

The Passing Track

September 2014

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Pulse of the Club

The open house season is going strong. Attendance to the railroad park is quite high this year. The park has been averaging over 2000 people on a given Sunday. I am amazed at the number of repeat visitors, both young and old. In fact three of these frequent visitors are now our newest members and also the youngest. This is adding a new dimension to the club's activities and will take some adjustments to make it go smoothly. More on that in a later section.

The holiday season is coming up and with it, the Railroad Show at the Armory (weekend after Thanksgiving). Please reserve some time to come and help us setup, operate and tear down the portable layout. We also need people to man some of the jobs at the show like selling tickets, security, etc. The sign-up sheets will be available at the club house. So be sure to sign up for one or more slots.

The annual holiday party will be held in either the 2nd or 3rd week in December. More details to follow.

Operating Sessions

During the past six months we have had several operating sessions with the club from Eugene as guests and a 2-day back-to-back sessions with the Clakamas club. The sessions were quite well attended. We are going to try to keep up the momentum this fall and winter. Operating Sessions are normally scheduled for the third Sunday of the month. However, the dates can get moved to accommodate visiting clubs or other activities. If you are interested in visiting or participating in a session, call Bruce Kelly (541-613-1638) [primary contact] or Dave Spakousky

(541- 779-4493) [backup] to verify the date. Figure 1 shows the crew taking a lunch break during the last ops session.



Figure 1 - Ops Session Lunch break

Recently we have encountered the problem that when people leave, they tend to forget to release their locomotives and consists, resulting in a 'Slot Max' message and the need to stop and clean up the mess or else limp along until the end of the session. We are looking into ways to clear the tables before the start of ops sessions and instilling a discipline of releasing locomotives when you are done running them.

This past Sunday we were confronted with the situation where one of our P&E locomotives was consisted with a set of locomotives which had been visiting during the last operating session and were no longer on the layout, nor was the controller. In the end we had to break into the slot assignment table, find out the address of the owner of the consist, set club throttle to that address so we could break up the consist. Never a dull moment.

New Challenge for the Club: Encouraging and Training the Next Generation of Model Railroaders

Recently the club has attracted several new members, three of them are considerably younger than the rest of the members. First they were visitors at Sunday open houses. Then they were Sunday regulars who were recognized by some of the members and allowed to help run a member's train. Then they took the big step and joined the club (along with an adult family member). They love trains and they are somewhat knowledgeable about them; BUT they have a lot to learn. This is the club's opportunity to share their skills and knowledge and help train the next generation of model railroaders.

So how do we train them? We can start by setting up some training sessions on Saturday's. This would include the basics such as: How do you operate on the layout when other trains are running? How does the signalling system work and how do you use it to safely navigate the layout? What tools will you need? How to use them? How to make sure a car or locomotive meets the basic standards for operation on the layout, i.e. measure and adjust coupler height,

wheel gauge, car weight. Routine maintenance of locomotives. Etc. After that we can branch out to cover scenery, trees, track work, weathering... The list goes on.

To get things started, I'll lead a few sessions, starting in November (after the Sunday Open House season). I'll also list some additional topics which other members could lead during the following weeks. The list will be updated and put in the Passing Track. We can also post it on the bulletin board at the club and distribute it via email. This will have to be an interactive process since people won't be able to come every week and we'll need to make sure that both teacher and students are coming. These sessions would not be limited to our junior members. If an older members want improve their skills they are welcome. We could also make arrangements for tours at local model railroad manufacturers. (A hint for Bruce and Joe)

Proposed RVMRC Training Sessions

[11/1/14 10 AM, Ron Harten]	Basic Tools you'll need and how to use them
[11/8/14 10 AM, Ron Harten]	How to check and adjust a car or locomotive to make sure they meet club standards.(coupler height, wheel gauge, weight)
[11/15/14 10AM , Ron Harten]	Basic servicing of locomotives and rolling stock

Future Topics

- Rules for operating on the layout
- Basic DCC, how DCC works, how to program a DCC decoder
- How to weather a car
- How to weather a locomotive
- How to lay track
- How to apply ballast
- How to assemble a plastic car kit
- How to assemble an old fashion wooden car it
- How to build a plastic model building
- How to build a wooden building
- How to design & scratch build a building
- How do operating sessions work? (what are the jobs of the dispatcher, yardmaster, engineer, conductor, etc.)

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The Guidelines for Training are:

A list of training sessions will be updated and posted (at least a month in advance) via email, posted on the bulletin board at the club house and in the PT (when known in advance).

People who are interested in attending should contact the person leading the course at least two weeks in advance. If the teacher is unable to attend or there is no student interest. Then the teacher will notify the students via email that the class will not be held. If possible this should be done two weeks prior to the class, or as soon as the situation presents itself.

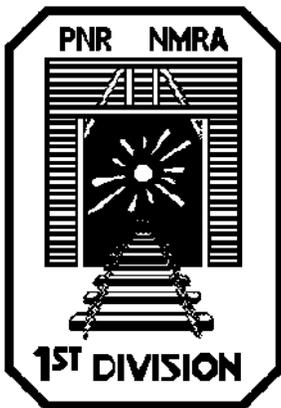
If we don't coordinate this properly we will get missed connections and frustration.

The Possibility of the Club hosting a Mini-Meet

A question was proposed at last month's board meeting, "Would the club be willing to host a PNR (NRMA) mini-meet". The first question raised was – "What would be involved? In response to that question, the following information is provided. It describes the commitment the club would have to make if it sponsored a mini-meet. The first step would be to designate a "chairman" who would coordinate local details with assistance from club members. This includes having a suitable meeting location to accommodate 20-30 attendees. Tables are needed for model displays and presentations. Access to AV equipment is desirable. The host club usually provides coffee and doughnuts with donations to offset costs. Lunch is on attendees own and a map of local eateries is desirable. Clinics presenters should be arranged (local presenters would be good) with assistance from the 1st Division Board. Local layout tours and/or the Railroad Park open house could be scheduled for afternoon activity. Possibilities also include local model manufacturer(s) tour. Club may wish to have an afternoon operating session. Publicity could be posted to invite local model railroaders and inform club members.

All the above needs to be coordinated through the local chairperson and club "helpers". Hosting a mini-meet can be an interesting and enjoyable experience or a gigantic headache, and the result depends on planning and organization. The above tasks can be divided up with club members assisting. The membership should discuss this. It would serve as a way to show the accomplishments of the club and its members to a wider model railroading community.

PNR-NMRA 1st Division **Fall Mini-Meet: Eugene, OR**



The mini-meet will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2014, at the Gainsborough clubhouse, in the billiard room. The gate opens at 10 AM and the program begins at 11AM. There will be various clinics, a model contest, AP evaluations, door prizes, and good discussions with fellow model railroaders. You may want to bring a lunch or pick one up nearby, since we anticipate that the clinics and other program items will conclude about 3 PM. The Board of Directors meeting will immediately follow the mini-meet. All members are invited to the board meeting. Gainsborough is a gated 55-plus community in Eugene, off Irving Road just east of the Northwest Expressway. The clubhouse is located at 2555 Lansdown Rd. For more information, contact Rich Pitter at richpitter@aol.com or 541-636-3833.

FYI

The meeting schedule has been changed. We now have a general meeting at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. The general meeting is followed by a board meeting.

Member Passes On

Lawrence Dale Edwards



Lawrence Dale Edwards, 93, passed away September 19, 2014. Dale and his twin brother, Clarence Keith Edwards were born February 10, 1921 in Chewelah, Wash., the last of five children of Albert E. and Vera Bernice (Teeter) Edwards.

Dale spent his early years in Washington, Oregon, and California. He and his twin were constant companions and shared a love of trains. In 1942, Dale enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was accepted into the pilot training program. After discharge he and his twin relocated to Spokane Washington to be with their parents. Together they started their own tool and die business. It was here that they made their first model railroad coupler. It was at this time he met his future wife, Grace Ida Hanke. They were married April 16, 1948.

The twins moved the Edwards Mold and Die Company to Los Angeles in 1950. There they continued to manufacture tool and dies along with working on a new idea for a realistic coupler for the railroad hobbyist. When a patent was issued on this idea, many new products and ideas came about. Dale loved working with his hands and inventing things. He was always looking at something and trying to figure out how to make it better. After living in California for five years, the twins decided they wanted a quieter and better place to live. So they moved the business, and Dale his family, to Medford where he has lived since. The business was re-named Kadee Quality Products and blossomed into a leading manufacturer of parts and accessories for the adult model railroader. Later N scale box cars were added to the products with realism being the outstanding quality. Dale was a stickler for accuracy and it showed in his work.

After 35 years together, the twins split the business and Dale moved Kadee, his portion, to White City where it is today. The business specializes in couplers and accessories HO_{n3} through G scale and HO model trains. With a sharp and active mind, Dale continued to be involved with the business until shortly before his death.

He was one of the founders of the Medford Railroad Park. As his children grew up, his idea of the perfect vacation was taking them to the Train Park in Molalla, Oregon to ride the trains. He owned several live steam locomotives and was happiest when rolling the rails with smoke in his eyes.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday October 5, 2014 at the Medford Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1900 Greenwood St, Medford, OR. All who knew Dale are invited.

edited from the September 28, 2014 - Medford Mail Tribune
<http://www.mailtribune.com/article/20140928/OBITUARIES/309289995>

Kadee Quality Products Company will be hosting an Open House Event at the Medford Railroad Park on Friday October 17th from 11 AM to 1 PM - Honoring Dale, his love of trains and his legacy. Everyone is welcome and hamburgers and refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to Alan Vezzani at arailroadboss@yahoo.com ... so we can have enough food and drinks!

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2014

Oct 4 – Oregon Coast Crawler Train Excursion, Garibaldi to Salmonberry, 9 AM – 7 PM. Cost \$125 per person. Info: 503-292-5055 or 1-800-717-0108.

http://www.railsnw.com/tours/charter/garibaldi_steam/garibaldi_steam.htm

Oct 25 – PNR-NMRA Mini-Meet, Gainsbourough clubhouse, off Irving Road at 2555 Lansdown Rd., Eugene, Ore. Program begins at 11 AM thru 3 PM with clinics, AP model evaluation, model contest, show-and-tell, layout tours, etc. Mini-Meet open to non-NMRA members. Info:

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

Nov 29 – 30 - Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show, Medford Armory, 1701 So. Pacific Hwy, Medford, Ore. Sat. 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM – 4 PM. Model railroad displays, historic railroad artifacts, swap meet, door prizes, & more. Proceeds benefit Medford Railroad Park. Info: Dick at 541-621-5337 or Bruce at 541-890-8145.

Dec 6 – Willamette Valley Model Railroad Club Train Show and Swap Meet, Poke County Fairgrounds, 520 South Pacific Hwy West, Rickreall, Ore. Open 9:30 – 2:30. Contact: PO Box 21321, Keizer, OR 97307-1321.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Aug 18 – 19 - 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

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.



A cool bridge!

08/27/2014septbhm