

# The Willow Creek Gazette

### Willow Creek Railroad Museum

A New Season!

#### Spring 2018

Celebrating Willow Creek's 43<sup>RD</sup> Year

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Welcome to 2018! A lot has been done and there is more to do. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated.

# **Gazette Articles**

Winter is a slow time at Willow Creek. Hence, articles for the news letter are difficult to find. Two of our members, Alan Shifley and Paul Yaniw, have provided the editor with an interesting project subject. The electric control for the south side cross-over turn-outs has been in the planning stage for some time. It will be completed this year. Chemeketa students constructed a signal bridge for this project in 2016. This winter, Alan worked on the control computers and power supply for this project. Paul has constructed turn-out motors and covers for this project. Members installed conduit and wiring They deserve a hearty "THANK YOU" for their efforts. See the following descriptive articles for this project.

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# **Cross-Over Turn-Outs Scheduled for 2018**



It's been a long time in the planning stage, but this year it will become a reality...

Chemeketa students constructed the signal bridges in 2016. The bridges were installed last year.

In September 2016 Paul Yaniw tested the prototype for the turnout motors.

Alan Shifley has been working diligently this winter on the electronics and software to control the crossover turnouts on the south side of Willow Creek.





The controller cabinet contains the wiring and computers necessary to control the switches and signals. With the complexity of the wiring, Alan has a notebook that lists the wiring required.







The four turnout switch motors are shown here set up for testing. The motors will automatically operate sequentially in order to limit current draw.

Pushbuttons to change the alignment of the crossover will be located adjacent to the outside track in a box similar to the one at the entrance to the station yard. The pushbuttons will need to be held down for a few seconds to prevent activation by a passing rider.

# **Cross-Over Turn-Outs Scheduled for 2018**



The controller cabinet has been completed and installed on the signal bridge. The small aluminum boxes mounted on the sides of the cabinet are the controllers, i.e. computers, that receive the input from the various control switches and loop detectors and control the turnout motors and signal lights.





Alan installs wires for electrical outlet box. The cross-over turnout system requires three separate power supplies. One of the supplies powers the four switch motors. The second supply powers the signal lights. The third supply is for the loop detectors.





Old wood ties need to be replaced on turn-outs at cross-over track.

Rachel and Simon dig trenches for signal conduit. Over 200 feet of conduit is required for the crossover controls. Loop detectors are needed for control of the electric switches.





Alan exposes a previously installed conduit for signal control. power The cabinet is next to the memorial garden wall. Scott, Trevor, Nate and Ernie install new ties while Mark places conduit.



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# Paul Yaniw Makes Castings for Turn-Out Motor Covers :

Paul has been kind enough to provide pictures and information on the castings he made for the new electric switch covers.



The pattern, runners and sprues ready for mold building.



Lower half of flask with pattern in place but not rammed up with sand or flipped into position for casting.



Ramming up molding sand in the cope.



Pouring the molten metal into the sand mold. Time invested on a single cover is about 6 hours that includes clean up!



The sprues and runners have been trimmed up from the casting and are ready for finish machining.

for a complete 6 page detailed copy of the casting process article e-mail request to: tarno.coleman@gmail.com

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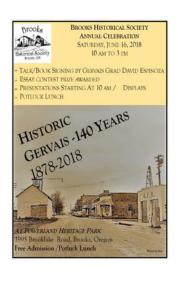
# 2018 Powerland Heritage Park Events



# **APMA 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

| Date                     | Event  | Description  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| May 19                   | P. H. P. Presents "Fun at<br>the Park"                         | Craft Fair & Family Day  |
| June 16                  | Brooks Historical<br>Celebration: Historic<br>Gervais          | 10am to 3pm at Brooks Historical<br>Society  |
| June 16                  | NW Vintage Car &<br>Motorcycle Museum All<br>Comers Rendezvous | 7th Annual All Comers Rendezvous<br>8:00 am - 4:00 pm  |
| June 22-23               | Antiques & Collectibles<br>Swap Meet                           | EDGE & TA Branch 15<br>38th Annual Swap Meet<br>Variable hours, camping available.   |
| June 23                  | OVMM Auction   | Annual Silent Fundraising Auction held<br>in the John Deere Museum from 9-3  |
| July 4 - July 8          | All American Vintage<br>Trailer Rally                          | Open to all vintage trailers. Come see a<br>piece of American history!   |
| July 4 - July 8          | Civil War Reenactment  | Step back in time! (Formerly held at<br>Willamette Mission State Park.)  |
| July 28-29<br>August 4-5 | The Great Oregon<br>Steam-Up                                   | Fun for the entire family. Train and<br>trolley rides, steam tractors, steam<br>sawmill and large engines. Threshing,<br>blacksmithing, tractor pull, daily<br>parade and lots more. |
| August 24-25             | Pacific Northwest Truck<br>Show                                | 26th Annual Brooks Truck Show. Over<br>200 trucks of all sorts of shapes, sizes<br>and vintages  |
| September 22             | Hops & Vines   | Wine and Craft Beer Sampling   |









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# Welcome Cribbage Players



Nate Does DEERES...ALL SIZES



Thank you Nate for your work on the mower tractor repair!



Just a reminder....

Willow Creek Due\$

June 2018 ~ May 2019

Garry & Frank put to work the railroad crossing sign cribbage board table Jeremy Johnson built.

Note the track & spike table base.

It's that time of year to renew our membership dues. The current dues expire the end of May 2018.

| <b>Regular Member:</b> | \$30.00 |
|------------------------|---------|
| Associate Member:      | \$20.00 |
| Junior (18 & Under):   | \$15.00 |

Payment may be mailed to:



Willow Creek Railroad Business Office 2627 N. Willamette Blvd. Portland, OR 97217- 4117

# Work Progresses on Roundhouse Turn-Table

Phil has constructed a "LARGE" galvanized steel box to house & protect the turn-table hoist that was picked up in Canada last year. Evan excavated the hole shown here for the box and hoist.



# Alan Shrillar photos

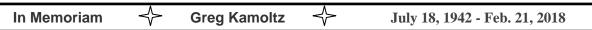
Roy Anderson celebrated his 90th birthday at the Niles Canyon Railway in Sunol, California with family and friends. Motorcar M-200 was on hand for the celebration. Affectionately known as "The Skunk Train" due to the odor from their early gas engines and crude-oil-fired pot-bellied stoves, Roy had operated this and another two motorcars, as well as steam and diesel-powered trains between Fort Bragg and Willits California on the California Western Railroad 45 years ago.

Roy Anderson's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration





The group rode the M-200 the length of the railroad and back as Roy told stories of his time as engineer and motorman at the California Western. Cake was served and "Happy Birthday" was sung. Roy even got to be motorman for part of the trip. A great celebration! Happy 90th, Roy!



#### Marvin Gregory Kamholz

Greg enjoyed a lengthy history of operating steam locomotives for the Vernonia, South Park and Sunset Steam Railroad, The Portland Zoo Railroad, The Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad, The Chelatchie Prairie Railroad, The Coast Scenic Railroad and the Pacific Railroad Preservation Association.

He was employed by the Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railway from 1964 until 1970 when he was promoted to locomotive engineer, the same year the SP&S merged with the Burlington Northern Railroad. His active service with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe continued until shortly before his death. At that time he was the last former SP&S employee on the BNSF payroll and the most senior employee in the BNSF Western Division.

He was also an avid historian and co-authored the award-winning book, *The Oregon-American Lumber Company: Ain't No More*, published by Stanford University Press in 2003.

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# Rio Grande Engine @ Willow Creek



After a quick trip to Utah to pick it up, Noel Meyer unloads his Rio Grande gas/hydraulic engine at Willow Creek.

# **New Steam Operator**



Nate has acquired the Mom-Said-Yes steam engine. He said he wanted to run an engine that presented more of a challenge than an electric or gasoline engine.

# GG-1 to be refurbished...



The Piggott family donated the GG-I to Willow Creek RR in 2017. It is in need of repair. Evan Burroughs has volunteered to take on this project. Evan described the project as "interesting". The wiring is "unique". The drive motors were repurposed from wheelchair motors. The gear ratio is too high for optimum motor performance. Thank you to Evan for working on this project. It will be good to see the GG-I run again.

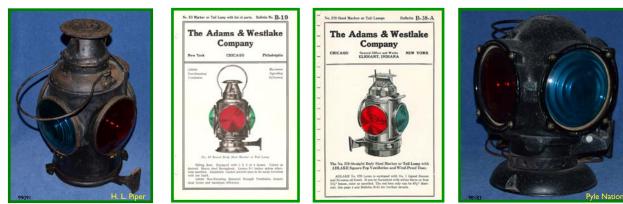
# A Glimpse of History: Railroad Lamps ~ Marker Lamps

Classification signals, colored flags by day, lights by night, were once used to help identify the train on which they were displayed. For much of railroad history, train-movement authority was granted by timetables. The timetable-and-train-order system has been replaced by other forms of movement authority, and classification lights are no longer required.

If a train was listed in the timetable, it had the authority to operate according to its printed schedule. Green, indicated that the train displaying this classification signal was a regularly scheduled one. A white light or flag indicated an "extra" train not shown in the timetable. Many freight trains operated as extras, and thus carried a white classification signal.



The lamps shown here have a clear lens to display a white light. The levers on the side of the lamp control a pair of internal green lenses. When the lever was turned, the green lens was positioned between the lamp and outer lens and a green light would be displayed.



The lamps show above are caboose or passenger car rear marker lamps. When the train was on the mainline of railroad track, it would have a red signal facing toward the rear. When the train pulled onto a siding, they would turn the lamp so that a green signal was toward the rear. This would indicate to any following trains that this train is clear of the main line track.



On the left is the "lift-off" mounting bracket for the above H.L. Piper marker lamp. This bracket is also configured to support a day signal marker flag staff to replace the lamp.



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