



## The Passing Track

Jan-Feb 2016

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

### - Medford Railroad Show -

The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club is one of the four clubs at Railroad Park that organize the annual Holiday Railroad Show, which is held at the Medford Armory on Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving. The club sets up a modular layout and operates trains during the two day show. It is a way to showcase the hobby to the public and is also an important fund raiser. This year's attendance was 4000+. Thanks to the crew that setup, operated and took down the layout, over that 3 day period.



## - RVMRC Holiday Party -

The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club held it's holiday party on Friday, December 11, 2015 at Elmers in Medford. The dinner was well attended with over 20 people in attendance. Our White Elephant Gift Exchange was great fun, as usual. Thanks to Jay for organizing it this year.

## - Modeler of the Year -



This year's Modeler of the year has made many contributions to the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club since becoming a member a few years ago. He suggested and did most of the work on a card based system to describe and track the club's rolling stock and motive power. He has also spent many hours improving the scenery in White City. His crowning achievement is the Lumber Products 'blue' building, which he designed and scratch built. The 2015 modeler of the year is Phil Hunter. Congratulations Phil!

## - Color Codes for Switch Stands -

There are many manually thrown switches on the P&E. The handle used 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 the proposed set of colors. The board will make the final decision.

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	No outlet on other end
White	A crossover is set for the crossover position	Both switches in a crossover must display white for the crossover to be set correctly

## - Library Display -

Member Bruce McGarvey prepared and set up a display at the Medford Jackson County Library showing the many facets of model railroad hobby. The display is on view for the months of Nov - Dec and January in the main entry hallway



## - Reporting Broken or Faulty Equipment -

Recently, a couple of Digitrax Throttles have been turned in with blue tape on them stating “Broken?” or “Bad”. While it is appreciated that someone took the effort to put the tape on the throttle and wrote that it was faulty, it is not very helpful. We need to know what is broken or what type of behavior the throttle exhibited. For example: “throttle would not allow me to consist locomotives. All other single engine functions seem to work.”; “Throttle will not turn on properly. Screen stays blank and green leds flash. No control of locomotive is possible.” This type of information is needed by the club member who corrects a problem (reset, broken wire, etc.) or contacts Digitrax to discuss whether the item needs to be returned or not. In most cases it has been possible for us to return the item to service without sending it back to the factory. [Sending it back costs the club about \$40.] The club has a “Bad Order Form” which is used to identify and describe problems with the layout and its equipment. They are red forms which are located on the bulletin board. Please use the forms and attach them to the item. If it is a faulty switch or trackwork, place the form next to the area that needs attention. Also tell ED on or one of the board members. The information on the form is summarized below:

### **Bad Order Form**

Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Originated \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Filed By \_\_\_\_\_  
**Reporting Marks or Layout Location :** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Description of Problem**  
**Repair or Corrective Action**

## **- Training Sessions & Workshops -**

We will be offering some training sessions this Winter and Spring. We are still trying to fill out the program. The next session will be on Basic Airbrushing Techniques. It tentatively set for March 19, starting at 10:00. Bring a car you would like to weather.\

### Possible Future Topics

- How to fine tune a DCC sound decoder
- The basics of scenery and tree making
- Train Operations Using SwithLists and yard reports

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

## **- Obituary -**

### **Art McKee**

Art McKee, a longtime resident of the Rogue Valley and member of the RVMRC and the SORHS passed away December 10, 2015, at Magnolia House Foster Care in Grants Pass, OR. He was born Jan 9, 1929, to Arthur and Mary (Zelter) McKee in Clearfield, PA. He attended high school in Niagra Falls, NY and NY State College of Forestry at Syracuse Univ., graduating in 1952. He had served in the army from 1946 - 1948.

Art spent his working career years working for the US Forestry Service at John Day, Union Creek and Prospect, OR. He had a variety of interests including building model railroads, photography, canoeing and hiking and had traveled to all 50 states.

## **- 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

## **- RAILROAD TIME CARD -**

### **Overview of activities for 2106**

**Mar 12 - Willamette Model Railroad Club Swap Meet**, Camp Withycombe Armory 15300 SE Minuteman Way, Clackamas OR 97015. Saturday, 9:30 to 3:00; Admission \$5, children under 12 free. Info: Keith Kieres 503-723-7323

**Mar 19 – WINTERAIL 2016**, Railroad Photography Exposition & Railroadiana Show, Corvallis High School Theatre, 1400 NW Buchanan Ave., Corvallis, OR. Info: <http://www.winterail.com/home.html>

**Apr 9 – 10 - Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap Meet & Train Show**, Lane Events Center Expo Hall, 796 W 13<sup>th</sup> Ave., Eugene, Ore. Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 3 PM. Info: Lee Temple 541-954-4917 [ttandt@ram-mail.com](mailto:ttandt@ram-mail.com)

**Apr 23 - PNR/NMRA First Division's Spring 2016 Mini-Meet** will be held on Saturday in Eugene, at the Gainsborough Clubhouse, 2555 Lansdown Road. Lansdown Road is off Irving, between River Road and Northwest Expressway. It is just north of the Randy Pape Beltline. Gainsborough is a gated community. The gate will open at 9 AM. Refreshments will be available at the meeting, and the program will begin at 10 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 lunch orders for an 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/> Location at Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/2555+Lansdown+Rd,+Eugene,+OR+97404/@44.1020314,-123.1556423,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x54c11d6c055ca743:0xfab251666c60c6d2?hl=en>

**Sept 21-24 – Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society Annual Convention** in Palm Springs, California. Info: <http://www.sphts.org/convention/>

**Fall– PNR/NMRA First Division's Fall 2016 Mini-Meet** will be held on Saturday in Bend, Time and place to be announced.

**Fall - 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: 541-317-1545, <http://www.ecmrr.org/>

**Nov 26-27 – 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 [iwccr@charter.net](mailto:iwccr@charter.net)

**Dec – 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/> .



*An interesting passenger car, aka bridge.*

*Editor: Ron Harten  
Email [sprucerr@earthlink.net](mailto:sprucerr@earthlink.net)*