

## **The Passing Track**

September 2012

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

### **Summer Activities**

This summer was a busy time at the club. We hosted several groups for open houses or operating sessions. We held public open houses the second and fourth Sundays of the month (May-October). Also we continued to work on the layout, improving the scenery, electronics and reliability. If you haven't been to the club in a while, you'll be surprised at the progress. We can always use a helping hand during the open houses or work sessions.

We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting, event or Saturday work session. Speaking of work sessions, there is usually someone here on Saturdays (after 9:00am) with plenty of conversation, refreshments and work (fun). We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

### **Technical Problems Continue to be Worked**

Technical problems continue to haunt us in the Siskiyou area of the layout (see BOD minutes). Several locomotives (which have had problems in this area) have been modified and adjusted to minimize their impact on the system. One had a heat-sink added to prevent decoder overheating and another had a trailing truck adjusted to prevent shorting. Different configurations of the circuit breaker cards, including a different type are under review by the DCC committee

### **Gazebo Display**

The Railroad Park added a display gazebo this summer. It is located just to the right as you enter the park. Each of the 5 clubs, which are part of the park, have a display in the gazebo. The displays high-light the activities of each of the clubs. Next time you're at the park, check out the different displays.

## Club Hosts Operating Session with Eugene Club

On June 16 the club hosted an operating session with members of the club in Eugene. It is fun to see how other railroaders react to the challenges of operating the P&E. Most of their members paired up with a club member to make it easier to find their way around the layout (and find their train after it had poked into a tunnel). We think the Eugene crew enjoyed the challenges presented to them.



Looks like the Crater Yard Crew has things pretty well cleared out.



The Pelican Yard Crew is keeping busy



A bit more work to do in the BN & SP yards



The dispatcher has everything under control



Teamwork is important

## Summer Season Open Houses

This summer the Sunday open houses held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month were very well attended. Many people who had been here previous years noticed and commented on the changes and improvements. "You guys have been 'really' busy" was a frequently heard comment.

The 'kids layout' has also been a big hit. It gets a lot of use and most of the kids are careful with the trains and even get into switching the cars. Several parents have commented that it was great that we gave the kids the opportunity to 'run' the trains. This appreciation has also resulted in increased donations.

## Mystery Bridge

P&E operating crews were surprised on August 26 when they encountered a covered bridge on the P&E main line between Eagle Point and Canyon Junction! No one knows where it came from. The operating crews had considerable concern since the vertical clearance of the new structure was considerably less than any other structure on the main line. Of particular concern was the clearance of a piece of construction equipment loaded on a flat car.



The prompt reporting of the structure and warnings about its potential clearance issues averted a possible disaster. The train crew was able to stop and check clearances prior to proceeding. A clearance of less than a scale foot was measured. The incident is being investigated further and possible disciplinary actions may be taken.

## Model in Focus

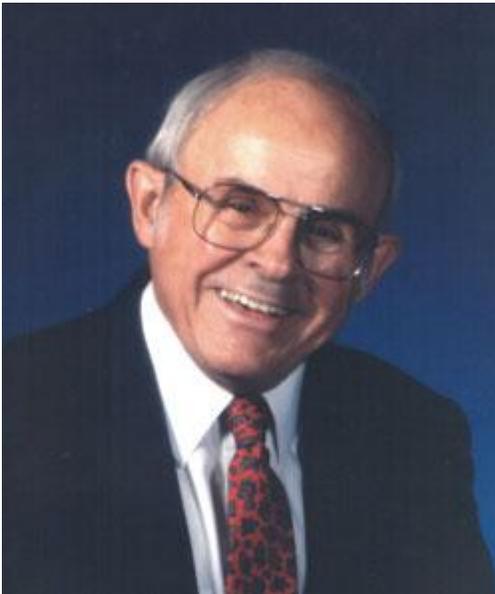
One of the new features we will be adding to the newsletter will be "the Model in Focus". Starting in the next issue, this feature will highlight the efforts of one or more of our members to improve the appearance and quality of the layout. Since there have been several significant improvements in recent months, some of the models featured will not necessarily be 'new'.

## Members Passing On

This summer the club was saddened by the passing of two members of the club.

### Clarence Keith Edwards

Out of their love of trains, Keith and his brother started the world-renowned model railroading manufacturer, Kadee Quality Products. In 1990, the twin brothers divided the business. Keith and his wife started Micro-Trains Line Company specializing in N and Z scale model trains. In 2001, they retired and sold the business to their family. Keith's many accomplishments included serving as president of the Model Railroading Industry Association and various boards throughout the industry. He and his twin brother were key players in the creation of the Medford Railroad Park located off Table Rock Road. Keith also made key contributions during the building of the RVMRC club house. He was a honorary life member of the RVMRC. On August 11, 2012 a funeral train was run on the layout at the RVMRC layout in Keith's honor.



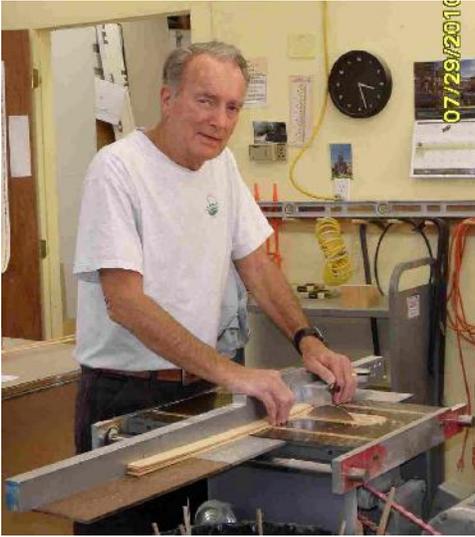
Keith Edwards 1921-2012

We are saddened to confirm that our Founder Keith Edwards, 91, passed away peacefully Thursday, July 26, 2012, at our local hospital of natural causes. Keith was Co-Founder of the original Kadee Quality Products Co, along with his twin brother. In 1990 he incorporated the Micro-Trains Line division to focus his time, interest and resources on N and Z scale model trains. He retired in 2000, and enjoyed a comfortable retirement with family and close friends.

Keith inspired all of us at Micro-Trains, with his selfless passion for the hobby and business. Micro-Trains employees, and his family will miss him so very much.

Eric D. Smith  
CEO/President  
Micro-Trains Line Co.

## Bud Trippet 1931 – 2012



Another of our model railroaders died rather suddenly on June 20, 2012 in Rogue River, Oregon. Bud was an associate member (joined in 2007) of the club and an N-scale modeler. He was one of the Campbell Scale Model crew working primarily in the wood shop preparing the scale lumber and siding material for the Campbell kits.

Bud's love of model railroading started when he was a youngster and continued throughout his life.

He served his country in the Army during the Korean War. His formal education trained him for animal husbandry, where over the years he managed cattle ranches in Arizona, Montana, Texas, Virginia, Utah, and Mississippi, and he owned and managed his own ranch in the Sand Hills of Nebraska. After retirement, he thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the world of model railroading.

He was a fine wood worker, family man and modeler. He was working toward a move to Colorado to be closer to family.

Bud is survived by his wife, Ellie; his son Clay, retired from the airline industry and currently owns a business in San Diego teaching young kids to play soccer; his daughter Natalie, an administrator and co-owner with her husband of a private experiential alternative high school, in Buena Vista, Colorado; and six grandchildren.

*He will be missed by many.*

*Thanks to Ellie for helping prepare this tribute to Bud. Photo by Duncan Campbell.*

## New Passing Track Editors

During the last election, John Gerritsma, the editor of the passing track for the past 6 years, was elected to the position of club Secretary. His spot as newsletter editor will be filled by Paula and Ron Harten. They can be contacted at [sprucerr@earthlink.net](mailto:sprucerr@earthlink.net). We thank John for all his hard work and for setting a standard, we will strive to continue.

## Railroad Time Card

**Sep 14** – “Deautremont, The Other Mountain” 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.

**Sep 15-16** - Eastern Cascades Model Railroad Club Open House, Bend, Ore. HO club and 1½ inch railroads on 5 forested acres. Info: <http://www.ecmrr.org/default.aspx> or call 541-317-1545.

**Sep 15** – 1st Div. PNR/NMRA Mini-Meet and Board meeting. Deschutes Public Library, East Bend Branch. Info: <http://pnr.nmra.org/1div/>

**Sep 22** – Grand opening of the Oregon Rail Heritage Center, 2250 SE Water Ave, Portland, Ore. Info: 503-680-8895 or [www.orhf.org](http://www.orhf.org) and [info@orhf.org](mailto:info@orhf.org)

**Oct 12** – “*Southern Oregon’s Ornery Tradition*” by Jeff LaLande. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

~~**Oct 20-21**~~ – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Klamath Rails Railroad Show & Sale, Klamath County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall A, Klamath Falls, Ore. Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4. --CANCELLED--

**Nov 9** – “*Model Railroading*” by Bruce McGarvey. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

**Nov 24 - 25** – **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show**, Medford Armory, Medford, Oregon. Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4. Info: mail RVRR Show, PO Box 8065, Medford 97501 or call Bruce 541-890-8145, Nancy 541-890-2546.

**Dec 14** – “*Ashland’s Golden Spike – The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*” by Larry Mullaly. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

### Looking ahead:

**2013** PNR/NMRA Regional Convention in Boise, Idaho, June 26 - 30, 2013.

<http://pnr.nmra.org/3div/2013.html>

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

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

You Might be a Model Railroader if:

-  You name the places on your railroad after your wife and children.
-  Brass isn't something you polish, it's something you paint and weather.
-  Your spouse gives you some old newspapers, a bag of foam and a box of Hydrocal for your birthday, and you're speechless with joy.

08/21/2012 bhm