



The Passing Track

February 2005

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Next HDTV Show and Prep for Klamath Falls...This Wednesday

The second sampling of the high definition television series *Tracks Ahead* is being shown at the Club's general membership meeting night, Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30 pm, but at the Southern Oregon Public Television Station in downtown Medford at 34 South Fir Street. Previously (on Monday night, February 7) the Historical Society hosted the event, and three segments were shown to a large audience. Micro-Trains, who is one sponsor of the *Tracks Ahead* series and a prominent member of the World's Greatest Hobby organization, provided each participant with an N gauge Micro-Trains car. The *Tracks Ahead* organization donated a number of items, which were also given away as door prizes. These items included videos, mugs, caps and assorted scale railroad items. The previous showings included segments on the Ghan, an Alice Springs to Adelaide Australian railroad through the Outback, a large garden railroad, the history of Lionel, streetcar companies, a railfanning park in the Midwest, and trains of Cuba where time (and railroading) seemed to have frozen in time at the steam-diesel transition. Three segments will be shown this Wednesday (see next page for details). A short general membership meeting will be held afterward to solicit input about the dues due date change and preparations for the Klamath Falls railroad show. There will be more door prizes given away, as well.

March Calendar of Events

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

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 23

Tracks Ahead on HDTV

At Southern Oregon Public Television, Medford

7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Klamath Falls Train Show

Saturday-Sunday, March 12-13

Klamath Falls County Museum

New Layout Construction

Saturdays— March 5, 19, 26

Generally between 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Construction/Cleanup Sessions:

Thursdays—March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, March 9

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 23

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Klamath Falls Show

The RVMR Club will once again display a modular layout at the Klamath Falls County Museum Railroad Days on March 12 and 13. The truck has been rented and will be loaded on Thursday evening March 10 or Friday morning, March 11. We need help both with loading the truck and unloading Sunday afternoon/evening when the truck returns from Klamath Falls.



Setting up the Klamath Falls show in 2004

Special Event! High Definition Television Train Show February 23

Join fellow rail buffs for the second installment of high definition train shows at Southern Oregon Public Television. *Tracks Ahead* from the Milwaukee PBS station is broadcast on SOPTV's HDTV station, but unless you have a high definition television, you can't enjoy the series. High definition television is the perfect medium to view a rail show because high def shows the detail and depth of field that really complements a rail program. With high def, the panoramic landscape of the train program and the detail of that scale model will be exceptional. The following shows will air Wednesday, February 23 beginning at 7:30 pm.

Program #504 Road Railers

Trains aren't just about traditional rolling stock anymore. *Tracks Ahead* will look in on an updated version of some freight hauling technology that has been around for quite a while. Visit with the man who is one of the nationally known guru's of steam, Doyle McCormack, and his famous locomotive, the 4449. Visit the Tennessee Valley railroad, and look at an amazing layout and collection of vintage toy trains.

Program #505 Northlandz

It's billed as the largest model railroad in the world. *Tracks Ahead* takes a look at the

gigantic layout called Northlandz. Ride with author and Chicago Sun Times literary critic Henry Kisor as he travels to the Rocky Mountains, check out an HO layout with a European flair, and drop down to the piney woods of east Texas where steam is still king.

Program #509 Cable Cars.

One of America's historic treasures is found in San Francisco. The colorful cable cars attract not just tourists, but city residents as well. Meet Homer Henry, a man whose layouts are just a small part of his passion for railroading. Visit the steam trains of the one-hundred-year old Heber City Railroad in Utah, and the Twin Cities Model Railroad club.

Contact Maureen Battistella at 541-779-0808x245 or by email to Maureen@soptv.org for more information.

Support SOPTV

Brad Fawcett of the Club and several other representatives from various Railroad Park clubs will be on SOPTV on Saturday, March 12 during the fund drive segments from noon to about 4 pm. They will be discussing model railroading at the Park and around Medford, model railroading in general, and working the telephones to take pledges during the afternoon's pledge drive. If you are not at the Klamath Falls railroad show, give Brad and the boys a call and make a pledge to support Southern Oregon Public Television!

Recap of the February Board Meeting

The RVMR Club Board met on February 9. Bruce put a portion of the Club's account into 6 and 12 month money market accounts to earn a little extra interest on monies not currently being used for the new layout or general expenses. Insurance for the year, in the amount of \$1375, has been paid. Jay Mudge was added (in addition to Bruce and Stan) as signatories for the Club's checking accounts so the Club has continuous access to its funds. Bruce put binders of all the Club's *Passing Tracks*, from 1976 to 2004 in the library. Irrigation systems have been installed in the volunteer effort to add some landscaping around the front of the Club's building. The Miniatures Club will no longer be meeting at the Clubhouse. They cited the lack of adequate lighting in the parking lot (both safety and security) as the reason for finding another location to meet. Two members are delinquent in their dues, and one member has been dropped (nonpayment of dues). The scenery around Derby has been mostly an effort with foam. The original thought was newspaper and screen/cardboard base, but the foam is available and seems to be a good fit for the area. Our public shows begin in another few months and we need

to do maintenance work on our modules. The Board has set aside the Saturdays of March 26 and April 2 to refurbish our modules and do a general cleanup of the Clubhouse. Lisa Campbell, wife of Club member Duncan Campbell, has been diagnosed with a serious illness. Please keep Lisa and Duncan in your thoughts and prayers.

DCC Order Clarification

Those wishing to order DCC components at this time in conjunction with another club are instructed to place your orders with Bruce. You will need a 50% deposit and have your order in by the March 9 Board meeting. Bruce will consolidate our needs. It is not appropriate to go through Eugene Toy and Hobby for this offer.

Customized Club Cars

LBF, a southern Oregon manufacturer of railroad products, is offering the Club a special car run. Any existing LBF model, in HO or N scale can be decorated with either prototype or commemorative artwork, which can then be used and/or sold by the Club as part of their fund raising efforts.



An example of a custom car the club could produce...in this case a boxcar from the Mount Pit Route (Pacific and Eastern).

The minimum order for LBF is 240 cars. The base cost is retail price for the kit, less 40%, plus a setup charge of around \$125-150. Using the LBF PS-1 Boxcar kit as an example, a one color car with one color lettering, like the example above, would retail for \$12.95, but cost the club 40% less, the balance of which would be for the Club fundraiser (about \$5.00 per car). Completely assembled cars would be about \$5.00 more, though a club could certainly order kits, put them together and charge an additional fee for the completed car. Upon completion of the order, the car is listed on the LBF website, with a link to your own website or specific instructions on how

to order exclusively from your organization. Several of the Club members have stated that such cars are in high demand by collectors, and felt the Club would have great interest should we embark on this venture. The Board would like to know what the member interest is in such a venture, what kind of custom car would interest folks, and how many of such cars would you be interested in for your personal use. Other examples of these cars are the OSU and UO chip cars currently displayed at the Club.

Scenery Progressing

The following photos indicate the progress being made in the scenery base around Derby and along the Cascade grade. There is plenty to learn and plenty to do for those who have an interest in this aspect of the hobby. This is your chance to learn some cool techniques from a few experts in the Club who have used foam many times before.



Foam base being constructed at Derby. View in foreground is the eventual rock pit at Derby



Dave Spakousky uses a modified putty knife to trim and shape the bank cuts on the Derby curve

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2005

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, 1451 Main Street, Klamath Falls, Ore. Fri 9 AM – 7 PM, Sat 9 AM – 5 PM, Sun 11 AM – 3 PM. Check information in newsletter or contact Bruce at iwcr@charter.net

Mar 12 – Winterrail 2005, Stockton, Calif., Info: <http://altamontpress.com/winterail/2005.html>

Apr 9-10 – 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 8-10 – Dunsmuir Railroad Days. Info: Dave Smith at 530-235-0369 or milepost322@yahoo.com

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

Oct 8 – *Corvallis Model Railroad Swap Meet, Burton County Fairgrounds, Corvallis, Ore. 10 AM – 4 PM.* Info: Patrick Sloma at 541-760-5245, p.sloma@comcast.net

Oct (TBA)– *Northwest Narrow Gauge Meeting, Salem, Ore.* Info: Dr. Monte Pearson at drrock-1@earthlink.net

Nov 26-27 – **28th Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show**, Medford Armory, Medford, Ore. Info: Brad Fawcett 541-535-7952, bfawcett@mind.net Watch this space for details.

If you know of shows not listed here please let me know so we can share that with our readers.
Contact Bruce at iwcr@charter.net or 541-779-8145. 02/16/2005bhm.

Thought for the month: "Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them."

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
PO Box 1362
Medford, OR 97501