



The Passing Track

Nov - Dec 2015

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

NMRA Nation Convention

The NMRA held their National convention in Portland Oregon, Aug 23-29. Several members attended the convention and another group went up to attend the National Train Show (Aug 28-30)

Color Codes for Switch Stands

Currently, most of the manual control switch stands have color codes on their handles which indicate the state (position) of the turnout/switch. The 'nob' on the end of the handle which you flip to change the switch position is painted one color on one side and another on the 'flip' side. In most cases Green showing indicates the switch is set for the 'Main', while red indicates the switch is set for the diverging route. In some cases Yellow is used to indicate the 'through' route when it is not the Main. There are some exceptions and omissions, so it has been suggested that a consistent set of color rules be adopted. The following is a PROPOSED set of rules. It is intended to start the discussion. A future Passing Track will contain the adopted set of color rules

Proposed set of color rules. The color indicates the route the switch/turnout is set for

<u>Color</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Green	Main	
Yellow	Siding	Siding
Red	Stub	
White	A crossover is set for the crossover position Both switches in a crossover must display white for the crossover to be set correctly	

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). 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. We should make this the subject for a presentation at a monthly meeting.

FYI

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

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

General and Board Meeting 3rd 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

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 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!"