

The Passing Track

March 2005

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Klamath Falls Train Show



For the second year in a row, the RVMR Club presented a modular layout at the Klamath County Museum Railroad Days. Not only did the estimated 500-700 people enjoy the Club's layout, but Club members took in a good dose of bright sunshine and REAL trains. For more photos, see inside this month's newsletter.

April Calendar of Events

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

Special Saturday Cleanup Sessions

March 26 and April 2

Beginning at 9:00 am

Public Run Session

Sundays—April 10 and 24.

10:30 am to 3:00 pm

New Layout Construction

Saturdays— April 2, 9, 16, 23,30

Generally between 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Construction/Cleanup Sessions:

Thursdays—April 7, 14, 21, 28

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, April 13

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 27

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Get Ready For Sundays

The twice-monthly public run sessions are upon us. The Park season begins the second Sunday in April. To get us ready for the public showing, the Club will have two cleanup and fixing sessions. The first is Saturday, March 26, and the second is Saturday, April 2. If you wish to reserve a slot as engineer (bring and run trains for the public), contact Jim Dougall (779-8725). The time slots run from 10:00 to 12:30 and 12:30 to 3:00.

Hanging In There

Cliff Niesen has had another stroke. He is paralyzed from the waist down, and can only see straight ahead and slightly to the left, he took a bad fall about a week and a half ago and hit his head on the hearth under the wood stove, and had to have 16 stitches taken in his head. He is alert and sharp as a tack. Cliff is in a hospital bed in the living room of his house. Cliff's son Joe is taking care of both Cliff and Millicent. She took a tumble a week ago and broke her wrist and is in a cast.

E. Don continues to watch over his ailing mother, and Lisa Campbell is undergoing treatments for brain tumor. These folks need your thoughts and prayers.

Recap of February General Meeting

A short meeting ensued after the second *Tracks Ahead* presentation at the Southern Oregon Public Television studio in Medford. Besides discussing the final preparations for the Club's trip to Klamath Falls for the Museum Train Show, the membership approved setting June 1 as the date for everyone's Club dues to be payable. In addition, the membership approved Club expenditure on custom designed Club cars from LBF and the purchase of two handheld DCC controllers for guests. These units are easier to use, and will give the club a total of four guest units.

March Board Meeting Recap

The RVMR Club Board met on March 9. Ray Kornell was accepted as a full member (previously an associate member). The library continues to be overhauled as Jim Dougall sorts out the older, nonvaluable magazines, fills out issues to make complete sets, and logs in the various books that the Club has recently been given. The Club is ready to go for the trip to Klamath Falls, though there may be a hitch in who will be driving the truck. The board approved the purchase of additional decoders for the Burlington F3 units donated to the Club a few years ago by John Sipple of *Model RR News*. Preparations are under way for sorting through the Clubhouse for items to be taken to the Eugene Swap meet in April. The Club donated some of the excess code 100 track to Ken Dencer, who has been very supportive of Club activities in Klamath Falls. We will need a nominating committee for Board elections in May. The committee's role, according to Club bylaws, is to identify a slate of candidates for the various board positions. If you would like to help on this committee, please contact Jay Mudge or Bruce McGarvey. The late Marvin Curtis's module needs to be moved from its current storefront location in downtown Medford. The Board feels the module can have a home somewhere in the Clubhouse when needed. Bruce sent the other clubs at the RR Park a letter that he will not be responsible for the media releases this year. It has been custom that someone from the Park handle the public relations releases at the start of the public run season (which begins the second Sunday in April). Bruce believes some else needs to step up and fulfill that role.

Club to Raise Roof for Layout Addition

Dave Spakousky and Larry Tuttle, both finding themselves suddenly inspired, joined their talents to redesign both the Club's upper line of track and add yet another loop for the Pacific and Eastern to better reflect the track's journey through the high Cascades. Inspired by John Allen's genius of monumental floor to ceiling scenery, the designer twins have rerouted the upper loop in a spectacular climb up and over the Cascades. In their

sudden “out of the box” thinking, Dave and Larry ignored the present limitation of the Club’s ceiling/roof, and designed our new layout onto what will become the second story of the Club building. The second story design has a killer view area of the entire railroad park with room for a deck and snack area. (Treasurer Bruce McGarvey has already developed a cash flow worksheet which indicates very positive revenues that will result.)

With Larry’s construction background and connections, he was able to get a prompt estimate for the addition. With a construction offer that is too good to be true, acting Chairman Jay Mudge called an emergency board meeting to immediately act on the proposal. He was heard to say that this is no time to go by the books (Club Charter and bylaws, that is) when such an opportunity is at hand. The board was immediately infatuated with the proposal and voted 4-0 in favor, especially sold by the second story deck snack bar and gift shop. Construction is to begin immediately, next month, in April. Needless to say Dave and Larry were very pleased that their effort would be coming to fruition so fast. Dave was heard to say as he left the board meeting, “Only an April Fool can really appreciate that new club addition!”

--Your Newsletter Editor

Customized Club Cars Ordered

LBF, a southern Oregon manufacturer of railroad products, has been contracted to provide the Club a set of special run cars. The Club is purchasing 240 cars, 120 of which will be three colors with unique numbers such that the Club can purchase 120 cars and no two cars will have the same number. The remaining 120 cars will be numbered with some duplication. The car to be manufactured is the 50 foot double door FMC boxcar in depot olive, Reading green, and signal red. The cars will be adorned with the “Mount Pit Route” logo and insignia, and Pacific&Eastern roadname. The cost will be approximately \$12-13 per car, which is undetermined until the final production costs come in.

Eagle Valley And Eastern To Rebuild

It has been known for some time that the EV&E has been looking for new passages since the sale of the original line several years ago. After nearly 10 years, it was announced this week that the EV&E will be rebuilding. It has acquired new trackage rights with major landowners and has already begun clearing the land for the new line. It is not clear at this time when track will be laid, but sources has it that it will be some time this spring. As of this writing, track plans were being drawn but not yet settled as to where exactly the track will be laid. The contractor for the track plans, a Dave Spakousky, would not comment. He did say however that he was confident that the plans would meet the satisfaction of the company. He has a very high confidence that there will be little change in the plans once submitted to the owner, Don Terrell, as "We have

worked together before on other projects and have had no major problems." One of the major reasons for the slow takeoff of this project is due to trying to negotiate contracts with businesses for rail service. But Don Terrell was confident that everything would work out to his advantage since the EV&E had a good reputation in the past. In fact, he said the only REAL hurdle would be if the CP&E was willing to interchange with the EV&E, and where the interchange would be.

--Submitted by Don Terrell

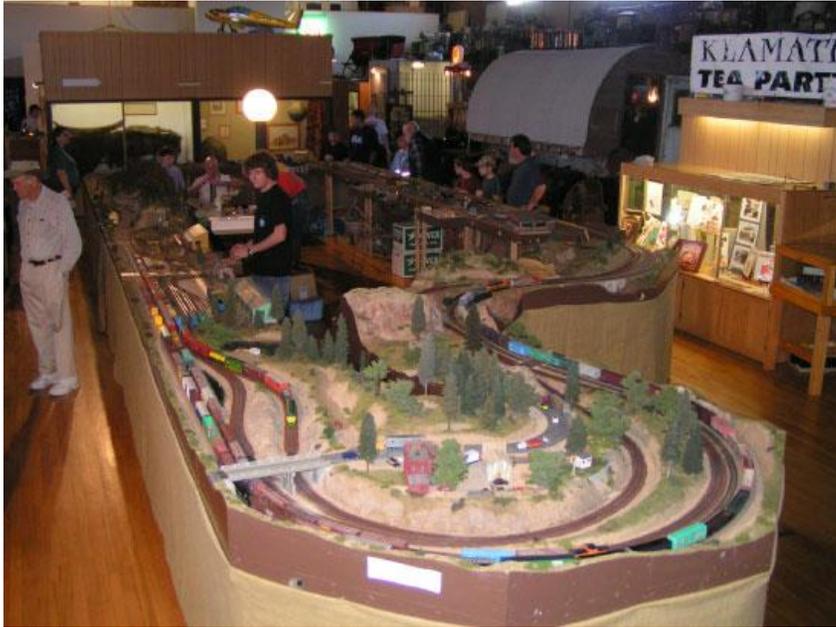
How Much and When

The following schedule of payments will help you determine how the prorating of your dues will occur as we all switch to a common due date of June 1 of each year. By June 1, 2006, we will all be on the same due date.

Dues Expire	Payment to June 2006	
	Full	Associate
April 1, 2005	\$70	\$17.50
May 1, 2005	\$65	\$16.25
June 1, 2005	\$60	\$15.00
July 1, 2005	\$55	\$13.75
August 1, 2005	\$50	\$12.50
September, 1 2005	\$45	\$11.25
October 1, 2005	\$40	\$10.00
November 1, 2005	\$35	\$8.75
December 1, 2005	\$30	\$7.50
January 1, 2006	\$25	
February 1, 2006	\$20	
March 1, 2006	\$15	
April 1, 2006	\$10	
May 1, 2006	\$5	
June 1, 2006 (dues for 2006-7; everyone)	\$60	\$15.00

Here’s an option if you wish to be paid through June of 2007 and you have paid your dues in the last 6 months, which means your dues expire toward the second half of 2005 to early 2006:

Dues Expire	Payment to June 2007	
	Full	Associate
October 1, 2005	\$100	\$25.00
November, 1, 2005	\$95	\$23.75
December 1, 2005	\$90	\$22.50
January 1, 2006	\$85	\$21.25
February 1, 2006	\$80	\$20.00
March 1, 2006	\$75	\$18.75
April 1, 2006	\$70	\$17.50
May 1, 2006	\$65	\$16.25
June 1, 2006	\$60	\$15.00



Above: Jim Fisher operating the Club's layout at the Klamath County Museum.
Below: Ken Dencer and Joe Brick, Klamath Falls Club members.



Above: Chuck Stutts and Ken Dencer operate trains while Tony Havel looks on.
Below: A crowd gathers while Jim Fisher operates the trains.





Above: The perk of being in Klamath Falls, a private coach pulled by Amtrak.
Below: Behind the scenes guys John Wilson and Ray Kornell.



Above: The Klamath County Museum logging diorama.
Below: Every show has a beginning and an end with unsung heroes aplenty.



RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2005

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

Apr 22 – Central Point 3rd Grade students visit Railroad Park, RVMRR Club layout open, 10 AM till 2 PM or so. Info: Jim Dougall at 541-779-8725.

May 13 – Southern Pacific Prototype Meet, Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, Ore. 9 AM – 5 PM. Info: www.espeeinoregon.com or Rod Loder at 503-551-9611.

May 14 – Port of Tillamook Train Excursion, Banks, Ore. Departs 8 AM over Coast Range and return via bus at 4 PM with dinner at Camp 18, ETA Banks at 7:30 PM. Info: www.espeeinoregon.com or Rod Loder at 503-551-9611.

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. 03/18/2005bhm.

Thought for the month: "Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker."

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
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