

***Merry Christmas and a Joyous
New Year!***

The Passing Track

December 2004
Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad
Club
PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501
Home page is <http://rvmrc.railfan.net/>

Thanks to each one of you for your support,
your enthusiasm, your friendship, and
best of all for your participation in a club
that puts so many smiles on so many
faces.

January Calendar of Events

All events in the Clubhouse at the Railroad Park unless otherwise noted.

Layout Planning Session

Saturday, January 8 at 11:00 am

New Layout Construction

Each Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Construction/Cleanup Sessions:

Each Thursday from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, January 12

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 26

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Public Television Studio in Medford

Preview of Special Train Series

December Board Meeting Minutes

The RVMRC Board met on December 8. Three board officers and 4 members were present. The Club netted almost \$2,500 from the railroad show. The nearly \$1,000 increase from last year's show is a reflection of higher attendance and the restructuring of ticket prices. Based on the hours club members worked in the show, each person made nearly \$28.50 per hour worked. Thanks to all who helped make the show a rousing success (see related story in PT). James Fisher of Klamath Falls, who works for BNSF railroad and was present at the railroad show, was accepted as our newest associate member.

A suggestion was offered to move all Club membership due dates to the same date. Such a move would make for greater efficiency and ease of tracking dues. Such a change would reduce the amount of time Bruce spends tracking dues and sending letters for those who are behind. The system could be implemented by having everyone pay a prorated amount to a specified date, and thereafter all dues would be due on the same date. New members would be charged a prorated amount depending on which month they join. The board tabled taking any action on the suggestion pending Bruce's look at Club bylaws to make sure such a policy is within our guidance, and pending a further discussion at the next board meeting in January. Club members who wish to weigh in on the suggestion should share their thoughts with board

members or attend the January Board meeting. It was also suggested that we discuss raising our dues by \$5 per year, but the increase would be deducted if the annual dues are paid on time, thus providing an incentive to pay up on time. Though the Board is not suggesting or considering a general dues increase at this time, Jay noted other clubs typically charge monthly dues in the \$20-30 range, placing annual dues more than 4-5x the Rogue Valley's dues. By all accounts, our Club dues are very reasonably priced.

Don Terrel has offered the Club Model Railroader issues from 1990-1999 in binders. Such binders are very showy and tidy ways to display the magazines, but do take up more space than the loose boxed arrangement we have for most of the issues. Nonetheless, the Club is tight on library space. Bruce suggested we add another row of shelves to the library. He thinks he can get started on shelving in the new year, with some material on hand in the shed. Dave Hall, via the East coast, is catching up on adding past *Passing Tracks* to the website. The Board suggested we discuss management and maintenance of the website at our January meeting. Websites are great tools, but need to be up to date and managed. There are a number of folks involved with the website and we will need to bring everyone in on the discussion. Jim Dugall has volunteered to coordinate the Sunday public run sessions again this year.

The Club will participate with the Klamath County Museum again this year. The Club's display generated one of three top grossing months for the Museum. The dates are March 11-13. The Eugene Swap meet will occur on April 8-10, and the Club will again be manning a swap table. There is so much extra stuff in the Clubhouse that a committee headed by Bruce will begin sorting things out in January. John Gerritsma donated a two-year old microwave oven to the Club. It will replace the ageless, but still working, current microwave.

A discussion on scenery ensued. There are concerns that we don't have a guiding written plan to allow all Club members to participate in building the scenery. Such a plan would not only spell out the general scenery effects we are trying to achieve, but also outlines the steps by which Club members can "adopt" specific sections of the layout and progress (with a series of checkpoints) through the scenery stage. Without a plan, some members are uncomfortable with volunteering for scenery because their visions may conflict with other ideas. Concurrently with a plan, the Club needs to have hands-on scenery demonstrations and training. The Board would like to continue this discussion on Saturday, January 8 at 11:00 in the form of a Saturday planning session. Don Terrel requested and was granted a key. Other discussions involved invitations to all railroad park members for

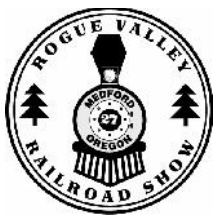
special previewing of a train related series on local Public Television (see story below), and also last month's railroad show (see story below).

Public Television Invitation

Brad Fawcett is responding to the following invitation on behalf of the Club. Brad is coordinating with other park clubs in setting up the described viewing for our scheduled January general meeting on the 26th. Stay tuned for details in the January *Passing Track*. We would gather at the public television studio here in Medford. Sounds like we would get a smattering of program previews. Titles of the shows include: Road Railers, Northlandz, The Ghan (Australian outback railroading), The King of Toy Trains, Trains of Cuba, Cable Cars.

“I’m new here at Southern Oregon Public Television, and part of my job is to find ways to make the resources of public television available to the community. When I saw this high definition series from Milwaukee Public Television, I thought the series might be of interest to the rail groups here in Southern Oregon and fit into our station’s outreach plan. The shows, [a 13 half-hour series called Tracks Ahead featuring the best of steam locomotives, railroad folklore, model trains and art], are airing in January of 2005...I think it would be great to experience these shows in High Definition Television because the level of detail and depth of perception that high definition productions offer are just perfect for the panoramas of railways. We would show them on a large screen high definition television here in the studio and could probably provide coffee and snacks—whatever.”

27th Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show—Biggest and Best Ever



The aisles were full at the 27th Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show, as record crowds flowed among the twenty-seven exhibitors on the floor of the National Guard Armory in Medford, OR. A long-standing Southern Oregon holiday tradition, this year’s Railroad Show was held on Nov. 27th and 28th, 2004.

The Rogue Valley Railroad Show is sponsored and staffed by the five organizations that share facilities at the City of Medford’s Railroad Park: the Morse Telegraph Club, Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club, Southern Oregon Live Steamers, Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains, and Southern Oregon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. Proceeds from the show fund improvements to the Railroad Park exhibits and facilities.



Over twenty different model railroad layouts were exhibited, encompassing a broad range of scales and a variety of landscape scenes – and even including a train made from Legos®. Saturday’s attendees were encouraged to vote for their favorite exhibit, and, having a large number of excellent displays from which to choose, they faced a difficult choice. Appropriately enough, first place in the tally ended in a tie between Frank Anderson of Roseburg, Oregon, and Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains (SOLST). Frank displayed three of his imaginative layouts, including the ever-popular On30-scale Winter Wonderland and an eclectic G-scale diorama. Equally crowd-pleasing was the SOLST’s large modular G-scale layout, featuring themes such as an amusement park, the Polar Express train, and the “magic orb”. Third place in the voting went to the Ashland-based Siskiyou Toy Train Club’s O-scale layout featuring Lionel trains.



Other notable exhibits included two new creations by John Huckaby (one featured the “never-ending train”), and two large modular layouts: the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club’s “Pacific & Eastern Line” HO-scale railroad, and the Eugene-based A&P ‘N’-gineer’s N-scale

railroad. Attendees were encouraged to take the throttle and run the HO-scale train on the RVMRC's "Junior Pretzel" layout. D "N" S Model Trains of Eugene exhibited several beautifully landscaped N- and Z-scale layouts, including one built inside a coffee table.



Southern Oregon is home to three premier manufacturers of model railroad equipment – Kadee Quality Products of White City, Micro-Trains Line of Talent, and Campbell Scale Models of Central Point – and the show was very proud to host exhibits by all three that highlighted their latest products.

But the emphasis was not just on modeling. Several fascinating exhibits highlighted railroad history. Kids of all ages took their turn sitting in a restored speeder once used to maintain track in the mountain passes of Colorado. The National Railway Historical Society's exhibit featured a fascinating mix of railroad artifacts along with information about their restoration projects at the Medford Railroad Park. The Southern Oregon Historical Society displayed photographs depicting the early years of railroading in the Rogue Valley.



Meanwhile, the Morse Telegraph Club was busy sending free telegrams across the Armory floor or across the U.S., while the Southern Oregon Live Steamers exhibited two steam engines and tenders that will see use at the Railroad Park this summer. Many lucky patrons took home a treasure, as fifty prizes, ranging from restaurant gift certificates to large train sets, were awarded in a show-ending drawing. Among the most sought-after prizes were a G-scale Christmas train set, a railroad-motif quilt, and a stained-glass portrait of a steam engine. Furthermore, up to five door prizes were awarded during each hour of the show. Attendees also got a jump on their holiday shopping, as vendors stationed in the Armory's balconies offered over 70 tables full of railroad-related goods.



Media response was excellent, contributing to record attendance. The show was the subject of both a local radio and TV interview in the week prior to the event. The show's opening day was the lead story on the Saturday evening news on Medford's CBS and NBC television network affiliates, and was the second story featured on the late news on the ABC affiliate.

Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 111, who once again provided valuable assistance before and after the show. Donations were made to their troop programs and camp funds. Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped organize and staff this year's event, and to the over forty different businesses and individuals that donated a wide variety of merchandise and literature to the Railroad Show. All proceeds from the Rogue Valley Railroad Show go toward improvements at the City of Medford Railroad Park. The Medford Railroad Park is open to the public on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, April through October. Again, thanks to our many donors and volunteers. See you next year!



Left Top to Bottom: Club layout at show;
Campbell Scale Models dioramas; Speeder

Center: Staging on the Club's Layout

Right Top to Bottom: Show Diorama; show
floor; Club Layout

**Thank You Bruce McGarvey and Jay
Mudge for all of the photos!**



You are Invited...
**New Year's Eve Operating
Session on the Siskiyou
Pacific**
**RSVP Lary Tuttle @
582-3191**



RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2005

Jan 14-16 – 25th Annual WCMRR Club HO Modular Railroad Show, Valley River Center, Eugene, Ore., open during mall hours. Info: Lee & Diane Temple, 541-688-9112.

Feb 5 – SP&SR Hist. Soc. Railroad Swap Meet, Holiday Inn - Portland Airport Convention Center, 10 AM –3 PM. Info: Bruce Barney 503-257-8855, bcbarney@msn.com

Feb 26 – WMRR Club 20th Annual Swap Meet & Clinics, Camp Withycombe Armory, Clackamas, Ore. 10 AM – 3 PM, free admission. Info: Chris Kliner, 360-687-1639.

Mar 11-13 – **Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club Show**, Klamath History Museum, Klamath Falls, Ore. Info to follow, stay tuned.

Mar 19 – Winterrail 2005, Stockton, Calif., Info: <http://altamontpress.com/winterrail/2005.html>

Apr 8-10 – WCMRR Club 17th Annual Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Ore. Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM. Info: Lee Temple, 541-688-0167, ttandt@ram-mail.com

Jul 5-9 – Go By Train 2005, Nat'l Railway Historical Society Annual Convention, Lloyd Center – Double Tree Hotel, Portland, Ore. Info: <http://www.nrhs2005.com/>

Nov 26-27 – 28th – **Rogue Valley Railroad Show**, Medford Armory, Medford, Ore. Watch this space.

Listings include events within a day's drive from the Rogue Valley. If you know of shows not listed here, or sometime in the future, please let me know so we can share that with our readers. Contact Bruce at iwcr@charter.net or 541-779-8145. 12/08/2004bhm.

25 years ago this month - The Passing Track December 1979:

“Club was meeting at the Far West Savings & Loan, with refreshments, program, door prizes....

RAILROAD SHOW A SUCCESS. Our November show (AT Red Cross Bldg) duplicated last year's efforts with about the same amount of visitors...The Live Steamers gave train rides and indoors we had an even better display than last year. Prototype Report by Mike Yoakum – Seen in Medford on Dec. 16th, McCloud River #39, (a SD38-2) which was a lead unit on the EUMEY. The unit was extremely dirty and grimy...after months of use by friendly ESPEE on the Oregon Division.”

Note; “A truly happy person is one who can smile from year to year. What would make you truly happy today? Do it.”

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
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