

BRAKEMAN'S RAG

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First Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA

April 2015

First Division Spring Mini-Meet

May 16, 2015 - Coos County Fairgrounds, Myrtle Point

First Division will hold its 2015 spring mini-meet on Saturday, May 16, at the Coos County Fairgrounds in Myrtle Point. The doors will open at 9 AM and the program will start at 10 AM. Coffee and donuts will be available before and during the program.

The program will include door prizes, a "people's choice" model contest, and an opportunity for modelers to bring their models for AP Merit Award evaluations. For APEvaluations, notify Glenn Edmison in advance.

Christopher Jones has a fine program for us. **Jerry Slattery** will share his historic photos of Coos County railroad and other transportation. **Roger Coastmann** of Coastmann's Model Trees will provide an update on his growing manufacturing business, including some new products he has developed. **Marvin Selzer** will describe the interesting sound system on his layout. **Glenn Edmison** will discuss the NMRA's Achievement Program. **Jim Davenport** will talk about easy artistic backdrops. **Bruce Kelly** will describe operations on his Pacific & Eastern RR. **Bruce McGarvey** will present "backdrops with a spray can."

The Model Railroad Layout at the Coos County Fairgrounds Museum is currently being placed back in operating condition for the mini-meet. We look forward to greeting new visitors and invite you to **bring your DCC trains to run.**

Lunch will be offered at the meeting. It will consist of pizza and a drink, available for \$5 at the meet. Other lunch options are available locally.

The Coos County Fairgrounds Museum is located in the fairgrounds, at 7760 4th St., Myrtle Point, OR. From I-5 at Roseburg, you may take Route 42 westbound through Winston. Turn left at the first traffic light in Myrtle Point onto Harris St., Then left at the T junction onto Fourth St. At the fairgrounds, park and go to the first building on the right. From US 101, take Route 42 to Myrtle Point. Turn right onto Harris St. at the second stoplight.

For overnight stays, the Myrtle Trees Motel on Route 42 (1010 8th St.) is close to the fairgrounds. 541-572-5811 or www.myrtletreesmotel.com. Other hotels are available nearby in Coos Bay, North Bend, and Bandon.

Monthly Opportunities

Rich Pitter and Jim Van Delden

Some of our members have expressed their feelings that two mini-meets a year are insufficient to keep their fireboxes adequately stoked. Two people are doing something about it. Rich Pitter of Eugene and Jim Van Delden of Grants Pass are opening their homes to First Division members on a monthly basis. Members of First Division who would like to interact with other First Division members on a more frequent basis should check these out.

Rich has been hosting monthly gatherings since January. The people who attend bring models, tools, and ideas to share with others. There is no advance program; people talk about what they are doing. Partially complete models are welcome. They ask questions and learn how others approach problems. The Eugene group plans to have some hands-on

workshops and field trips in the coming months. The next meeting of the Eugene group is **Saturday, May 9**, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Contact Rich at 541-636-3833 or richpitter@aol.com if you want to be included.

The Grants Pass group is getting started. If you want to participate, contact Jim at 712-301-3957 or genjvan@msn.com for information on dates and time.

These events are not, at the moment, NMRA-sponsored events. Just as some First Division members also belong to local clubs with layouts and other activities that are outside of NMRA activities, Rich and Jim are fostering the creation of local groups of interested model railroaders. Information regarding these groups, like that for local model railroad clubs, will be presented in the *Brakeman's Rag* to inform our members of opportunities, but you will not otherwise be contacted. To find out more, contact Rich or Jim.