



## The Passing Track

May 2013

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

### Open House Operations

It is that time of year again. On the second and fourth Sunday of the months of April through October, the RVMRC opens its doors to the public from 11 to 3. It is a great opportunity for the club to show off its efforts on the layout, promote the model railroading hobby and tell the story of the P&E. Many visitors like the concept of a real railroad that 'could have been' something bigger. They are interested in and a bit surprised by the fact that we use pictures, diagrams, maps and site visits to research our scenes and buildings. They acquire a new appreciation of what it takes to make a 'model railroad'.

It is also a good time for members to run special trains. Our visitors see the resident P&E motive power and rolling stock. They also see the 'special trains' brought in by the members, who are running their personal 'varnish'. Where else can you see trains headed by locomotives from the Reading, followed by an Amtrak special, several steam trains (some from as far away as Pennsylvania) and a colorful collection of western diesel power. Many visitors have no idea where some of the 'fallen flag' railroads operated. Others remember them from their 'younger days'. It is fun to share information about the layout and the trains operating on it. In return you can hear some interesting stories about visitors' experiences with trains.

If you bring your own trains, please have them checked out prior to Sunday. See E Don if you have any questions. They have to run smoothly through switches and around curves and grade changes. The switch at the top of the helix is a good test. Trains with out-of-gauge wheels and misaligned couplers can really disrupt the flow of operations and makes us look sloppy.

Most of the operating of trains is done by the members, safely cordoned off from the public. But that is not the case with the 'Kids Layout' It likes to mix with the public. This small layout is operated by our younger visitors. It is an opportunity for them to run the trains. The layout has a twice round with some sidings and a small yard. This allows them try out switching some cars at the local industries. We use a small diesel switcher and a Thomas the Tank engine. Thomas is quite popular - so popular we have had to replace him once already and have a third engine on order, since the current one is getting 'tired'.

This young engineer likes the trains down at his level.



### Note to Members

It is May and time to renew your membership. You should have received a notification from Jerry Hellinga, our Treasurer. Please do so promptly. Thank you.

The Clackamas Willamette Model Railroaders will be coming down to join in on the Saturday, June 8th, op session. We are expecting 13 model railroad club members

## Member Passing

FRED E SMITH -

Recent news tells us that model railroader Fred Smith passed away on April 21, 2013 in Eugene, Oregon. He was a charter member (#21) of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club and a past president of the original club. His modeling included trolley and interurban equipment in On30. He attended many of the PNR/NMRA meetings. He enjoyed photography. Fred worked for the Robert Dollar Company in Glendale and in the early 80's moved to Eugene to work for Bohemia Lumber Company. Fred was a real gentleman and a great modeler. He will be missed by all. 05/15/2013



## RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2013

**June 6, 7, 8** – ESPEE in Oregon Annual Convention, Albany/Millersburg area. Prototype tours, layouts tours, and clinics, seminars and swap meet. Still in the planning stages – For current information check in on <http://espee-in-oregon.com/cinformation.html> or email [webmaster@espee-in-oregon.com](mailto:webmaster@espee-in-oregon.com)

**June 7 - 8** – Dunsmuir Railroad Days 2013 – Info: <http://www.dunsmuirrailroaddays.org/>

**June 26 – 30** – Snake River Special, PNR/NMRA Regional Convention, THE BOISE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, Boise, Idaho. Info: <http://pnr.nmra.org/3div/2013.html>

**June 14** – “Origins of Ashland: The Plaza” – Victoria Law. Second Friday Ashland Historic Railroad Museum program at the Ashland Public Library’s Gresham Room. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

**July 12** – “Delivery by Rail: Rogue Valley Food and Farms” – Margery Winter. Second Friday Ashland Historic Railroad Museum program at the Ashland Public Library’s Gresham Room. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

**July 14-20** - NMRA National Convention and National Train Show - "Peachtree Express", Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, GA. Info:- [www.nmra2013.org](http://www.nmra2013.org)

**Aug 9** – “The Magic Spark: The Telegraph and Early Railroading” – Allen Dobney. Second Friday Ashland Historic Railroad Museum program at the Ashland Public Library’s Gresham Room. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

**Sep 21-22** – 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House, Eastern Cascades Model Railroad Club, Bend, Ore. HO scale layout plus the Central Oregon Area Live Steamers. Info: 541-317-1545 or <http://www.ecmrr.org/default.aspx>

**Fall** - 1<sup>st</sup> Division PNR Mini-Meet, place to be announced, possibly Corvallis. Meet starting at 9 AM, clinics, model contest and layout tours. For more details, check in on 1<sup>st</sup> Division web site at <http://pnr.nmra.org/1div/>

Looking ahead:

**Aug 23-29, 2015** – 2015 NMRA National Convention, Portland, Oregon. Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Portland. More info at <http://www.nmra2015portland.org/>

**Aug 28–30, 2015** - National Train Show, held in conjunction with the convention, at the Portland Expo Center.

(05/14/2013 june PT)