

## The Passing Track

May 2004

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

### Your Attention, Please!

There are two very important and time sensitive matters before the RVMRC Club the month of May.

We will hold elections for the upcoming year's board at the next general membership meeting on Wednesday evening, May 26. You must be present to vote, and unless a quorum of the Club's membership is present, there can be no election.

The second matter is the need to repaint the clubhouse building. There are several options to consider, but we MUST have your preferences either by proxy or in person also at the May 26 general membership meeting. This month's Passing Track has an extensive discussion regarding painting the Club building. Please read it and make your preferences known.

Inside this issue are some incredible pictures of a historical module Marvin pulled together within 2 weeks! Sadly, Marvin passed away May 17, due to complications from a surgery. Our condolences go to the Curtis family. Marvin will be missed.

And finally, Club member Dave Hall is packing his bags and moving to the East Coast. Dave, whose mother just

passed away, is seeking to move closer to family ties. We will miss you Dave, and wish you well. Dave has been the most recent web master of the Club's website.

### June Calendar of Events

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

#### General Membership Meeting

**Wednesday, May 26 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

#### New Layout Construction

**Saturdays— June 5, 12, 19, and 26**

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

#### Construction/Cleanup Sessions:

**Thursdays—June 3, 10, 17, and 24**

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

#### Public Run Session

**Sundays—June 13 and 27 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM**

#### Board Meeting:

**Wednesday, June 9 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

#### General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 23 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

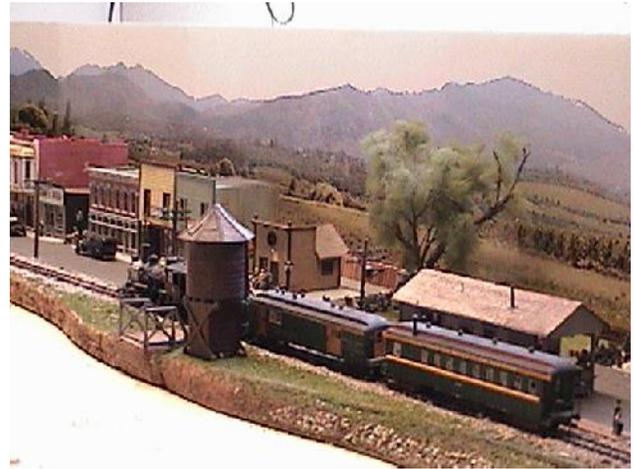
## May Board Meeting Summary

The RVMRC Board met on May 12. The Club has 41 current members in good standing. Our faulty DCC booster is at Digitrax for repair. 8 remote switches are being installed along the main where access is challenging for handthrow operations. Each switch is to be activated using your DCC throttles, but will also have a backup panel mounted control. Decoders control 4 switch machines each and will be appropriately placed to minimize wiring. It was suggested we leave one of the four slots open on each of the decoders for future additions. It was also suggested we use mile post numbers along our right-of-way and number each switch accordingly, as each switch will need a unique number. One switch on the layout has come apart and needs to be replaced. It is also thought that the engine stalling at switches is caused by loose points, the fact that our switches are not hooked up to electronic or ground throws. Once our switches are hooked up to their respective throws, we will check on the stalling problem. Switches being manufactured now are made with DCC in mind, so our future problems with DCC and switches should be negligible to nonexistent. The Club ordered another round of shirts and jackets (8 jackets and 4 Tees, including a small T for our big-hearted, but diminutive Andy Anderson). Seems a mixed order of 12 units was acceptable, and not 12 of each Tees and jackets, as previously thought. Duncan Campbell has purchased Campbell Manufacturing, the maker of wood structure kits, and will relocate the business here in the Medford area. Duncan has offered any kit for free to the Club as long as it is used on the Club layout, and the builder will agree to provide a step by step video or still photo recording on a DVD. The Board requested drawings of scenery ideas from any and all Club members by each major section of the railroad. This will help in an overall needs assessment for scenery and structures. Tom Baldwin requested and was granted a Clubhouse key. Dave Hall will be moving mid-June to the East Coast. Dave donated a box of structures to the Club.

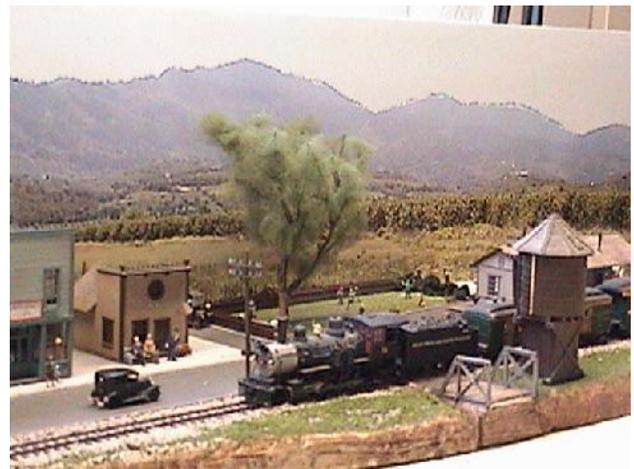
## Curtis Builds Module for Medford Library

I have been working on a panorama display, which will be installed in the new county library here in Medford. The library has been open a little over a month and it is spectacular. A friend here at the Manor who is on the Arts Council asked me to help develop an Oregon Showcase. We have four cabinets, seven feet wide and 5' - 6" high. The first will depict early Oregon with Indian artifacts. The second will be Oregon in the early days of

logging and railroads. This is where I came in. I loaned some of our model railroad pictures, engines and cars and then decided to build a seven-foot panorama.



I had a little over two weeks to complete the module as it was installed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. Attached are two views of the finished project. The display will be up for two months, so come on up and see it.



This morning about 10AM, Jim is picking me up for a trip to Rogue Valley Medical Center where I will be going into surgery to remove my left kidney, which has been diagnosed as having a small tumor. Following the hospital stay, I will be brought back to our Manor Health Center for a period of time to heal. Lynn [Marvin's wife] will share a room there with me. Lynn fell about four weeks ago and received a small pelvic fracture. She is slowly on the mend. I will write again when I get back home and give you an update.

*(submitted by Marvin Curtis)*

*(Editor's Note: The ending Marvin envisioned was not to be—Marvin passed away May 17. See Time Card page for more information.)*

## Club Membership Decision Needed on Painting Clubhouse Building

There is agreement that our Clubhouse needs a new coat of paint. Now comes the hard part—how? The work encompasses painting the outside of the building SP depot yellow satin latex and the trim SP brown semi-gloss. The process of painting the building includes power washing the building; wire brushing as necessary, caulking around windows, doors and ceilings at the roofline (not done previously, but needs attention now); applying a primer coat; and applying one or two finish coats. The work includes a process known as “backroll” to make sure the paint gets into cracks on the surface of the plywood. The shed requires the same treatment, but (battens have to be installed first) is not part of the project. Preparation work includes moving all the stored material now laying against the building wall on the south side.

Bruce McGarvey presented the Board with several options. The Board and members present had a lively discussion about each of the options, and the highlights are mentioned under each option.

**Option #1:** a 2-3 day or more commitment by 5-10 Club members to paint the building. This would require substantial ladder work for both the eaves and the high points at each end of the building. Our primary concern is that not enough Club members will be interested or willing to show up for the work days.

Bruce offered two other options. These options do not include painting the shed.

**Option #2:** Professional painter does the work, but Club provides the paint. Tom Baldwin recommended a painter he has been very happy with on his home remodeling project. Ben Van de Velde Construction would wash the building, spot prime paint, paint the body and trim and backroll for a bid of \$1,100. The Club provides the paint. Cost estimates for paint range from \$760 to \$885 depending on the quality (good, better, best) of the paint desired. Thus the total cost of this option would be about \$2,000. All paints would have a Satin finish giving the building a richer look than it has now (and is appropriate historically for the SP). Bruce noted that Ben would spot prime instead of priming the whole building. The Club felt his bid estimate was low for the work we thought needed to be done, and Ben either underestimated the work, or was cutting back on some work to “save” our Club some money. It was suggested Tom contact Ben and get clarification on his understanding of the work to be done. Providing paint might also mean that the Club will have a leftover paint to deal with. Upon further contacts with Ben, Tom noted Ben felt priming the whole

building was overkill, but would be happy to submit an updated bid on par with work bid on by the other painters.

**Option #3:** Professional painters do the work AND provide the paint. Bruce received two bids from professional painters with excellent reputations.

**“That Cheap Painter”** submitted a bid for \$2,880 and proposes to use Rodda paint. Also included is extra caulking on either side of each batten.

**“She’s The Boss”** submitted a bid for \$3,000 and proposes to use Sherwin-Williams Super Paint- best SW paint.

Club discussion on the alternatives noted a potential savings of about \$2,000 if we do the work ourselves. But, is there enough support from the membership to do the work? Bruce valued his time working on the Club layout much higher than spending the same amount of time painting. Several members agreed and stated they would “buy” their way out of painting with a cash donation (in lieu of going on a paint detail). Whichever alternative the Club adopts, these cash donations in lieu of work would decrease the balance the Club would have to commit toward having the building painted.

**THE BOARD NEEDS TO KNOW YOUR PREFERENCE. The Board will make a decision at the next general membership meeting. So attend May 26, or let a board member (or someone planning to attend) know your preference.**

Will you be part of a paint detail for 3 days or so?  
Will you donate cash (in lieu of work) toward the painting effort? How much?  
Which of the three bidders would you prefer?



*Jim Walburn holds a clinic on laser cut kits and materials at the recent PNR Mini-Meet. A Fall Mini-meet is tentatively scheduled for Roseburg*

## RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2004

**May 27** - Grace Christen Church School youth at Railroad Park. Run trains and .....More info later.

**Jul 4-11** – PSX 2004, Puget Sound eXpress, NMRA National Convention, Seattle, Wash. [www.nmra2004.org](http://www.nmra2004.org)

**Aug 15** – Lane Society Model Railroaders 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Picnic, 2 PM at club house. RVMRR Club members invited. RSVP Dan Dexter [horaileug@juno.com](mailto:horaileug@juno.com). Also Info: thru Bruce at [iwcr@charter.net](mailto:iwcr@charter.net)

**Sept 1-4** – 24<sup>th</sup> Natl. Narrow Gauge Convention, Westin Santa Clara Hotel, Santa Clara, Calif. Info: [www.narrowgauge2004.com](http://www.narrowgauge2004.com)

**Sept 11-12** – Albany Train Show, Linn Cty Fairgrounds, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. Info: Don Albright, 541-928-1612, [dwalbright@proaxis.com](mailto:dwalbright@proaxis.com).

**Sept 25** – Tentative date for PNR Mini-Meet, Roseburg Public Library. Stay tuned. More info to follow.

**Nov 27-28** – Rogue Valley Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Medford Armory, Medford, Ore. Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4. Info: Brad Fawcett 541-535-7952, [bfawcett@mind.net](mailto: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 [iwcr@charter.net](mailto:iwcr@charter.net) or 541-779-8145. 05/17/2004bhm.

**25 years ago** this month - **The Passing Track May 1979:** (No issue available.)

I just received a phone call that Marvin Curtis died this morning (May17th). Last Thursday, he had surgery for the removal of a kidney and was in ICU. He joined RVMRR Club in December of 1998 and was an active supporter. He was a major part of the Bear Creek & Rocky Flats RR, a HOn3 layout, along with Jim Dougall, Judy Mallchok, E. Don Pettit, and Bill Leininger. Marvin will be missed by many. Our wishes are with his wife, Lynn, and family during this difficult time. (Bruce)

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