

BRAKEMAN'S RAG

Series II, Vol. 4, No 4

First Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA

December 2016



Dirk Kruysman

Dirk Kruysman of Roseburg passed away at home from a heart attack this past August. First Division and Pacific Northwest Region lost a longtime member and tireless leader. According to membership records, he joined NMRA in 1996, although he may have been a member at times before then. Until resigning from his PNR Treasurer position at the June PNR convention in Salmon Arm, BC, in June 2016, Dirk had served the region for a long time. He was the First Division Paymaster and a member of its Board of Directors, and had previously served as Superintendent. He was also co-Treasurer of the joint

PNR-PCR Convention held in Medford in 2012 and a member of perhaps fifteen non-profit boards of directors, often as Treasurer. Friends at his service said he was “never off by a penny.”

At his memorial, past and current Veterans Forum presidents honored him with an eight-bell ceremony. A gun salute and an echo rendition of taps filled the air, and a flag was folded and presented to Mary Kruysman, Dirk's wife of 61 years. Military rites were performed by his comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars District 12 Honor Guard, and Patriot Riders lined up, bearing flags.

Dirk was the primary founder of the Douglas County Veterans Forum in 2005 and was its first president. He also guided the forum to take charge of the annual Veterans Day Parade and the annual Memorial Day Tribute. He was in charge of the VFW District 12 Honor Guard. He helped out with the Oregon National Guard emergency relief fund. He was also actively involved in the local Meals on Wheels program.

Dirk was born in Holland and, as a young boy, experienced Nazi German occupation during World War II. In interviews with news media in recent years, he related his vivid and disturbing memories of his childhood in Europe. “The Germans started taking a lot of food to Germany, so we had a rationing system very early on. It got very bad at the end there. In fact we just found food wherever.”

When Canadian forces liberated Holland, Dirk stated how the people felt, “There was dancing in the street, a real feeling of euphoria because we were free. For years we couldn't say what we wanted to say, and we had to be careful, and people were dying. I've seen people lying in the street, dying from hunger, and all that was finally gone by.” He was 11 on May 5, 1945, the day Allied forces rescued his country from the German occupation.

During the previous five years, his family endured hunger and deprivation, along with frequent bombings because his hometown was near an aircraft factory. One of those bombs struck just a few houses away. He witnessed Jewish neighbors loaded onto railcars by the Nazis. He saw a neighbor shot for being part of the Dutch resistance. (Continued next page)

Perhaps the greatest threat was starvation. As a child, he experienced so much hunger during World War II that at times he ate tulip bulbs to survive. The wife of a German officer took pity on him and his sister Norine and fed them lunch every Tuesday. The rest of the time, it was tough. His family lived primarily on sugar beets during the last year of the war. At times they ate dogs, cats, and even grass.

The family's radio was confiscated by German soldiers so they would not listen to British broadcasts. Kruysman sneaked through backyards to deliver resistance newspapers that his neighbor created based on English radio broadcasts he heard on a homemade radio.

"Basically I'm here because what the World War II veterans did," Dirk told the reporter. "Germany would not have lost the war without the United States of America. I feel I owe this country.

I can speak English because of what people did for me."

America became his country the same year the war ended. His mother, Marie Wilhelmina, wrote to family members in America and one of her brothers agreed to pay for them to travel here. The family stayed six months with relatives in Alhambra, California, and moved to Roseburg in June 1946. Kruysman graduated from Roseburg High School in 1951.

Kruysman served 42 years in the U.S. Army and the Army National Guard, retiring as a chief warrant officer. He served in South Korea during the 1980s and was deployed to work in logistics during Desert Storm.

Kruysman's love for the military was a product of his early experiences in Nazi-occupied Holland. It was the Canadians who rescued his family, but he knew the Americans had made it possible. Kruysman often spoke about those experiences at veterans events and

local schools.

Dirk wrote an article for the June 2015 *Brakeman's Rag* (available on our website) on how non-profit organizations can apply for 501(c)(3) status. That category is important because it is the only category that permits donors to deduct contributions in their Federal Income Tax returns. The NMRA is working to obtain "inheritance" of their 501(c)(3) status to U.S. regions and divisions, but the process has so far consumed several years of effort without fruition, whereas each region and division within the U.S. can now easily apply for that status and often receive approval within a few months.

Dirk also presented clinics at mini-meets and regional conventions. One clinic, "An Easier Train Operating System," which is archived on our website, describes the car-routing system he refined for use on his home layout.

Mini-Meet September 17, 2016. Bend

First Division's fall mini-meet was held at the East Side Library in Bend on Saturday, September 17, to correspond with the Eastern Cascades Model Railroad Club's annual open house.

Our host was **Glenn Edmison**. Three clinics were presented. **Vicki Tonegas**, a new NMRA member, described how she formed and painted dental plaster blanks to serve as HO scale interior furnishings. She made interiors for houses, mobile homes, and passenger cars by carefully shaping the dental blanks with a Dremel rotary tool and painting them with acrylic craft paints.

Rich Pitter presented a slide show of how he, **Elaine Crueger**, and **Jim Crueger** researched, designed, and built Civil War-era rail cars for a show at the Buster Keaton Days festival in Cottage Grove. The festival honored the 90th anniversary of the filming of Buster Keaton's silent movie, "The General." The cars were designed on Corel Draw and built from styrene sheets and siding.

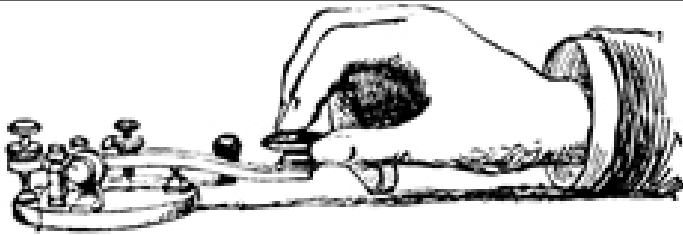
Glenn Edmison presented his method for building distinct lava column outcroppings that are seen in

numerous places in Oregon. He starts with foam insulation. The clinic stepped through his process, including sculpting the approximately hexagonal columns, painting, and finishing details.

Between clinics, members were invited to share their memories of **Dirk Kruysman**.

The Favorite Model Contest results were announced by **Christopher Jones**, the contest chair. Best locomotive was awarded to **Nick Lehrbach** for his diesel locomotive. Rolling stock was awarded to **Nick Lehrbach** for his box car. Structure was awarded to **Nick Lehrbach** for a scratch-built building using Campbells Scale Model parts provided by **Bruce McGarvey** at previous mini-meets. Photograph was awarded to **Nick Lehrbach**, showing logs dragged across trestles. Best of Show was awarded to the rolling stock winner.

Door prizes were drawn and the mini-meet was adjourned. The Board of Directors held a meeting afterwards, and several people attended the Eastern Cascades Model Railroad Club open house.



Keyed Communications

Rich Pitter, Editor

How would you put together our Division newsletter if you didn't have any contributions from members? I chose to reduce this issue to eight pages. There is material I could borrow with permission from other division newsletters, but it's time for our 100-plus model railroaders in southwestern Oregon to build our division by helping out with communications.

One of our members recently asked me for advice to relay to a high school student who was about to become Editor for another division. After some thought, I responded that the principal purpose of the division newsletter is to provide its members with contact information for its officers and with information concerning recent and upcoming divisional activities. That could be done in two or four pages, including the outer mailing page for non-internet members.

But that's dry stuff; we would like to include some of the fun things our members have done or are doing.

It's easy, really, for you to write a few paragraphs about your recent or current project, take a digital photo, and send the jpeg and text as attached files to me. If you don't have that capability, mail me a photo with a caption. I'll do the rest. That way, you become better known to our members and your modeling work can lead to discussions with other modelers.

I am building an HO scale layout in a spare bedroom. It is 1875 era, a takeoff from the real Virginia & Truckee RR which served the silver bonanza in

Virginia City, Nevada. The V&T is represented by an oval with four double-ended staging tracks; the rest is fictitious. I chose to model a fictitious railroad branching off the V&T because the V&T, small as it was, was too long to model in 11' x 12' 9", and the structures were too large to fit reasonably. The layout will reproduce the flavor of mining, reduction mills, and timber transportation operations, and add some variety with local industry, so it should be fun to play with.

I have some craftsman kits for major focal points that I have yet to build. I'm working to develop my skills with smaller kits first. I'm at the point of trying to build a craftsman kit now. I have scratch-built several V&T wood trestles and plan to build other replica trestles on the layout.

I began to build the layout in 2012 but I still do not have any running track due to procrastination. I have built the carpentry work for two levels--valley and mountains--linked by a whole-train elevator, and have Digitrax DCC controllers ready to go. I have a few DCC locomotives, but will need to install decoders in small 4-4-0 and 2-6-0 steamers.

I have some V&T flatcar and box car kits from Rio Grande Models suitable for the era and plan to scratch build rolling stock, mostly flat cars/gondolas for the fictitious railroad. I have a few kits of V&T ore cars, but they will probably sit on an unpowered track for display only. A V&T derrick car kit to be built will be used in revenue service, since the V&T used its derrick car not only for MOW, but also to load, transport, and unload heavy foundry castings. The track design is finalized and the staging area is almost ready to power up. I've built number 4.5 and 5 turnouts and number 6 double slip switches (FastTracks) for the layout.

Below is a new ad from Mac's Tracks in Roseburg. Please make use of them and tell them you saw this ad. We are proud to add them to our advertisers. We encourage more businesses within or close to our division to support the division with ads.

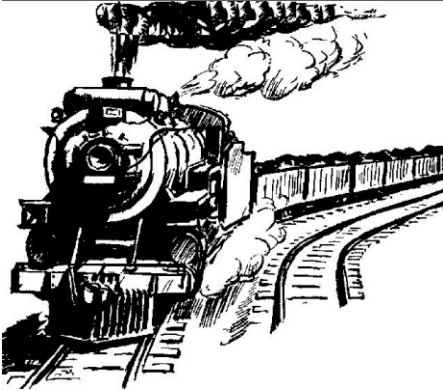


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First Division Business

Rich Pitter, Superintendent

The September 2016 Board Meeting, held after our mini-meet in Bend, covered several topics of interest to our members. If you have questions, contact me or a member of the Board of Directors. Also, please contact us if you are interested in volunteering to help the Division. Thank you.

New Division Leadership

With **Dirk Kruysman's** passing, the First Division BOD has elected a new Paymaster, **Elaine Crueger**, and a new Director, **Jim Van Delden**. Jim has also been appointed as First Division's Office Manager.

Elaine is an NMRA Life Member who has led both First Division and PNR in the past. She led First Division when it hosted the NMRA National Convention in Eugene in 1987, which included the first Train Show at a National Convention.

Jim is a recent transfer to Grants Pass from Nebraska, where he led the revitalization of the MCR Cowboy Line Division. He has earned several Achievement Awards and has written articles for the *Brakeman's Rag* and the Cowboy Line newsletter.

Upcoming Mini-Meets

We plan to hold our Spring 2017 mini-meet in Roseburg. **Nick Lehrbach** is the host. At present, he has identified the Roseburg Public Library as our meeting place, but is awaiting January before he can finalize a date and time.

Our Fall 2017 mini-meet is planned for the Coos County Fairgrounds in Myrtle Point. Host will be **Christopher Jones**.

I hope to hold one of our 2018 mini-meets in Grants Pass or Medford. I expect to hold the other one in Eugene. As always, I encourage members to come forward and volunteer to either host or help with mini-meets. My contact information is on page 7.

First Division Mini-Meets

The BOD encourages more members to attend mini-meets and interact, getting to know new people. Member interaction is potentially one of the most rewarding features of NMRA. The following ideas are presented to improve participation.

Name Tags

At mini-meets, the BOD advises members to wear name tags, whether those be from their local model railroad clubs or regional or national convention name tags. If you don't have these, we have disposable name tags at the door.

[I am a volunteer at the Eugene Public Library Makers Hub, and have access to a Carvey™ CNC router that can make plastic name tags. I am learning how to make name tags, and when I do, I will provide name tags to members at cost, on request. I expect the cost

to be about \$5. I will take orders at mini-meets and provide the name tags at upcoming mini-meets. These name tags are optional, but everyone who attends should wear a name tag.]

Model Contest

Our mini-meets have contests in several categories: Locomotive; Rolling Stock; Structure; Miscellaneous; and Photograph. Attendees vote on these categories, plus a Best in Show. The Best in Show winner gets a \$25 check. We would like to see more entries in each category at mini-meets. First Division we strongly encourages members to bring models. Although we like to win contests, there is a benefit in bringing models that you can talk about with others, exchanging ideas on how to build models better.

Since we have had low participation in voting, at future mini-meets, only NMRA members who vote in the model contest will receive door prize tickets.

Show and Tell

Whether or not you enter a model in the contest, you can step forward to a Show and Tell segment and describe what you are doing. The model doesn't need to be finished. You can ask the group how they might proceed with specific steps that stump you. The idea is to learn from people who have done it before.

Merit Award Evaluations

Whether or not you wish to enter a model in a contest, you can bring it to a mini-meet for Merit Award evaluation. If you plan to do so, please inform Glenn Edmison in advance so he can

arrange for evaluators. Also, fill in the form available from NMRA. Glenn will provide you with the form if needed.

Sales of Model Railroad Items

The BOD approved a Bazaar involving member private sales at mini-meets. In order to comply with National rules, only NMRA members may sell items, and only NMRA members can make purchases. Since our venues don't have enough tables for a bazaar, members should provide their own card table or folding table for sales items. We will encourage visitors to obtain RailPasses, so they can partake of the Bazaar. Although First Division appreciates donations from people who sell items, such is voluntary; there is no charge to sell items. More details of bazaars will be forthcoming.

We appreciate White Elephant contributions for our Door Prize box. If you have a kit that you have decided that you won't build, or some rolling stock that could use a new home, consider donating it to the Division.

Free-Mo

One of the fastest growing activities in model railroading is Free-Mo, which involves people getting together and plugging their modules together to run trains. To do so, the modules need to meet standards regarding track-work, height above the floor, and electrical connectivity. We have at least one group within the division with a Free-Mo layout. First Division seeks a Free-Mo Coordinator (or better, a team) to lead the set up and operation of Free-Mo layouts at mini-meets. We won't do Free-Mo at mini-meets until we have such

leadership. Please contact me if you are interested.

The Future

All this suggests that our mini-meets in the not-too-distant future may consist of clinics in the morning and model contest awards, door prize drawings, bazaar and Free-Mo operation in the afternoon. Where does that leave layout tours? I don't know. If someone has a layout they would like to open for visitors, they should contact me or the mini-meet host. Some members look forward to visiting layouts, but I don't know who has layouts they want to open for guests.

This represents an opportunity if you want your layout evaluated for merit awards required for achievement awards, such as in civil or electrical engineer or scenery. Please contact Glenn Edmison and prepare the required forms.

I would appreciate your help if you have ideas.

First Division Timeline

Elections

In 2017, First Division will elect a Superintendent and six Directors. New officers will take office on September 1, 2017. Details and timetable follow.

Elaine and Jim Crueger are the Elections Registrars, and **Christopher Jones** is chairs the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee is charged with recruiting at least one person to run for Superintendent and six to run for Director. Nominations for both positions are also accepted from members.

If you want to run for Superintendent or Director, contact

Elaine prior to February 14, 2017 by mail (P.O. Box 586, Monroe, OR 97456) or email (elainecrueger@gmail.com) and state the position you are seeking. All persons running for a position agree to maintain NMRA membership and to attend board meetings throughout the duration of their term, if elected.

Each nominee is invited to submit a bio of 200 or fewer words for publication in the March newsletter. The bio is optional, but recommended so members can evaluate the candidates. The deadline for submission of bios to the *Brakeman's Rag* is February 14.

In June, official ballots will be mailed to all members except Family Members and RailPass members (membership categories that do not have voting rights). Ballots must be received by the Elections Registrars by August 1. Candidates will be notified of results prior to September 1, and the results will be published in the September issue of the *Brakeman's Rag*.

Tunnel Country Grants

Tunnel Country grants have been suspended recently due to low interest rates. Grant money is derived from interest received on a First Division account. The next issue of the *Brakeman's Rag* will announce opening of grant applications. Applications may be submitted by First Division members and are due by September 30 and grants will be awarded in 2018. Clubs submitting applications should list First Division members in their club. Rules for grant applications may be found online at <http://pnr.nmra.org/1div/Div1bus.htm#grants2>.

Model Train Shows and Events

January 2017 - May 2017

Information provided here is submitted to the Brakeman's Rag by the clubs listed. If you notice an error in the listing for your club, please encourage its leader to provide First Division with the correct information. The Editor regrets missing, out-of-date, or incorrect information. Check with the contacts provided for accurate information about meetings and events.

The South Coast Train Club is hosting a show at the Pony Village Mall in Coos Bay on May 13 - 15 to celebrate National Train Day. Contact Marvin Selzer at 541-888-5080 or csrr100@yahoo.com.

Local Railroad Clubs

These clubs have members in NMRA and have expressed an interest in hosting First Division members as guests and prospective new club members.

The **Atlantic & Pacific N-gineers** meet near downtown Junction City. They operate a permanent mobile 50' x 24' L-shaped DCC layout that they display at shows in the region. For meeting information, contact Mike Adams at mdadams006@aol.com or 541-913-5865.

The **Corvallis Society of Model Engineers** meets every Wednesday at 7 PM. Visitors are welcome. The club is located in an old gas station at 7155 Vandenberg Ave. in Adair Village, about 6 miles north of downtown Corvallis on Highway 99W. For information, visit club website at www.csme1959.org.

The **Eastern Cascades Model Railroad Club** and the associated **Live Steamers** meet on Wednesdays at the club house, 21540 Modoc Lane (off Ward Road east of Bend), 7-9 PM. Info: [http://www.ecmrr.org/](http://www.ecmrr.org) or (541) 317-1545.

The **Ochoco Valley Railroad Club** meets most every Sunday, 2-4 PM in the club house on the Crook County Fairgrounds. Contact Brad Peterson at (541) 447-6158 or Glenn Edmison at (541) 617-1110.

The **Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club** holds formal meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, 7 - 9 PM. Operating sessions are held on the third Sunday of the month. Call first. Informal work sessions are held every Saturday at the clubhouse. From April through October, Open House is held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 11 AM to 3 PM. For information, contact Ron Harten at sprucerr@earthlink.net or Bruce Kelly at wilmintonnorthern@sprynet.com.

The **South Coast Train Club** is forming. Beginners to master modelers are welcome. Meetings are held on third Monday of each month 7 PM at NextHome All State Real Estate, 777 Bayshore Drive (northbound US101), Coos Bay. Contact Marvin Selzer at 541-888-5080 or csrr100@yahoo.com.

The **Umpqua Valley Model Railroad Club** meets Thursday nights at 7 PM in the basement of the law offices at 880 SE Jackson St. in Roseburg, OR. The club has a modular railroad layout in one room and is building additional modules. For information, contact Nick Lehrbach at lehrbach@rosenet.net.

The **Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club** meets the second Saturday of each month at 7 PM at the Springfield Utility Board Energy & Conservation Services Building, 223 A St., Springfield. For information, contact Lee Temple at ttandt@ram-mail.com.

Board of Directors (BOD) and Officers

<p>Rich Pitter Superintendent, Editor AP Evaluator richpitter@aol.com 2430 Northampton Eugene, OR 97404 541-636-3833</p> <p>Ed Schaenzer, MMR A/V Officer AP Evaluator eschaenzer2@charter.net</p> <p>Charlie Hutto Webmaster charliehutto@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Nick Lehrbach BOD, Chief Clerk lehrbach@rosenet.net</p> <p>Glenn Edmison BOD, AP Officer AP Evaluator gedmison@aol.com</p> <p>Christopher Jones BOD, Contest Officer AP Evaluator Lllandcij@aol.com</p>	<p>Jim Van Delden BOD, Office Manager genvan@msn.com 402-833-5531</p> <p>Gene Neville BOD, AP Evaluator geneville@earthlink.net</p> <p>Bruce McGarvey BOD iwcr@charter.net</p> <p>Paymaster Elaine Crueger elainecrueger@gmail.com</p>
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The *Brakeman's Rag* is the newsletter of First Division, Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association. The newsletter is published quarterly. All NMRA members residing within the counties of Benton, Coos, Crook, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn in Oregon are considered to be First Division members. First Division has no dues. The *Brakeman's Rag* is transmitted by email and posted on our web page. Members who do not have email service receive the newsletter by U.S. mail with black and white photos.

Leaders of model railroad groups who want free advertisement of their activities, should send info for the following four months two weeks prior to the beginning of every third month of the calendar year. **The next deadline is February 14. Information on activities for March through June is appreciated.**

First Division members who want to write are welcome to contact the Editor at any time and discuss matters. You may also send a photo and caption of something you built or detailed to the Editor. Material from outside the Division is selected to fill empty space and to advance model railroading for our readers.

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