



## **The Passing Track**

Sept-Oct 2015

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

### **1<sup>st</sup> Div. of PNR Mini-Meet , May 16, 2015**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the PNR, held a mini-meet at Myrtle Beach on May, 16, 2015. The RVMRC was well represented at the meet. Bruce Kelly gave a talk on operations at the Pacific and Eastern. He explained how we operate the layout using car cards, way bills and track warrants. Bruce McGarvey gave a talk on painting clouds using spray cans and cloud templates. In the model contest our members did quite well. Joe D'Amato won in two categories: N-scale with his 4 bay covered hopper and structures with his HO scale hardware store. Bruce McGarvey won the overall favorite with his CP Grange grain elevator. Good Job!!!

### **Summer Activities**

There has been quite a lot going on at the club this summer. The Sunday Open houses (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the months of April – October have been well attended. There are a lot of repeat visitors (typically child with a parent or grand parent who also loves to watch the trains and bringing the child is a good excuse for coming).

We have had an operating session each month with the crew from Eugene coming several times as well as a group from Redding. Operating sessions are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Check with Bruce or Dave to make sure the session hasn't been moved or cancelled.

The club recently purchased a train speedometer, which measures the 'scale speed' of a train. Contrary to several rumors, it was not purchased as a revenue generating device; although, it is rumored that the treasurer is studying the possibilities. In fact it was purchased for educational purposes. The goal was to raise the awareness of our members, as to how fast they should be operating their trains. It seems to be working. At the Sunday open houses the trains tend to

settle into their slots and the number of 'train mergers' is decreasing. Most operators are developing a good feel for what 30 mph (scale) looks / feels like on the layout.

During a couple of the Sunday open houses, the 'film crew' from Jay Mudge's Cinematography Studio were active on the P & E. Operating from a modified box car coupled in front of the locomotive, they were making digital recordings of the views along the P&E right-of-way as a train travels from Medford to Klamath Falls. It also provided a live feed of the engineer's view of the layout while making the digital recording. The live feed was hooked up to the TV monitor in the clubhouse for all to marvel at the incredible scenery the P&E traverses as it crosses the Cascades. The camera is a cube, less than an inch on a side. Maybe we can get Jay to tell us a bit more about his high-tech setup in a future issue. Some versions of these cameras, which do not have the live feed and record only, cost ~\$25 dollars and are a bit more than an inch on a side.

## Training Sessions & Workshops

We are going to try running the training sessions again, starting in October. If the response is good, we will continue them; but they won't be every month. After October, the next session will be in January or February. The train show in November and the holidays in December cause too many conflicts. **The next training session will be on Saturday October 10 from 10 am – 1 pm.** The subject will be programming DCC decoders. Dave Carr will explain the basics of programming a decoder and how to use JMRI DecoderPro. After Dave's talk, there will be the opportunity to try programming your own locomotive. (Dave will have explained how to reset a decoder, so if you really weren't listening and program your decoder for space flight instead of tracks, you can go back to square one. If you want to do your own locomotive, bring in the manual, since each type of decoder has different things to set and codes to fill in. We will have a couple of stations where you can program a locomotive.

Future topics include the following possibilities:

- How to fine tune a DCC sound decoder
- The basics of scenery and tree making
- Basic Air Brush Techniques

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For the training program to be a success, we need people to commit to coming to a session. If there is no interest, then the session will be canceled. If there is a conflict, then it might be postponed.

The program is open to all members. Members are asked to respond if they are interested in attending a session. They should email me (Ron Harten, at [sprucerr@earthlink.net](mailto:sprucerr@earthlink.net)). We will schedule the sessions for the second Saturday morning of the month, unless it falls on a holiday or major event

## Modular Layout

There has been some discussion at recent board meetings about replacing our modular layout which is a bit worn and dated. It is also cumbersome and difficult to move and setup. A new format for modules is 'Free-Mo'. There were several layouts at the Train Show in Portland. One

was a huge N scale setup which had several spurs and an out and back style operation (not just a big loop in which trains just kept going round and round. At the convention in Portland, I was talking with members from our region (PNR) and when the subject of modules came up, I mentioned that several members in RVMRC were interested in creating modules. They are interested in what we do since they are proposing that a module layout be set up at region and area level meets. This would add more interest and promote more interaction between the clubs in the region. The details of the FREE-MO modules can be found on the web site [www.free-mo.org](http://www.free-mo.org). We should make this the subject for a presentation at a monthly meeting.

## FYI

Reminder: Open House 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (April – end October)

Ops Session 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (Check during months of Nov & Dec.)

General and Board Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM

It's not too soon to be planning for the holiday train show. The show takes place the weekend after Thanksgiving. We set up on Friday and take down on Sunday afternoon. The show runs Saturday and Sunday. We need members to sign up to run trains as well as staff various jobs at the show (security, ticket sales, parking, etc.) There will be a signup sheet at the Club House in November.

Due to lack of input material there was no July-August issue of the Passing Track.

## RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2015

**Sep 19 – 20 - Eastern Cascades Model Railroad Club**, Open house at 21520 Modoc Lane Bend, Ore. The ECRR is HO scale layout and the outdoors branch of the club, the Central Oregon Area Live Steamers (COALS), has built a 1½ inch scale (1:8) railroad, now with over one mile of track on 20 acres. Info: Phone 541-317-1545 and <http://www.ecmrr.org/>

**Oct 17 – PNR/NMRA First Division's Fall 2015 Mini-Meet** will be held on Saturday in Eugene, at the Gainsborough Clubhouse, 2555 Lansdown Rd. Lansdown Rd is off Irving, between River Rd and Northwest Expressway. It is just north of the Randy Pape Beltline. Gainsborough is a gated community. The gate will open at 8 AM. Refreshments will be available at the meeting, and the program will begin at 9 AM. A model contest will be held, and you are encouraged to bring models for AP Merit Award evaluation. For AP evaluation, contact Glenn Edmison in advance. We anticipate having several interesting clinics. We will take orders for deli sandwich lunches for on-site lunch. Local layouts will also be open for participants. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Info: <http://pnr.nmra.org/1div/>

**Oct 7 -11 – Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society Annual Convention “150 Years of Southern Pacific”** in Sacramento, Calif. The Society's Annual Convention will celebrate the 150 year

anniversary of Southern Pacific's rich legacy since the corporation's founding in 1865. The Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento will host this anniversary convention to accommodate historical presentations, over 30 vendors, a model contest, old timer's panel, and much more. Info: <http://www.sphts.org/convention/>

**Nov 28-29 – Rogue Valley Railroad Show**, Medford Armory, 1701 S. Pacific Hwy. Model railroad displays, exhibits, swap meet, door prizes, raffles and more. Saturday 10 – 5 and Sunday 10 – 4. Info: RVRR Show, PO Box 8065, Medford OR 97501 or Bruce [iwcr@charter.net](mailto:iwcr@charter.net)

**Dec 5 – Railroad Show and Swap Meet** by the Willamette Valley Model Railroad, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Ore. 9:30 – 2:30. Info: Judy 503-581-6071 or [macinnej@msn.com](mailto:macinnej@msn.com) and check out <http://wvmrm.webs.com/> .

**Quotes Appearing in Books and Newspapers:**

"*On which side of the platform is my train?*" asked a stranger in a Jersey City depot the other day.

"*Well, my friend,*" replied a gentleman, passing, "*if you take the left you'll be right; if you take the right you'll be left.*" -- *Weekly Mountaineer*, The Dales, Oregon, January 6, 1877

Two drunks were walking down a New York City street when one fell down the subway steps. When he got back up top he told his drinking partner, "...boy you got to see that guy's train set in the basement!"