



The Passing Track

January 2014

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

****Alert – See FYI for details of change in day and time of the monthly meetings.****

Annual Train Show

The 36th annual Train Show was held the last weekend in November. Over 3900 people attended the show. Some of the club's newly refurbished modules, especially the truck terminal drew a lot of attention. The fully scened 'Kids Layout' was also very popular. The public recognized the club's efforts and voted the club's layouts 2nd place in the popular vote for best display/layout.



Talking to the public



Keeping the trains running



Younger members keep them rolling



Telling them how we do it



Kids layout is very popular



Keep on truck'n at the terminal



Set up and Break down are a big, but little noticed, part of the effort



Two of our younger members, Dallas and Kevin, helped keep the trains running the whole weekend. This allowed more time for some of our senior members to engage the public, talk about the layout and promote the hobby in general. Many thanks to the members who helped organize the show, prepare the modules, setup and tear down the modules and keep the show going the entire weekend. A job well done.

Work on Layout

There is a lot of work being done on the layout. Most of the main line from Crater Yard to the far side of Butte Falls is blocked. The Butte Falls, Eagle Point, White City and Derby / Canyon Jct. areas are being transformed. Butte Falls continues to develop it's urban 'plan' with the main business block and its merge into the backdrop being evaluated and refined. Larry's 'headache' is turning into a really impressive scene. The industries on both sides of the tracks are also developing nicely. Dave's improvements in the turnout control in the area will make operating the Butte Falls Turn a 'LOT' less frustrating and not require 10' arms with at least 3 articulated joints. It is a shame that this work is somewhat hidden in the middle of the layout. But those who venture into the area will be in for a visual treat.

Bruce is busy with the landscaping and the 'plant a tree' program in the Derby / Canyon Jct. area. Trees, we need lots and lots of trees!!! He can plant a 'flat of trees' in just minutes. Ron and Paula are working on the quarry and John is terra-forming the Eagle point area. The mini bulldozer crews have been very busy. John and Dave have been also 'rearranging' some of the industries and sidings in White City. It will make switching in White City a bit more challenging. Roads and crossing signals are also going in. Again, a lot of the new improvements are not in the view of the general public; but will be a treat to those who venture into the 'heart of the system'. Other members have been working on modules and improvements in the 'up front' areas of the layout. My appologies if I missed someone's efforts. No pictures at this time. Come down and see for yourself. It is worth the trip.

Operating Sessions

In the midst of the chaos, springs an operting session! There will be an operating session with the folks from Eugene on Feb. 16, 2014. I wonder what the track warrants dealing with 'blue tape on the rail' or a 'plaster can shorting out the main.', will look like? I'm sure the Dispatcher will use his creativity. Actually it will be a good reason to clean up our act a bit. Then we can go back and really mess it up in our push to be 'done' for the open house season.

Modeler of the Year

This year Paula Harten was chosen as 'Modeler of the Year'. This award was given to her in recognition of her efforts to improve and promote the 'Kids Layout'. Paula has taken over the operation and scenery of the 'Kids Layout' which allows kids of all ages to have the thrill of actually controlling a train. Paula made it her mission to make operating the layout a fun experience for all involved.



Paula Harten - Modeler of the Year 2013

FYI

At the December board meeting date. This was brought up at the January general meeting and discussed. The new format meeting it was proposed that the general and board meetings be combined into one would have one meeting date per month. There would be two meetings held back to back. The first portion of the meeting would be the general meeting with a program intended for the membership. There would then be a break, allowing members not interested in attending the board meeting to leave. The board meeting would then follow with only the board and any members interested in the 'business' of the club. ***The proposed meeting day will be the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The general meeting will start at 7:00 PM and the board meeting would start about 8:15.*** The consensus at the meeting was to try this format for 6 months and decide if the format should be extended or adjusted further.

Club Business: The budget for 2014 was approved by the Board of Directors. Nine members failed to renew their memberships in 2013.

The club is planning, with the live steamers club, to move the fence between the club house and the restroom building. This would free up an area to the left of the club house for a walk way between the club house and the live steamer's station area. The net effect would be to make the club house a second entrance/exit to the park. It will also provide a picnic area for the club.

Members Pass On

Roger "Andy" Anderson, 77, of Phoenix, Ore., passed away Monday, August 26, 2013 at his home. Arrangements by Conger Morris Medford. (Published in the Medford Mail Tribune, August 28, 2013. Death Notices.)

Many did not realize that Andy had passed away, since we knew him as Andy and his death was listed as Roger Anderson. Andy was club member number 239, having joined the club in May 2003. He was a frequent visitor and kept our library up to date with Model Railroader and MRN magazines. No service was held except for family.



Darrel Raymond "Stretch" Manley, 71, of Rogue River, Ore. passed away Sunday, January 5, 2014 at his home after a long illness. He was born March 22, 1942 in Ramsey, Ill. and lived there and in Chicago until he was about 12 years old. When his parents divorced he moved to Montana with his mother and lived there until graduating high school. Upon graduation he moved back to Chicago and worked for the Transit Authority until joining the U.S. Navy in 1963. In 1971, after the death of his stepfather, he chose not to re-enlist and returned home to Montana to help raise his nine year old twin brothers.

He and his first wife Tish met when Stretch was going to college in Bozeman, Mont. and they married in 1976 and moved to Rogue River, Ore. in 1979. They later divorced. In 2003 his long-time friend, Christine Ranieri, moved to Rogue River and the two were later married.

Stretch was a longtime figure around the valley, having been very active in the community, including the Medford Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club and the Southern Oregon Chapter - National Railway Historical Society.

A service with military honors was held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, January 10, 2014 at Eagle Point National Cemetery.

(Adapted in part from the Obituaries published in the Mail Tribune, Monday, January 8, 2014)

On a special Note, Stretch was club member number 119, having developed a numbering system for the club membership in the early 1980s. He had been active with organizing the Annual Railroad Show in the 1990s, a Modeler of the Year Award in 1984, and was president 1985-87. Much could be said about Stretch, but the following comments by Mike Yoakum (Charter member #13) says a lot: "I guess we all have a memory or image that could be considered a "classic" Stretch. For me it is from an event that we both attended not many years after we met. It was during the NMRA national convention in Eugene in the early 80's. One of the extra activities we took part in was a tour of the Weyerhaeuser mill in Springfield and a trip to the reload near Marcola. As we were heading back to the busses at the reload I turned around and just thought this was a classic image of him. There against the background of the Fir trees and the massive heavy equipment, dust, log trucks, log cars and locomotives stood Stretch in a Tee shirt, cutoffs, socks and tennis shoes-probably Converse-and logger's tin hat. He may have even been wearing suspenders. He usually stood out in a crowd, it was even more so this time.

Of all the memories and fond thoughts I have of Stretch, this one will probably be the one I remember most. I'm happy to have known him for so many years. He left us too soon."

Roger Philip Booth was born in Portland, Ore., December 17, 1953 and passed away in Medford, Ore., Sunday, January 19, 2014, at age 60. The family moved to Medford in 1961 when Roger was 7 years old. He attended Hoover Elementary School, where he received an award for perfect attendance for all five years. He went on to Hedrick Jr. High and graduated from Medford Senior High School in 1972. He was active in the marching band and the electronics club, and he was particularly famous for his 1952 Chevy 2-door station wagon, which he loved to work on. Roger was also very active in Boy Scouts and became an Eagle Scout.

After serving in the U.S. Navy from 1972 to 1976, Roger returned to Oregon and received an Associate Degree in computer software technology from Portland Community College. He worked for a number of years as a computer programmer in Portland, in the Silicon Valley and in Houston, Texas.

On May 17, 1978, he married Loretta Groth in Reno, Nevada. They had no children of their own, but over the years, they raised a number of four-legged children. One of Roger's

greatest pleasures was reading computer books and magazines and actual computer code. From childhood he was fascinated by model trains, and after he and his wife returned to Medford ten years ago, he joined the Medford Railroad Club. Also, he volunteered with the Senior Aces and with the Jackson County Public Library, and he enjoyed attending Thursday evening meetings of the Medford City Council. He and Loretta shared a love of the out-of-doors and went camping frequently in the forests of Southern Oregon. A private memorial service will be held for family. Donations may be made in his memory to the Sierra Club or to the Maslow Project for homeless teenagers in Medford.

(Published in the Medford Mail Tribune, Sunday, January 26, 2014; Page 2B, col 3-4.)
Roger was club member number 273 and joined in March 2010. (B. McGarvey)

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2014

Feb 1 - Spokane Portland & Seattle Railway Historical Society Railroad Swap Meet, Holiday Inn , Portland Airport Conference Center, 8439 NE Columbia Blvd. Info: Jerry Pickell, 360-735-0516 or email: pickell5141@msn.com

Feb 8 – NW Modelers Train Show & Swap Meet – 1st Annual. West Valley Community Campus Hall, Willamina, Ore. Sat 10 am – 3 pm. Info: Tom Pryor 503-606-0398 or pry626@juno.com

Feb 20-22 – Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club Show at the Annual Oregon Logging Conference, Lane Events Center, Eugene, Ore. Info: Lee Temple 541-954-4917 ttandt@ram-mail.com
<http://www.oregonloggingconference.com/>

Mar 1 - Pacific Model Loggers' Congress, Camp 18 Restaurant and Logging Museum, 42362 Highway 26, Elsie, Ore. Full day of historic, technical and modeling clinics, model contest . Info: 503-487-6833 or 541-914-1152 or www.pacificmodelloggerscongress.com,

Mar 15 - Willamette Model Railroad Club's, Annual Model Railroad Swap Meet, Kliever Memorial Armory , 10000 NE 33rd Dr. (between Columbia & Marine Drive), Sat 9:30 am to 3 pm. Admission: Adults \$5.00, under 12 free. Info: Keith Kieres 503-723-7323, e-mail: wmrswapmeet@yahoo.com

Apr 5-6 – 26th Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club Swap Meet & Train Show, Lane Events Center, Eugene, Ore. Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 3 pm. Info: Lee Temple 541-954-4917
ttandt@ram-mail.com

Apr 12 - 1st Division PNR Mini-Meet, hosted by Nick Lehrbach and his Roseburg Crew. Details forth coming.

May 3-4 – Model Train Swap Meet & Show, Rickreall Grange Hall, 280 Main Street “Hwy 99”, Rickreall, Ore.

Sat & Sun 9 am – 3 pm. Info: pry626@juno.com or 503-606-0398

May 15-17 – ESPEE in Oregon Meet: Forest Grove, Ore. Tillamook Train Excursion, Prototype tours, Clinics, Swap meet, presentations and more. Details to follow, check <http://espee-in-oregon.com/>

Jun 14 - First Division PNR Mini-Meet, Eugene. More info later.

<http://pnr.nmra.org/1div/divisionevents.htm>

Jun 18-21 - PSX 2014 Pacific Northwest Region Convention, La Quinta Inn, Tacoma, Wash. Prototype tours: Tacoma Rail, Mt. Rainier Railroad, and Northwest Railway Museum at Snoqualmie. Lots of clinics to attend. Info: <http://www.wnrr.net/PSX2014/> **NOT AN NMRA MEMBER?** You are still welcome to attend and learn more about NMRA. A limited time membership ("RAILPASS 6 month trial membership at \$10) is available for non-members to attend.

Jul 13 – 20 – The 2014 NMRA National Convention. New Cleveland Convention Center , Cleveland, Ohio. Layout tours, clinics, op sessions, prototype tours, and more. Info:- www.2014cleveland.org

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.



And now for some Railroad Quips:

A railroad is like a lie you have to keep building it to make it stand. -- Mark Twain

Rail travel at high speeds is not possible because passengers, unable to breathe, would die of asphyxia. -- Dionysius Lardner (1842 - 1914) US journalist, short-story writer

Only fools want to travel all the time. Sensible men want to arrive. -- Metternick

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