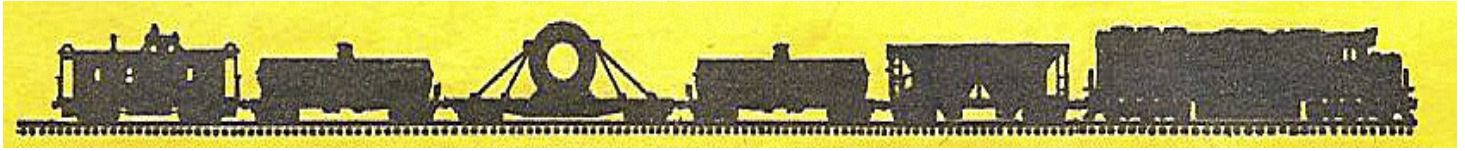


# The Brakeman's Rag

Division 1, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA

January 1 2013



Contact Editor at E-mail [gedmison@aol.com](mailto:gedmison@aol.com)

## Superintendent's Report:

(No message from Superintendent Dirk Kruysman at this time)



## Minutes of Division 1 Board Meeting September 15, 2012.

Board Meeting, First Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM on September 15, 2012 at the East Bend branch of the Deschutes Public Library.

In attendance were Gene Neville, Bill Howell, Glenn Edmison, Chris Jones Rick Pitter, and Nick Lehrbach.

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented by e-mail was made by Glenn, seconded by Bill and approved.

New Business: Committee reports

Education; Rich Pitter needs a list of possible clinicians for a series on making trees, "make & take" clinic

Contest; Chris Jones needs ribbons for awards. He was told to purchase some.

Website; Bill Howell needs input for the website.

Brakeman Rag; Glenn would like to be replaced as editor in the near future.

Power Point Projector; Rich Pitter would like more time to look into the possible purchase or rent of a projector. The discussion was tables until a later date.

Tunnel Country Grant; After discussion of the amount of the award, a motion was made by Gene to give \$260.00 to the Ochoco Valley Railroad, LLC. A second was made by Bill and the motion was approved.

The next mini-meet date and location was discussed. Rich Pitter would like to hold it in Eugene at the facility he lives in during May, 2013. A meeting in Roseburg was also suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully, *Nick Lehrbach* Secretary



## Contest Master's Report:

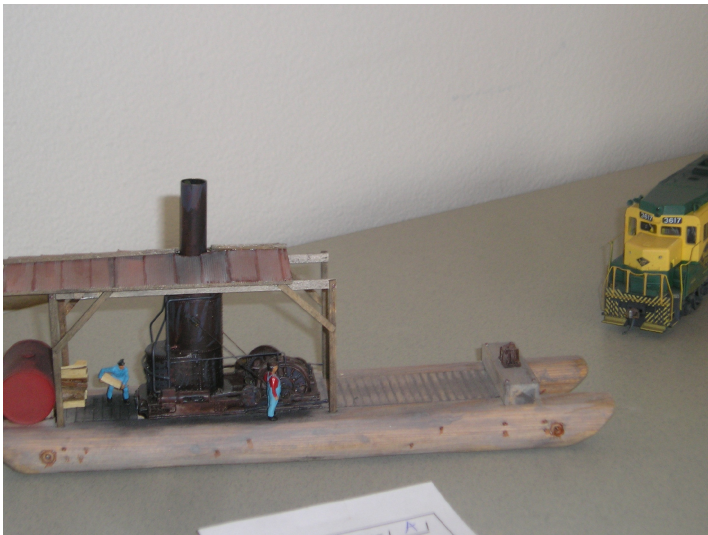
Christopher Jones reports the following winners from the Favorite Model Exhibit and Voting:



*Locomotive - Larry Hanlon*



*Rolling Stock - Gene Neville*



*Miscellaneous and Overall Favorite Model-  
Nick Lehrbach*

## The Clinics



*Bill Howell Clinic  
Digitrax Programming*



*Rich Pitter Clinic  
Creative Detailing*

## Opportunity for Service to Division 1

Your editor of *The Brakeman's Rag* is wanting to retire from that position. After five plus years, Glenn Edmison is wanting to move on to other challenges. Consider this an invitation for you to volunteer to be of service to your fellow model railroaders.

The position requires computer expertise for creating the copy, and connection to the internet for electronic publication. Familiarity with a word processor program is vital. Acquaintance with MicroSoft Publisher or some other such formatting program would be an advantage.

Points are rewarded towards the Achievement Program *Association Volunteer Certificate*, and accumulate rather quickly at one point per month..For more information on this, see the NMRA webpage, under the Achievement Program.

The news letter has been published as a quarterly, (December, April, June, September) with special editions added, as needed. It is typically 8 or more pages, and is released as an electronic version to those with E-mail, and as hard copy to those without E-mail. Content usually includes a Superintendent's Report, minutes of the meetings of the board of directors, information about coming Division wide mini-meets, and other coming events in Division 1. PNR, and news from clubs of the Division. Winners of division modeling contests as well as in regional activities are a regular feature. An effort has been made to include other items of general interest to the membership., Past editions are archived on the Division 1 web page See <http://pnr.nmra.org/1div/> Help in getting started is offered, so someone picking up the reins would not have to "reinvent the wheel"

Persons interested in becoming editor should contact Division 1 Superintendent, Dirk Kruysman at this address: [dutchdirk@charter.net](mailto:dutchdirk@charter.net)

## Spring Mini-meet Date Set

Our next mini-meet will be in Eugene on Saturday, 23 March 2013. *Mark your calendar now.* The schedule includes a full slate of clinics in the morning. The Lane Society of MRR layout in Junction City should be available for viewing in March and there is a possibility that an N-Scale modular layout will also be available.. Mike Adams – should tell you of the availability The Board of Directors will meet after the clinics. The clubhouse is at 2555 Lansdown Road, and it has parking on three sides. Additional parking is available on the streets.

### Directions to March 23, 2013 Mini-Meet in Eugene:

The Mini-Meet will be held in the **Gainsborough Clubhouse, 2555 Lansdown Road, Eugene** Gainsborough is a gated 55-Plus community. The gate will be open for our event. Parking is available along three sides of the clubhouse.

#### From I-5 points north or south:

Take Exit 195B for OR 569/Randy Pape Beltline westbound

Take Northwest Expressway exit

Turn right onto Northwest Expressway

Take first right onto Irving Road

Take second right onto Lansdown Road

2555 Lansdown Road will be two blocks on left.

#### From Junction City:

Take OR 99 southbound toward Eugene

Turn left onto Irving Road

After about 1 mile, turn right onto Lansdown Road

2555 Lansdown Road will be two blocks on left.

#### From Oregon Coast:

From US 101, go east on OR 126 toward Eugene

Turn left on OR 569/Randy Pape Beltline eastbound

Take Northwest Expressway exit

Turn right onto Northwest Expressway

At first signal, take right onto Irving Road

Take second right onto Lansdown Road

2555 Lansdown Road will be two blocks on left.

For more information, contact Rich Pitter at : [richpitter@aol.com](mailto:richpitter@aol.com) or 541-636-3833.



**March 23, 2013 Mini-Meet**  
**2555 Lansdown Rd., Eugene, OR**  
**TREES! TREES! TREES!**

By Rich Pitter, Division 1 Education Chair

Contact Info:

Email: [richpitter@aol.com](mailto:richpitter@aol.com)

Phone: 541-636-3833

Mail: 2430 Northampton, Eugene, OR 97404

We are going to try a different and likely fun program at our Spring Mini-Meet, so we really need Division 1 Members to come to the mini-meet willing to share and learn about tree-making.

One of the great things about the NMRA is that members—sometimes meeting one another for the first time—can share their model railroading experiences and techniques. This happens at Region and National Convention clinics, of course, but it also happens at Division mini-meets. The concept is simple. In principle: everyone can learn something new, and everyone with experience, however slight, can also be a teacher. And, by interacting, people can also come up with new ways of doing things. Tree making is a great focus to put this concept to work.

As your Education Chair, I am looking for some modelers who would like to share their experiences at tree making to lead the clinics. Please contact me by phone, email, or mail. I'll work with clinicians to ensure that we don't have several people making, say, popsicle stick trees. I'm also looking for modelers who have trees they've made, but who are shy about presenting a clinic. If you've built a tree, please volunteer. And, if you have never built a scale model tree, come prepared to learn several ways to build trees.

I also hope people spontaneously initiate more interactions with one another—exchanging ideas, learning different ways that people build similar types of trees, and so forth. So, after the clinics, we'll have a session of “**Make & Take**” tree making. We expect to have up to a dozen tree-making stations for mini-meet attendees to visit. For this to happen, we need people to volunteer as clinicians or tree-builders.

For planning purposes, I would like clinicians and tree-builders to volunteer as soon as possible—**by January 7** so we can do detail planning. If you belong to a model railroad club, invite your club's tree-builders to volunteer (they don't have to join NMRA to give a clinic). Again, I'll work with all the volunteers to make sure that everyone has something significant to present. I'll also work with volunteers so we can acquire the tree-making supplies necessary for attendees can try different methods and take home some trees they've built.

The clubhouse at 2555 Lansdown Rd., Eugene, can hold 180 people and has enough tables and chairs for our meeting, including tree-building stations. There is ample space for parking at or near the clubhouse. We'll have coffee and pastries available for donations, and we'll have handouts to help attendees to find over a dozen lunch restaurants within about two miles.

For a seasonal greeting all should enjoy, please click on the the following:

<http://www.openmyeyeslord.net/Train%20Ride.swf>

## On track for Fun

Model Railroad Running Smoothly on New Layout at Adair Villiage



Jerry Boudreaux with the Corvallis Society of Model Railroad Engineers blows the horn on a model train during a demonstration at the clubs new HO scale train layout on Tuesday afternoon at their clubhouse in Adair Villiage.



Corvallis Gazette-Times 11-21-2012

Model trains are humming and whistling along the tracks in Adair Villiage once again.

Eleven months after members of the Corvallis Society of Model Railroad Engineers demolished their popular model layout, a new one is up and running at the club's head-quarters at 7155 Vandenburg Ave. In Adair Villiage.

The previous layout – which dated to 1971 and drew thousands of visitors each year – was torn down in January make way for an updated one that was more user friendly.

The Corvallis Society of Model Railroad Engineers is an HO Scale model railroad club. Trhe HO scale \ originally got its name from a German phrase and refers to a train that is one -87<sup>th</sup> the size of its real counterpart. The HO scale is the most popular scale of model railroading in the United Sttes. The local club has 36 members.

The new layout is funtional just in time for the club's annual open house event scheduled for the next two weekends.

“The focus of this track is the rail line from Toledo to Albany” said CSMRC member Jerry Boudreaux “The previous one featured a European town look.”

The rail line also features model views of Corvallis and Philomath, as well as smalle communities such as Blodgett and Nashville. Plans call for distinctive ladmarks or buildings at each stop. For example, Corvallkis fatures the Bailey Branch, a short line railroad south of town.



to



Features of the new railroad include:

More track – The new track layout is 406 feet; the old layout had 385 feet.

Up-to-date technology – Club members said this will allow more trains to be run at the same time and decrease the number of trains that derail.

An open layout – Trains will be more visible and not hidden by walls or tunnels. It will be easier for club members and visitors to walk alongside the running trains.

Improvements also were made to the building that houses the layout, such as an updated electrical system, new lighting, an interior paint job and new insulation and sheet rock.

Longtime CSMRC member Gene Neville said that he's excited about the technology upgrades. He has been a member of the club since the 1970's.

“The old layout was a maintenance nightmare,” Neville said. “Everything was ancient. You spent a lot of time fixing things.”

Plenty of work remains on the new layout. Club members have spent about 3,500 hours working on the project so far. Most of their remaining work will involve completing the scenery. “We are hoping to finish in another year,” Boudreaux said. “I wouldn't be surprised if we put in about 20,000 hours. It's a lot of work to build one of this stuff.”

One of the new additions to the layout that's already done is a drive-in theater. It's one of the first things that greet people who visit the club's headquarters.

Corvallis Society of Model Railroad Engineers member Lyle Fries set up a small DVD player screen to look like a drive-in screen and then surrounded it with a parking lot and cars. Fittingly, the DVD player will be playing scenes from the original film “*3:10 to Yuma*” which features an old Western railroad trip.

As for the cow getting abducted by a Unidentified Flying Object – a widely popular feature of the old layout – Boudreaux said that one is likely a keeper.

“I'm guessing that it will be back by popular demand,” he said. “I don't know where it would go yet, but I bet that's the first thing people will ask about. People love that cow”.



Photos by Rob Kerr / The Bulletin

Michael Lavrich operates his trains to a full house Friday morning. Rushing to get set up right up to the 10 a.m. opening, he still had to figure out a shorted section of track. The former kindergarten teacher was not disrupted by children sneaking touches and being only inches from the heavy trains.

# Train Man delivers joy to children

Let's be clear: Yes, Michael Lavrich has a long white beard and wire-rimmed glasses.

And yes, this time of year he works furiously in a massive, unpaid effort to delight children.

But he's not Santa Claus. He's the Train Man.

For the last 12 years or so, around Christmas, the retired kindergarten teacher shows off his model train collection in the Brooks Room of the Downtown Bend Public Library.

The free event draws everyone from fellow train collectors to tots who can barely say "choo-choo."

Lavrich grew up in Lawrenceburg, Ind. When his parents went out, he'd join his grandfather, who worked as a "night hostler" in a rail yard. They'd

LILY RAFF  
MCCAULOU



shovel coal into steam engines and fill boilers with water.

"My parents just went to some boring movie," he said. "I definitely got the better end of the deal."

Lavrich, who is 66, encountered model trains the way many children did in the 1950s.

"When you got old enough, you found a train set under your tree one Christmas morning," he said. "And you got a new car or two each year until you were a teenager, and your interests moved on."

Shortly before he turned 50, a visit to the California State Railroad Museum reignited his interest. He recalls the moment as "kind of a mid-life crisis." On the second floor of the museum, a display of standard gauge — a reference to the 2 1/8-inch-wide track — trains captivated him.

"I figured, Well, that's just another thing I'll never have time to do," he said.

Then, a friend invited Lavrich to a train swap meet, where a standard gauge train set happened to be for sale.

Lavrich hid in a corner of the room and flipped through a book to research the set's value. Then he peeked at his checkbook.





Ian MacSween, 3, was one of the first children to visit the train display Friday at the Downtown Bend Public Library.



Michael Lavrich unpacks a box of figurines as he sets up his train display.

## Train

Continued from B1

He kept the purchase a secret until Christmas, when he woke up at 2 a.m. and assembled the train around his family's tree.

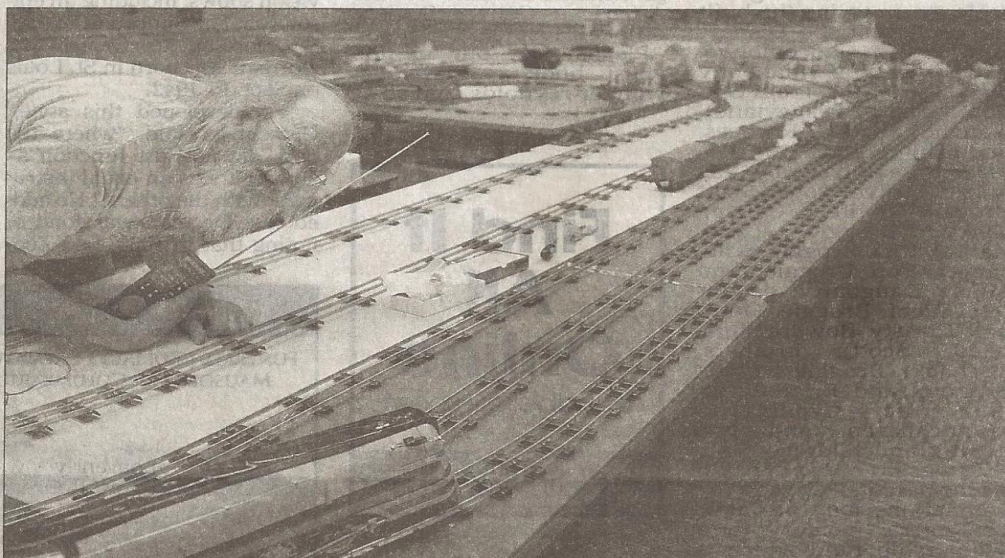
His wife and kids were delighted, and the rest is history. Literally. Some of the trains Lavrich has since collected are 100 years old.

Originally, model trains were built to chug around Victorian parlors, as much status symbol as toy. In the 1930s, a train set cost \$75 — equal to roughly \$1,200 today.

En masse, there's nothing miniature about Lavrich's collection. In fact, the library is the only place he has room to run his trains each year. The rest of the time, the items are boxed and stacked in a closet.

He makes at least half a dozen car trips between his home and the library, to transport 60 full-sized apple boxes of trains and gear. Setting up more than 400 feet of track for six moving trains is no small feat.

Once assembled, the tracks swirl around an irregular cluster of tables borrowed from the library, a nearby church and the library administration building. Each year, before he breaks down the display, Lavrich



Rob Kerr / The Bulletin

Michael Lavrich deals with a train with a detached wheel. It had to be repaired at his home.

ich draws a map of which tables go where, carefully noting the distance between the edge of each table and the walls.

Lavrich says his annual event has altered his goals as a collector. Eight years ago, he was seeking rare European models. Now, he's on the lookout for bright, flashy components, preferably with lights.

"Just things that kids would love," he says.

To help bridge the gap between these old-fashioned toys and the young children who gawk at them, Lavrich hides figurines of modern cartoon characters, such as Mater, from the movie "Cars," or Woody, from "Toy Story," throughout the display.

The trains will run today from noon to 5 p.m.; Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2-5 p.m., and 6-8 p.m.; and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. Lavrich schedules breaks to eat, rest and, if needed, repair the trains. After all, he's not Santa Claus.

— Columnist: 541-617-7836, [lraff@bendbulletin.com](mailto:lraff@bendbulletin.com)



*Happy Holidays to All*

## Model Railroader's Time Table of Coming Events:

**January 19, 2012 – Portland, Oregon -*Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railway Historical Society Swap Meet***, Holiday Inn at Portland Airport Conference Center, 8439 NE Columbia Blvd., 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. More info Bruce Barney, (503) 257-8855.

**January 24 - 27 2013,– Eugene, Oregon – 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club Train Show**, For more information, contact Lee Temple at [ttandt@ram-mail.com](mailto:ttandt@ram-mail.com)

**February 21-23 -- Eugene, Oregon – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oregon Logging Conference** – Convention Center, Lane County Events Center 796 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**March 9, 2013 – Portland, Oregon – Willamette Model Railroad Club 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap Meet**, Kliever Armory, 1000 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Drive (between Columbia Blvd and Marine drive) 10 am to 3 pm. More info at (503) 723-7323.

**April 13-14, 2013 – Eugene, Oregon – Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap Meet & Train Show** – Lane County Events Center (Lane County Fairgrounds, 796 West 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Expo Hall. 10 am to 5 pm, Admission \$6.00.

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

**August 23 - 30, 2015 - Portland, Oregon. – 2015 NMRA National Convention** – More information: [http:// www.nmra2015portland.org/](http://www.nmra2015portland.org/).

### Division 1 Officers

#### Board Chairman -

**Dirk Kruysman** (541) 673-6341  
E-Mail: [dutchdirk@charter.net](mailto:dutchdirk@charter.net)

#### Chief Clerk -

**Nick Lehrbach** (541) 672-1453  
E-Mail: [lehrbach@rosenet.net](mailto:lehrbach@rosenet.net)

#### Paymaster -

**Dirk Kruysman** (541) 673-6341  
E-Mail: [dutchdirk@charter.net](mailto:dutchdirk@charter.net)

### Division 1 Board of Directors

**Bill Howell** (541) 258-3272

E-Mail: [pbnrr@centurytel.net](mailto:pbnrr@centurytel.net)

**Nick Lehrbach** (541) 672-1453

E-Mail: [lehrbach@rosenet.net](mailto:lehrbach@rosenet.net)

**Dirk Kruysman** (541) 673-6341

E-Mail [dutchdirk@charter.net](mailto:dutchdirk@charter.net)

**Gene Neville** (541)745-5502

E-Mail: [geneneville@earthlink.net](mailto:geneneville@earthlink.net)

**James Dougall** (541) 779-8725

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Glenn Edmison** (541) 617-1110

E-Mail: [gedmison@aol.com](mailto:gedmison@aol.com)

Webmaster: **Bill Howell**

Education Director: **Rich Pitter**

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See Division 1 Web Page at: <http://pnr.nmra.org/1div/>

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