layout Tours for Convention Guests

Signal Clinic with Dave Spakousky and Ed Kleinman

A major convention is headed to Medford with over 250 participants and will involve the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club and its members, as well as the rest of the Railroad Park clubs. Our Club will host operations sessions for convention guests on two nights with two sessions per night. Club members are needed to oversee and guide our guest operators as *they* become conductors and engineers. More importantly, we get to show off our magnificent layout to very dedicated, discerning, and enthusiastic model railroaders from across the nation and the world. The convention organizers are providing signups, so the number of guests will be limited at any one time to avoid overwhelming the operations positions we have. You can bet there will be some through trains that will help to complicate the operation a bit. What will it take to be ready for the operations sessions?

- Make sure we're ready to go at the appointed time with power consisted and tested, track clean, throttles charged and everything tested.
- Make sure the members who are participating in the op session are relaxed and ready to have a good time showing off our work.
- Appoint a greeter (Bruce McGarvey, others?) to welcome everyone and hold a few back if we get overwhelmed (despite the convention efforts for pre-registration).
- Remain flexible as the op session evolves.
- Enjoy the evening helping our guests have a great time running, watching and photographing a world class layout.
- Members review the same material that our guests are asked to read and understand (see www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012).



Ron seems to be perplexed trying to locate the coupler on this reefer. (Not really.) Along with a good cleaning, the refrigerator got some new electronics. Ron's effort was an indication of the high standard for cleaning the Club set for itself to prepare for the upcoming conventions (also an N-Scale Convention is coming to the Park in June). Larry Tuttle photo.

While we could have more fun with captions for the photo of our refrigerator on its side, there is a more serious side to the photo. Jim Dougall reported some sparking going on with the reefer's cord as it plugged into the wall. Further investigation discovered an overheated, brittle and deteriorated plug, spliced with electrical tape into the original cord. Everyone involved agreed that the whole cord should be replaced, a good beefy one was found in the electrical supplies and Ron went to work with the change-out. Turns out the cord went into a junction box on the bottom of the fridge which had to be turned on its side in order to effect the repair. While working inside the J-box, Ron found other felonies which he also corrected.

Suffice to say, a most unpleasant situation (electrocution or fire) might have occurred had this gone on any longer. Fact is we were quite lucky something unfortunate didn't happen sooner. Which brings up the subject that if anyone, member or guest, discovers what appears to be an unsafe situation, please call it to the attention of someone who can evaluate it and initiate any necessary repairs. At the very least, let a club officer know about it. Jim may very well be a hero of epic proportions!

Board Elections

The annual elections to the Club's Board of Directors are slated for the General Membership meeting May 23. The following club members have indicated their interest in Board of Directors positions.

President--Bruce Kelly
Vice President--Larry Tuttle
Secretary--Dave Spakousky
Treasurer--Jerry Hellinga

Additional nominations will be accepted at the May 23 General Membership meeting prior to the election. Unrelated to the vice presidency, Larry is also the Program Chair and would like for someone to take over that duty for planning and organizing the monthly programs at the General Membership meetings.

April Board Meeting Notes

The Board met on April 11 with four board members and four Club members present. As usual, the Club remains in excellent financial standing. Work on the layout continues, focused on the signal system, the Derby area, the Cascades toward Butte Falls, and the trestle between Derby and Butte Falls. The additional set of P&E decals have arrived giving us the complete range of sizes needed. There were praises for the color and quality of the decals.

Bruce reported that the additional club shirts have been ordered and are ready for pickup. He will retrieve them later in the week. Jerry mentioned that if anyone would like to order a club name tag, he will gladly take additional orders as the manufacturer can easily produce more. *[Shirts are ready*

for pickup at the Clubhouse. Find your name on the bag. Some will be mailed. Please leave cash or check (\$13)--ed].

The Club approved the purchase of another 500 trees. Larry Tuttle is continuing to investigate the appropriate router equipment to allow both the Club and Historical Society members at the museum to be able to access the internet. It will likely involve an antenna/repeater.

It was noted that Bruce Petty is overcoming a medical issue, and the Club is wishing him a speedy recovery with our thoughts and prayers. A new member, Thomas Miller, was approved unanimously by the Board.

McNeil Creek Trestle



The trestle scene between Derby and Butte Falls (McNeil Creek) is taking shape. Tim Jamin built the trestle, Larry Tuttle has built piers not yet installed, and Dave Spakousky will be installing the piers (not yet visible in this photo). Additional work is planned on adjusting the amount of the cement buttress with some reshaping of the contours. Another WOW scene in the making! Historic photos show a lot of brush and open ground in this canyon. John Gerritsma and Bruce Kelly will be working from either ends of the trestle to complete the vegetation. A local dirt road is planned across the tracks where the truck sits and will give reason for trains to blow their horns, deviously steering visitors' attention to this scene. This is another amazing "money-shot" photo from Larry Tuttle.

Local Celebration for National Train Day

The Club will be participating in the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum's participation in the National Train Day on Saturday, May 12, with the Kid's Layout and a display of model railroading equipment or skills such as tree making. The event begins at 12 noon at the A Street Arts Building with some music from blues-man Hawkeye Herman, singing the Rock Island Railroad and other great railroading songs. There will be model railroads, railroad history, railroad booths, and arts and crafts for children. The event ends at 4 PM. For more information on the event, call the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum at 541-482-RAIL. For more information on how you can participate as a Club member, please call Bruce McGarvey at 541-779-8145 or email Bruce at "bhmgarvey@charter.net".

The second Saturday in May is a regularly scheduled operations session. However, because of the Convention operations sessions the previous week (members will be a bit burned out on back to back to back op sessions), the Board has cancelled the May 12 ops session. For those not working the Ashland Train Day, Saturday will be a regular work and cleanup session.



After completing his Hauler assignment, George has picked up the MEASM – Medford Alton Southern Manifest. This is actually a Southern Pacific train which originated in Medford and is destined for East St. Louis, Ill. (Prototype Note: In 1989, the SP did run an EUASM – Eugene Alton Southern Manifest from Eugene to Klamath Falls and east on the Modoc.) George's train is based on the SP's need to get building materials out of the Rogue Valley and headed east with a little delay as possible. By routing it over the P&E to Klamath Falls, over a day and several hundred miles of transit was saved.

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2012

May 2-5 - SISKIYOU SUMMIT 2012, Joint PNR/PCR – NMRA Convention, Red Lion Hotel, Medford, Ore. Clinics, tours, exhibits, model contest, op sessions, local manufactures tables and more. Info: <http://www.pcrnmra.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 8 – “Come Together Home” - Screening and Q&A with director Ivy Lin. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

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

Jul 13 – “Rolling Examples of Early 20th Century Sign Painters Art” by Richard Hendrickson. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

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.

2015 NMRA National Convention to be in Portland, Oregon, August 23 – 30.

<http://www.nmra2015portland.org/>

You Might be a Model Railroader if:

-  You've ever sold a perfectly good freight or passenger car, only because the new super detailed one you just bought makes the old one look bland.
-  You refuse to buy an inexpensive, beautifully-detailed boxcar lettered for your favorite railroad, because the prototype car had 14 ribs and the model has 16!

04/21/2012 bhm