

The Passing Track

January 2013

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Train Show

Over 3,800 visitors celebrated the start of the Christmas holiday season by attending the Rogue Valley Railroad Show, a tradition celebrating 35 years of enjoying the railroad hobby. This year's show was held November 24th and 25th, 2012, inside the National Guard Armory in Medford, Oregon.

Twenty-one exhibitors highlighted everything from operating model railroads of all scales, historical railroad artifacts, to full-size railroad equipment. If there was a particular size of model train you liked, it could be found operating somewhere on the exhibition floor. One of the favorites for small children was the opportunity to see "Thomas", the Southern Oregon Live Steamers locomotive.

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, the Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains, the Southern Oregon Chapter - National Railroad Historical Society, the Morse Telegraph Club, and the Southern Oregon Live Steamers.



The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club (RVMRC) 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 exciting G-scale layout of the Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains club was in operation and 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 displayed a large selection of railroad tools, supplies, and photo display boards explaining the rich history of railroads in the Rogue Valley plus SOHS. In a joint display with NRHS and the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, the Southern Oregon Historical Society's (SOHS) traveling exhibit was on display. "Rhythm of the Rails: The Golden Age of Railroad in Jackson County, 1890-1926" explores the exciting time of the railroad's advent in Jackson County to the completion of the Natron Cutoff in 1926.





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. This year's Peoples' Choice award winner, Gary Johnston of Central point, fascinated everyone with a variety of seasonal scenery – white winterized slopes to green forested mountains.

Vince Moscaritolo's LEGO Train City layout (2nd place Peoples' Choice) provided lots of fast train action. Visitors also had two places to operate model trains for themselves.

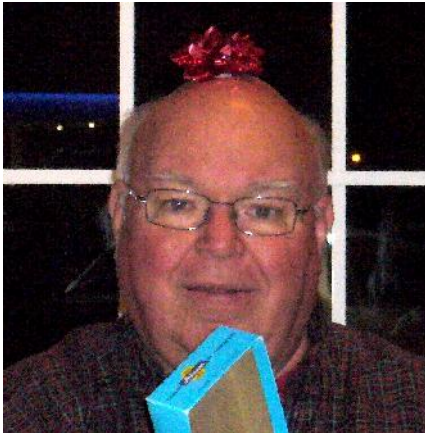
Our show's public HO-scale layout (RVMRC) was often the first time many of the children were able to operate a model train. For the more daring visitor they could try their skills by efficiently

switching trains on Art McKee's O-scale "Switching Puzzle" layout.

For those who associate celebrating the Christmas season with O-scale and S-scale trains, several layouts were devoted to this activity - the Siskiyou Toy Train Club had a loop of Lionel trains running and Bill Meyer's American Flyer looped around the Christmas tree. Large crowds of children (and adults) spent a lot of time watching these trains go around and around.

Other exhibitors this year were the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, the Jacksonville Museum Quilters, Richard Houston's Sleepy Hollow Railway, Syd Stoner's full-size Fairmont MT14 motorcar, Shaun Anscombe's "Dunster" Great Western R/W OO-scale British layout, and the Lower McKenzie Modular Railroad Club from Springfield, Oregon, also crowd favorites.

Holiday Party



The 2012 RVMRC Holiday Party took place on Friday December 14 at Elmer's Restaurant in Medford. There was a good turnout with 19 people in attendance. It was a good opportunity to meet the members and their spouses. Some members really got into the holiday spirit. Decorations and ALL.

The 'white elephant' exchange was interesting, as usual. One of the more unusual items in the exchange was a 'unit train' or 'all in one'. This was a carefully built custom unit. There was considerable discussion at the dinner as to whether the unit would make it up the helix and how we could work it into the ops sessions. But first it had to pass the standards committee inspection! We have a feeling that we will see more of this unit in the future.



Modeler of the Year 2012

There is no disguising who our 2012 Modeler of the Year is once the descriptions of his good deeds begin. So, without further mystery, the 2012 Modeler of the Year is Bruce Kelly. Bruce was energetic the minute he arrived at the Club. Bruce literally took us by storm when after only a few months in the Club, such that the famous line from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid was invoked..."who is that guy"? In short order Bruce created the photo book for scenery ideas, a photo directory for the management of the DCC system, and took over toward completing the scenery at the Cascade Summit and Keno. The impact of having those two areas scenicked for the 2012 public open house season was staggering, to say the least. Bruce was very, very active at every club event and work-day (and non-work days...we think that he bunked the night in the shed) until he made the unwise (our opinion) move to come out of retirement. All kidding aside, Bruce's dedication was extraordinary and the resulting effort had a well-deserved impact. Bruce also provides good leadership, and the Club recognizing his potential, made him Club President. The choice for modeler of the year for 2012 was clear. Congratulations, Bruce!



Model in the Spotlight

This issue's model in the spotlight is the logging region at Summit. This area contains the main logging area on the P&E layout. From the floor level, it looks like a single track rising to a loop around the summit (see Figure 1). In fact the area has several sidings and switchbacks. The track diagram of the area is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 1 The Logging Region at Summit

If you look at the region in detail several things are quite noticeable: The rich texture of the ground cover, the attention to detail; the framing of several mini-scenes which draw your eye and the large number of trees in the area.

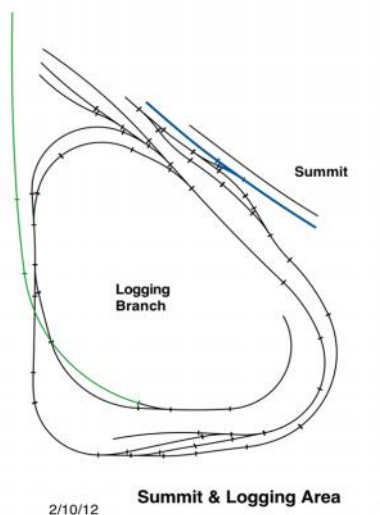


Figure 2 Track Plan for Logging Region

When Bruce began, the summit area had a basic scenery cover of ground foam and some trees, primarily at the lower elevations. The focus had been along the main line, namely the areas around the tunnel entrance and the interchange at Summit. The track in the logging area was not completely installed and the basic shape of the scene did not have the detailed features. Bruce spent many hours discussing the details that should be included in the area with other club members, several of whom worked for the Forest Service or in the lumber industry. These discussions resulted in changes in the general shape of the top of the hill, the inclusion of gullies and changes in slope to better show off the detailed ground cover in the logged areas.

Examples of the rich texture of the ground cover in the logged areas can be seen in Figure 3 and Figure 4. The amount of ground 'litter' is typical of the slash found in regions where trees have recently been felled and prepared for transport. To achieve this effect, the scenery was laid down in several layers using natural materials

gathered by club members. Bruce tried different techniques and materials before he found the combination that 'looked right'. Another element of his approach to the area was to incorporate several focus areas or mini-scenes. Figures 1, 5 and 6 show the mini-scenes that were used to focus the viewers attention and to break up the region. The elements in each scene include a central element such as a trestle, ravine or hill-top with the

surrounding scenery crafted to draw attention to it. The regions between the mini-scenes are less detailed and consist mainly of trees. The whole area seems much larger, due to Bruce's use of forced perspective. To achieve this he made the scenic elements in the background and at the higher elevations progressively smaller. As a result, the scenes and region as a whole, look much deeper than they actually are.



Figure 3 Recently Cut Area



Figure 4 Extensive 'slash' in the logged area add texture to the scene



Figure 5 Mini-Scene at Summit



Figure 6 Mini-Scene at Logging Hill Top

The ravine at Summit is a good example of a mini-scene that draws the eye to it and adds depth to the area. The use of smaller scenic elements in the rear and further up the slope makes the scene seem much deeper than it actually is. The scene at the hill top is also quite detailed; however, one must climb up to the logging access area to appreciate it. Bruce did an excellent job of bringing the quality of the scenery to a higher level and challenges the other members to meet the standard.

Donation

The club recently received 19 boxes of model railroad supplies and rolling stock from Bill Harris of Eugene. Bill, a retired professor at Univ. of Oregon, is moving to Medford to be closer to his family. Included in the donated material were 168 pieces of rolling stock. Most are from the 1910 – 1925 era. There are 46 billboard refers which could make a great train for Sunday open houses running behind a steam engine. The club wishes to thank Bill for his donation and we look forward to seeing him down at the club when he moves to Medford.

Railroad Time Card

Looking ahead:

Jan 11th – “*The Crime of the Deautremonts*”, film and discussion with director – Tom Olsen. Second Friday

Ashland Historic Railroad Museum program at the Ashland Public Library’s Gresham Room. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

Jan 19th – SP&S Railway Historical Society Swap Meet, Holiday Inn, Portland Airport. 10 AM – 3 PM. Info Bruce Barney, 503-257-8855, bcbarney@msn.com, <http://www.spshts.org/>

Feb 8th – “*Chinese New Year of the Snake*”, Victoria Law. Second Friday Ashland Historic Railroad Museum program at the Ashland Public Library’s Gresham Room. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

Mar 8th – “*Shasta Division Railroad*”, Bruce Petty. Second Friday Ashland Historic Railroad Museum program at the Ashland Public Library’s Gresham Room. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

Mar 9th – Willamette Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, Kleiver Armory, Portland, Ore. Info: 503-723-7323 or wmrswapmeet@yahoo.com

Mar 23rd – 1st Division PNR Mini-Meet, Eugene, Ore. Details TBA. Check in on <http://pnr.nmra.org/1div/>

Apr 4-6 – ESPEE in Oregon Convention, Clackamas, Ore. Info: <http://espee-in-oregon.com/>

Apr 12th – “*Honored Rest: When Young Boys go to War*”, by Bill Miller. Second Friday Ashland Historic Railroad Museum program at the Ashland Public Library’s Gresham Room. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

Apr 13-14 – 25th Annual Model Railroad Swap Meet & Train Show, Willamette Cascade Model RR Club, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Ore. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Info: Lee & Diane Temple, 541-954-4917 or 541-225-7394, ttanddt@ram-mail.com

May 10th – “*Pedaling History: Women & Bicycles in Jackson*” by Amy Drake, SOHS. Second Friday Ashland Historic Railroad Museum program at the Ashland Public Library’s Gresham Room. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

May 11th – National Train Day, Ashland Historic Railroad Museum events TBA. Info: <http://www.nationaltrainday.com/about/>

National Train Day marks the 143rd anniversary of the creation of the nation's first transcontinental railroad. On May 10, 1869, in Promontory Summit, Utah, the 'golden spike' was driven into the final tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways, forever transforming the face and character of America.

June – Dunsmuir Railroad Days 2013 – TBA Info: <http://www.dunsmuirrailroaddays.org/>

Jun 26 – 30 – Snake River Special, PNR/NMRA Regional Convention, the Boise Hotel and Conference Center, Boise, ID. Info: <http://pnr.nmra.org/3div/2013.html>

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2013 World’s Greatest Hobby on Tour in Sacramento, CA, February 23 – 24, 2013. <http://www.wghshow.com/>

2013 PNR/NMRA Regional Convention in Boise, Idaho, June 26 - 30, 2013. <http://pnr.nmra.org/3div/2013.html>

2015 NMRA National Convention in Portland, Oregon, August 23 – 30, 2015. <http://www.nmra2015portland.org/>