



The Passing Track

June 2004

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

General Membership Programs

The Club holds general membership meetings the fourth Wednesday of each month. These meetings were intended to be for socializing, bull sessions, and workshops for learning and presentations for entertainment. Being newly elected as the vice-chair, Jay Mudge is taking his role seriously of providing coordination for programs. This coming Wednesday, on June 23, Jay will host a session on **Throttle Basics**, "Working with and understanding the Digitrax hand held throttles". Jay has planned a July 28 session on **Decoder Programming Basics**, "How to set up and program the decoders installed in your engines". On August 25 there will be an **Open Discussion** on what has been covered, "An in depth look at what has been covered in the past months". As scenery begins to take shape on the new layout, there are sessions planned for making trees the McGarvey and the Spakousky methods. Other scenery-related topics of interest will follow. There is a video of Marvin Cutis's making of the Medford Library dioramas that will be the subject of a future program, as well. Other ideas include repeating some of the classes on DCC, such as programming, decoder installation, and throttle operations. Perhaps some of these classes will be held on a Saturday to give those who are not able to attend on a Wednesday evening an opportunity.

July Calendar of Events

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

General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, June 23 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
"Throttle Basics"

New Layout Construction
Saturdays— July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Construction/Cleanup Sessions:
Thursdays—July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Public Run Session
Sundays—July 11 and 25
10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Board Meeting:
Wednesday, July 14 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, July 7 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
"Decoder Programming Basics"

Marvin Eugene Curtis

Marvin Eugene Curtis passed away following surgery on May 17, 2004 at the age of 78.

He was born January 31, 1926 in Lincoln, Nebraska to



Oran and Hazel Curtis. He graduated high school in Lincoln, Nebraska and joined the Naval ROTC while at Doane College. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1945 with a degree in engineering, and later from the University of Nebraska with a degree in chemical engineering. While at U of N he met Lynn Nordgren and they were married in 1948.

Marvin served in the Korean conflict in the capacity of chief engineer aboard the Horace A. Bass. After their two sons, were born, Marvin and Lynn moved to the San Jose area until their retirement to the Rogue Valley Manor in 1998. While in the bay area, Marvin worked as a chemical engineer, retiring as a consulting engineer.

Marvin had many interests and hobbies. He was active in the United Methodist Church of Los Gatos, California, and Medford. With Volunteers in Mission Marvin helped design and build houses and community centers in Russia, Honduras, Mexico and Guatemala. He was a founding partner of On The Wall Frame Shop and Gallery in Medford. While at the Rogue Valley Manor, Marvin helped coordinate programs and enjoyed producing videos for different events. One of his most satisfying pastimes was building model trains. In the twelve days before his hospitalization, he built an HO-model railroad panoramic scene that was installed in a display case of the new Medford library just two days before his passing.



Marvin is survived by Lynn, his wife of 56 years; his sons, John of Los Gatos, CA and Jim of Talent; and two grandsons, Chris and Scott. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Glen Curtis.

Memorial services were held Sunday, May 30 at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Medford. A memorial service was also held in Los Gatos. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Jackson County Library Materials Fund, 205 S. Central Ave., Medford, OR 97501.

May General Membership Meeting Notes

After additional information was presented by Tom Baldwin and an updated bid presented by Tom for Ben van de Veld, the Club unanimously voted to award Ben the painting contract for the Club building. The contract is for about \$1,300 and the Club will furnish the paint and painting supplies (to be about \$800—the paint being Sherwin Williams Never Peel and exterior latex satin).

The Club held elections. All running unopposed: E. Don was re-elected as Chairman, Bruce as treasurer, and John Gerritsma as secretary. Jay Mudge accepted the vice-chairman's position, and Jim Dougal and Stan McCulloch volunteered to be members at large.

Minutes From the June Board Meeting

The RVMRC Board met on June 9. The Club has 44 members including 25 regular memberships, 16 associate memberships and 3 life memberships. The board accepted an associate membership for Jerome (Snuffy) Haas. Snuffy has produced some of the signs used by the Club and the Thanksgiving Train Show. New magazines are continually being added to the library. There are some binders with photos of 1940's and 1950's era around Medford to give us scenery and modeling ideas. It was suggested that the Club organize a tour of the sites being modeled on our permanent layout, so we can have an informed discussion about scenery ideas, particularly buildings, businesses, industries, and backdrop scenery. Bruce reported that the building fire extinguishers have been recharged. Due to all the backdrop work with drywall, the layout will need an extra cleaning effort for Sunday's public run session. Wil Cleveland suggested using 3/8 inch paneling boards for the curved portions of the backdrop around the Medco mill site. Since Dave Hall has moved back East, the Club will need a new webmaster. The meeting was adjourned and was followed by a lengthy discussion about backdrop colors.

Grace Christen School's visit to the park on May 27th

The third grade students, teachers and parents visited the park riding the SOLS trains, visiting the railway historical displays and the model railroad club. There were three groups of about twenty each. The students were at their best and enjoyed the club's display.



After viewing and before leaving, a Q&A session brought up many interesting questions and good discussion. Fortunately, the weather, while cloudy, was fairly good with only a bit of a rain shower during the mid days festivities.

All in all, a good time was had by all. Special thanks to those club members who came and answered the students' questions and helped count freight cars in the trains. Grin.



Donations Sought for Painting Project

Each regular member of the Club will be receiving a pledge request to submit their intention of donating cash in lieu of working on the painting crew. Many members suggested they would be willing to donate instead of swinging paintbrushes. Associate members are also welcomed to donate to the "cause", but will not be sent a request. If anyone wishes to donate at a later date, you may indicate such on your pledge. The Club hopes to raise \$1,000 to help defray the approximate \$2,000 cost of painting the Club building.

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2004

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

Aug 15 – Lane Society Model Railroaders 3rd Annual Picnic, 2 PM at club house. RVMRR Club members invited. RSVP Dan Dexter horaileug@juno.com. Also Info: thru Bruce at iwccr@charter.net

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

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 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. 05/17/2004bhm.

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

"Bob Lowe was passing out plan sheets of a box and hopper car at the meet. They are reprints of old Cleveland Models plans and I believe the sheets came from their magazine. Point is, that these plans, drawn in 1933 were before HO standardized on 3.5 mm per foot. They are 1/8" to the foot, which is a tad smaller for HO scale as it is today. Way back then, some modelers were using 1/8" to the foot and others were at 3.5 mm. Eventually the NMRA ironed it all out..."

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