



The Passing Track

February 2004

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

Home page is <http://rvmrc.railfan.net/>

DCC Installation Clinic At February General Membership Meeting

Jay Mudge will host a DCC installation clinic at the February 25 general membership meeting (7:30 pm). Bring your Athearn engine (or other “easy” model), your tools, including soldering iron, your decoder (Club has some for sale first come first served), and your glasses. Never will there be so much advice in one place regarding DCC decoder installation.

Club Show In Klamath Falls

It's train month at the Klamath County Museum in March. To help celebrate the event, the RVMRR Club will be displaying a modular layout on Saturday, March 13 and Sunday, March 14. The crew will leave Friday morning in a rented moving truck, set up the show, run trains on Saturday and Sunday, and return to Medford Sunday evening. The layout will be about 60% of the size of our Medford Armory train exhibit. The mainline of the Union Pacific is but a few feet (literally) outside the door of the museum. So, one can watch both our layout and the real McCoy simultaneously. Club members in Klamath Falls are the primary operators of the Club layout for those days, but any and all operators and

general help is welcome. Please contact Bruce McGarvey or Dave Spakousky if you would like to participate. The museum's address is 1451 Main Street, and is located about 1 block from the Amtrak station in Klamath Falls. Other displays will be present, also.

March Calendar of Events

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

March 15...25th Anniversary of the RVMRR Club!

New Layout Construction

Saturdays— March 6, 20, 27 (no meeting March 13)
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Railroad Show in Klamath Falls—March 13-14

Construction/Cleanup Sessions:

Thursdays—March 4, 11, 18, 25-7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, March 10-- 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 28-- 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Topic: Scenery Techniques

DCC Update

Work on the DCC wiring is progressing to the point that a full test on the system is expected by February 21. All of the cable plug-ins have been installed.

Club members are expected to have their own DCC throttles. Jay advises that infrared (not as convenient as a radio controlled device, but still good) throttles are available for \$126 each from Litchfield Station (contact Jay for information). While the club has "guest" throttles, and some members will gladly loan theirs out from time to time, it is recommended strongly that everyone should have a DT300 or better hand throttle.



No Butts About It...DCC wiring work puts a fellow in challenging places.

February Board Meeting Summary

Bruce reported that the Club has invested about \$6,000 on the permanent layout in the past 2 years. Jay Mudge has prepared new member packets. The membership orientation folders contain the Club's bylaws, information about standards, operations, equipment, member conduct, and also a fun history of the Pacific and Eastern. A number of recently donated railroad magazines allowed Jim Dougall to fill in many holes in the Club's library. Excess magazines will be taken to the Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet. Marvin Curtis is tentatively scheduled to do a program for the March general membership meeting on the topic of scenery (evidentially, Marvin has some phenomenal scenery ideas to show off). Dave Spakousky expects a full DCC test on the permanent layout by February 21. Jim Dougall will head up the organization and coordination of this year's public railroad shows. April is just around the corner, when the twice-a-month public shows begin. E. Don will head up the nominating committee to check with the membership for interest in

holding office. Elections are in several months. Bruce McGarvey purchased one of the extra PM42 DCC power boosters. Bruce also noted the actual Club's anniversary date is March 15, the Club having been officially chartered 25 years ago.

Swap Meet Table & Consignments

John Wilson and Bruce McGarvey head up a team of Club members that will man a swap table at the 16th annual Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet in Eugene on March 27-28. We probably have a pickup load of surplus Club equipment, magazines, models and hardware. Anyone wishing to have the Club sell personal items for a 25% fee, must have the items to the Clubhouse by March 20th. The items must be labeled to identify owner and price.

Odds and Ends

Dave Carr says: "Hey gang, just wanted to let everyone know that I have repaired the club's CB&Q Genesis F3B that was messed up and would not run. I decided not to return it to Athearn as they have changed the motors in the Genesis units from the Buehler that our F's have to a Roco motor, and the likelihood was there that they would just exchange mechanisms with ours, giving us a unit that would not MU with the other 3 F's. So, I disassembled it and found one truck's worm gears was dry, and in need of a shim. I cleaned it up with alcohol, re-lubed, added a brass shim, and now it runs perfectly in both directions. Only thing the club's Genesis units need now are the Kadee couplers installed.

One other thing. With the club going to DCC, I was wondering if folks would like to see the roster of P&E units be changed somewhat to include pre dash 2 GP38's and GP40's as Atlas sells those undecorated with decoders in them. Would make it easier to have P&E decoder equipped units should one desire that. Everyone let me know your take on this, and we'll go from there.

"Must Sell" Rail Sale

Long-time Club member Marvin Cluff is heading off to Alaska and must part with a substantial collection of trains and assorted modeling items. His collection includes 17 engines complete with installed decoders including GP7 and 9's and F3's; a complete DCC system; over 100 pieces of rolling stock from Athearn, Atlas, Walthers and Roundhouse including 9 log cars, 29 pulpmoed cars, and 14 chip cars; about 50 Atlas turnouts;

some 400 feet of track with corks; and structures. Marvin
prefers to sell the collection, by mid-March, as one lot for

\$2,500. Contact Marvin at 541-482-1973.

Note to readers of the e-mail version of the Passing Track:

This page on the hardcopy of the Passing Track is a flier for the 16th Annual Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet at the Lane County Fairgrounds in Eugene Oregon at 796 West 13th Ave. This show is presented by the Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club. The show is Saturday, March 27 from 10-5, and on Sunday, March 28, from 10-4. Adult admission is \$5.00, with kids under 12 free.

The show features operating train layouts, locomotive simulator, educational videos, Operation LifeSaver, and vendors. For additional information, contact Lee and Diane Temple at 541-688-9112, or on the web at ttandt@bauercom.net

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2004

Feb 21 – 19th Willamette Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, Camp Whithycombe off Clackamas Road, 10-3. Info: Chris Kliner, 306-6871639 or chris.kliner@idc-ch2m.com

Mar 6 – Meet-'N'-Match, a gathering of N-scale modelers from the Northwest. Fir Grove School, Beaverton, Ore. 10-4 Saturday only. Info. and details at www.hobbysmith.com.

Mar 12-14 – RVMRR Club layout display for Train Month at Klamath County Museum, Klamath Falls, Ore. Info: Bruce McGarvey, 541-779-8145, iwccr@charter.net

Mar 13 – WINTERAIL 2004, Railroadiana Show & Sale, Stockton, Calif. Info: Ken Meeker, 209-943-0913.

Mar 13 – Columbia Gorge Model RR Club Railroadiana & Swap meet, Jackson Armory, Portland, Ore., 10-4. Info: 360-694-7769 eve, www.cgmmc.com, swap@cgmmc.com

Mar 13-14 – Woodland Modular Railroad Club 18th Show & Sale, County Fair Mall, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. Info: Fred Delevati, 530-666-4022

Mar 27-28 – WCMRR Club 16th Model Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Ore. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. Info: Lee or Diane Temple, 541-688-9112, tandt@bauercom.net

Apr 3-4 – Great Western Train Show, Oregon State Fair Grounds, Salem, Ore. Info: info@gats.com or www.greatwesterntrainshow.com

Apr 4 – Train Show & Sale, El Dorado County Fairgrounds, Placerville, Calif. 10-4. Info: 530-626-3640.

Jul 4-11 – PSX 2004, Puget Sound eXpress, NMRA National Convention, Seattle, Wash. www.nmra2004.org

Sept 1-4 – 24th Natl. Narrow Gauge Convention, Westin Santa Clara Hotel, Santa Clara, Calif. Info: www.narrowgauge2004.com

Nov 27-28 – Rogue Valley Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Medford Armory, Medford, Ore. Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4. Info: Brad Fawcett 541-535-1952, bfawcett@mind.net or <http://rvmrc.railfan.net/>

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 iwccr@charter.net or 541-779-8145. 02/11/2004bhm.

25 years ago this month - **The Passing Track February 1979**: “*Due to an illness in the printer’s family and your Editor’s new interest in things other than railroading...*” ..nothing noteworthy appeared in this month’s issue.

30 years ago, a call was made for the selection of a name for this model railroad club. What were the proposed names? Submit your answer to Bruce. Answer will be published in a future newsletter.