



The Passing Track

March 2004

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Railroad Park Open To Public

The time has come once again to open the Medford Railroad Park to the public for the twice a month train sessions. The Park is open from 11:00 to 3:00 on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from April through October. Club members interested in operating trains on the Club layout during the Sunday sessions need to sign up to reserve an engineer's slot. Extra help is always welcome, and kibitzing with our visitors is enthusiastically encouraged. Sign-up sheets are on the Club bulletin board. Club members are reminded to have their trains in good working order, and to be prompt in arriving for one's shift. Morning shift personnel should arrive no later than 10:15. Afternoon shift personnel should arrive no later than 12:15.

General Membership Meeting Video

At this Wednesday's general membership meeting (March 24), Marvin Curtis will be showing his homemade video of the Bear Creek and Rocky Flats railroad, an HO_{n3} layout that is the work of a loose group of mostly RVMR

club members. The video covers all aspects of model railroading.

March Calendar of Events

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

New Layout Construction

Saturdays—April 3, 10, 17, and 24

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Construction/Cleanup Sessions:

Thursdays—April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Public Run Session

Sundays—April 11 and 25

10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, April 14

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 28

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Klamath Show a Raging Success

On any given Friday, the Klamath County Historical Museum has about 30 visitors. Last Friday there were 110, and they were there to see, in part, the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club's display, as well as Rick Ludlow's and Bruce McGarvey's ON30 modules, a book signing by Jack Bowden on logging railroads in Klamath County, and miscellaneous railroad displays. The show, part of Train Days Month at the museum, attracted over 500 people! For RVMR Club Klamath Falls members, it was an opportunity to run trains on our modular setup. Their excitement and enthusiasm was reflected by the amount of rolling stock in the yard on Sunday afternoon. An impromptu count revealed some 45 engines and enough rolling stock that not a bare rail was visible.



Ken Dencer and Jim Dugall install the modules at the Klamath Falls Historical Museum as Dave Spakousky looks on.

For Medford members John Wilson, Bruce McGarvey, Jim Dugall, Dave Spakousky, Jay Mudge (and Sally), Doug Howard and Brad Fawcett, the show was an opportunity to share the enthusiasm of model trains with both our Klamath members and friends and the general public. As Bruce McGarvey put it, "we spread a lot of goodwill." In fact, anonymous donations completely paid for the expenses of moving and setting up the Club's layout. On Friday, the truck arrived about 10:00 am, and our able-bodied crew had the layout running by noon, thanks in part to Spakousky's advanced trip several weeks earlier planning the layout. Joe Brick, a museum contributor, also helped make sure the Club's effort was a smooth one. On Friday, the museum ladies provided lunch, and before leaving Sunday, the crew was treated with pizza, juice and sodas by Judy McGarvey.

Dave Spakousky and wife Nancy spent most of the weekend railfanning. Dave noted his job was to get the Club layout there, set it up, get the thing working, and then sneak out to watch the UP mainline through K-Falls. In a short 26 minutes at the Aloma siding, Dave counted 7 trains, more than he sees in Medford in a year!



The Club's layout coming together in the display room at the museum.



March Board Meeting Summary

Dave Spakousky reported the Club will need to address layout electrical needs after we come back from K-Falls. The Railroad Park building needs to be repainted. Bruce also reported that the Railroad Park fence had been cut and a box of tools was taken from the speeder shed. The fence has since been fixed. The water fawcett at the northwest corner of the Club building has been damaged, is dripping, and needs repair. Logistics for the Klamath Falls show were discussed. Members not going can pitch in with loading on Thursday and/or unloading on Sunday. P&E T-shirts and jackets are in! There are 19 extra tees,

but no extra jackets. Stan will be contacting those who ordered the apparel. The Board unanimously voted to present our life members with the Club's new t-shirt. March 20th is the deadline for getting consignment items to Bruce McGarvey and John Wilson for the Club's swap table at the Eugene train show. The Club received a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the NMRA-PNW region. Grace Christian School would like to visit the Medford Railroad Park (including the Club layout) on May 27th.

1st Division NMRA/PNR Mini-Meet

On Saturday, April 17th, there will be a 1st Division Mini-Meet at the Corvallis Society of Model Engineers club house. Their club house is located at Adair Village a few miles north of Corvallis on Highway 99 West. The first clinic will start at 9 am with the coffee pot on at 8 am. Several clinics will take place before and after lunch, followed by an informal operating session on the club's DCC layout. Door prizes will be handed out. Also a favorite model contest will be held. There will be no admission charge for the event, but donations will be accepted to cover cost of the Bar-B-Q lunch to be held at the club house. MRA/PNR membership is not required, but with the Seattle NMRA convention coming in July, this might be a good time to consider joining. I hope a number of RVMRR club members might attend this event. It's a good opportunity to learn new things and meet new people. Car pooling works well. Check with Bruce for your questions. --Bruce McGarvey

Decoder Installation Workshop

Jay Mudge led a dozen Club members through a step-by-step DCC installation at the February general membership meeting. Success was had by all (after Jay figured out he needed to turn the power on his tester). Seems once one does an installation, a little of the mystery disappears. All in attendance thought the process was rather easy. One of the key steps is to isolate the motor from the frame electrically. Many of us at the workshop worked on an Athearn which has the little tabs on the bottom side of the motor. Bend or remove these tabs. Problems can occur if you bend the tabs up, but not clip them correctly, and they penetrate the tape, thus causing a short. On a recent exchange of e-mails regarding this potential problem, the following suggestion was noted. To see if the motor IS really isolated from frame PRIOR to attaching decoder wires:

Place your "ISOLATED" mechanism on a section of UNWIRED track. Take an OHM meter and touch 1 motor brush with 1 ohm lead, then touch other ohm lead

to EACH rail. You should have NO continuity! Repeat this for other motor brush. Doing this prior to wiring your decoder eliminates some of the guess work if the engine does not run when the install is complete. You can check this again after harness is wired in, but must be done with decoder NOT attached to harness (Just remember that a completed harnessed locomotive will show resistance across motor leads and light leads).

Siskiyou Summit Golden Spike

Was a golden spike driven to celebrate the completion of the railroad over the Siskiyou Summit, and if so, does it still exist? The following appeared in the *Mail Tribune* February 3.

"The spike was ceremonially driven and shortly after removed, but we're not sure where it is now. In March of 1947, G.H. Kilborn, the superintendent of Southern Pacific's Shasta Division at Dunsmuir, Calif. Conducted a search of company records with just that question in mind. Kilborn said such a spike was indeed driven at precisely 5:04 pm Dec 17 1887, at the south end of the railroad's Ashland yards. He even specified that the spike was driven on the east side of the track. The ceremony marked the completion of the Siskiyou line of the Southern Pacific, which was regarded as a terrific accomplishment. But take our word for it, as far as anybody knows, there's no gold lying around the tracks today."

Doug Howard Suffers Illness

Doug Howard apparently suffered a mild stroke after his return from the Klamath Falls train show. Please keep Doug in your thoughts and prayers. He's on the mend.



RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2004

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.

Apr 11 & 25 – Medford Railroad Park open to Public. 11 AM till 3 PM, Berrydale off Table Rock Road, Medford, Ore.

Apr 17 – PNR 1st Div. Mini-meet, CSME Club House, Adair Village, 99W north of Corvallis. Clinics starting at 9AM, operating session, favorite model contest. Info: Mike Adams mdadams006@aol.com or Bruce McGarvey iwccr@charter.net

May 27 – Grace Christian Church School youth at Railroad Park. Run trains and ...More later.

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.

Tom Baldwin recently brought his new Broadway Limited, complete with sound, and we were favorably impressed. John Wilson looks on.

25 Years ago this month – **The Passing Track March 1979:** “Milo reported \$515 in the bank with 35 members. Newest member joining is Aundre Knutson. Bob Lowe expects to have NMRA tape-slide clinic on John Allen’s G&D for next meeting. Spring Meeting to be May 19th...” (note: Aundre was a long time member, an accomplished illustrator and professional cartoonist, is now deceased and missed.)

30 Years ago, a call was made for the selection of a name for the model railroad club. What were the proposed names? Absent any submissions or guesses from our current membership, the three names voted on in April 1974: Southern Oregon Model RR, Rogue Valley Model RR, and State of Jefferson Model RR Club. And we all know how the vote turned out.

