

36th ROGUE VALLEY RAILROAD SHOW — THANKSGIVING WEEKEND — MEDFORD, OREGON

Over 3,900 visitors celebrated the start of the Christmas holiday season by attending the Rogue Valley Railroad Show, a tradition celebrating 36 years of enjoying the railroad hobby. This year's show was held November 30th and December 1st, 2013, inside the National Guard Armory in Medford, Oregon.



Twenty-two exhibitors highlighted everything including operating model railroads of all scales, historical railroad artifacts, full-size railroad equipment and the railroad's Operation Life Saver trailer. If there was a particular size of model train you liked, it could be found operating somewhere on the exhibition floor.

All five of the railroad clubs making up the City of Medford Railroad Park had exhibits at the show.

They are the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club (RVMRC), the Medford Garden Railroaders, the Southern Oregon Chapter - National Railroad Historical Society, the Morse Telegraph Club, and the Southern Oregon Live Steamers.

The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club operated a large HO-scale layout that represented railroad operations here in the Rogue Valley plus a smaller layout designed especially for kids of all ages to operate. The fast moving G-scale layout of the Medford Garden Railroaders, complete with RC helicopters, entertained many. Members of the Morse Telegraph Club were on hand to transmit free messages for any visitor between their two telegraph stations. The Southern Oregon Chapter-NRHS had a photo display explaining the rich history of railroads in the Rogue Valley. In addition to "Thomas", the Southern Oregon Live Steamers displayed two large locomotives that operate at the Railroad Park.

The smaller gauges of model railroad were well represented at the show. Vince Moscaritolo's LEGO Train City layout provided lots of fast train action. Visitors also had two places to operate model trains for themselves. Our show's public HO-scale layout (RVMRC) was often the first time many of the children were able to operate a model train. For the more daring visitor they could try their skills by efficiently



switching trains on Art McKee's O-scale "Switching Puzzle" layout. This year's Peoples' Choice award winner was the White City Model Railroad Club, with their scenic N-scale layout. The RVMRC received a second place and the LEGO layout was third – all well-deserved awards!

Other exhibitors this year were the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, the Jacksonville Museum Quilters, Richard Houston's Sleepy Hollow Railway (18" narrow gauge), Syd Stoner's full-size Fairmont MT14 motorcar, and the Lower McKenzie Modular Railroad from



Springfield, Oregon, also crowd favorites. "Thomas" was ever present with Alvin Havel's operating G-scale layout. Matt Bruff and son, Jacob's, operating N-scale layout built on a hollow core door shows how one can have fun in a small space.

The Rogue Valley Genealogy Library exhibit addressed the migration of early settlers across the nation and methods to find our railroad employees' retirement records through the Railroad Retirement Board and other resources. Family history stories were common topics for all.

Author Scott Mangold was on hand with his newly released book "Tragedy at Southern Oregon Tunnel 13: DeAutremonts Hold Up the Southern Pacific", with pen in hand to autograph your book.

The Rogue Valley is special in that it has three internationally known and respected model railroad manufacturing plants here: KADEE Quality Products (White City), Micro-Trains Lines (Talent), and Campbell Scale Models (Central Point), all

featuring displays of their popular products – all made in the USA.

Another popular feature of each year's show are the many vendors (30) selling everything from railroad T-shirts, books, model trains, videos, model railroad tools, to display cases, and so on.

Hourly door prizes are awarded to visitors, and our very



popular raffle drawings featured over 40 items as prizes. Our raffle is special in that you get to choose the prizes you would hope to win.

All proceeds from our annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show go directly to support the five railroad clubs at the City of Medford Railroad Park— uniquely the only railroad park in the U.S. operated by five different railroad clubs providing for a free Sunday outing and train rides.

Next year's Annual Railroad Show is November 29 – 30, 2014