

The Passing Track

November/December 2006

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

December 16 at 5 PM

Annual RVMRC Christmas Dinner
Medford Inn

January Calendar of Events

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

General Construction/New Layout Saturdays

Generally From 10:00 AM to 3 PM
Ops Session—3rd Saturday

Construction/Cleanup Sessions: Thursdays

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Board Meeting:

2nd Wednesday of each month
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

General Membership Meeting

4th Wednesday of each month
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Annual Christmas Potluck

The RVMR Club will hold its annual Christmas potluck on Saturday, December 16 at 5:00 pm. Dinner will be serving at 6 pm. The event will be held at the Medford Inn on Riverside Drive just south of Barnett (1015 S. Riverside). Ham is being provided by the Club. E. Don Petit and Jim Dougall are bringing desserts. If your last name begins with A-F, please bring bread or a dish involving potatoes; if your last names begins with G-P, please bring a vegetable or a salad; and if your last name begins with Q-Z, then you may bring an item of your choice.

Please bring a white elephant gift for the gift exchange. The wrapped gift can be railroad related, could be something whimsical or silly, or just plain something you no longer need or cannot use. We will not be identifying gifts for railroaders separate from spouses this year. This means you may bring a railroad related gift, or not. During the gift exchange you have the opportunity to take a gift from someone that has already been opened, or an unopened gift from under the tree. Are you adventurous or conservative? Come join us and find out!

October Board Meeting

Due to the Club not having a quorum at the October Board meeting on October 11, the Board did not conduct any official business that night.

November Board Meeting Notes

The RVMRC Board met on Wednesday, November 8, 2006. Four board members were present among the eight Club members in attendance. The treasurer reported that the Club's finances were in good standing with income ahead of expenditures for the year. Gordon Nunnally of the National Historical Society has proposed to do landscaping along the south and west side of the Club building. Gordon said he would like to have a more accessible water source for the south side of the building, which would require an extension of the water line to the south wall of the building. Tony Johnson, who is a member of both the Live Steamers and the Historical group, would be assisting Gordon.

Jim Dougall recommended that the Club sell our surplus books at the National Historical Society table at the November Railroad Show, or the railroad swapmeet in Eugene in 2007. Bruce reported that four club members' dues are in arrears. Bruce will follow up with one of the members, continue attempts to make contact with a second, but feels two others will likely not renew. Bruce passed out copies of the new Club membership categories and rates, as approved at the October General Membership meeting.

John Gerritsma thanked Bruce McGarvey for publishing the October issue of the Passing Track during John's month long absence. Jim will get a copy of the Club's job schedule for the November train show for inclusion into the Passing Track in the November issue [*this item did not occur as the November issue was combined with the December newsletter and the show has already occurred—ed.*]

Jay will host another DCC clinic on Saturday, November 11. The emphasis on the clinic would be operations using DCC plus continued installation and programming of DCC decoders. After November 11, the Thursday and Saturday work sessions will be dedicated to getting prepared for the annual train show. The floor space is very tight this year and the Club has a modest 20x32 foot space.

Jay sold three Club cars on e-bay.

Jim Dougall reported that he had been contacted by Jim Curtis, Marvin Curtis's son, about the diorama that Marvin built for display at the Medford Library. Jim inquired as to the Club's interest in having the diorama displayed at the Clubhouse, but that he would "borrow" the display sometime in the future. The board approved the suggestion, and Jim will make additional contacts to pick up the diorama. Bruce reported that he will set up a display at the Medford Public Library on Monday, November 13 where it will be for 4-6 weeks.

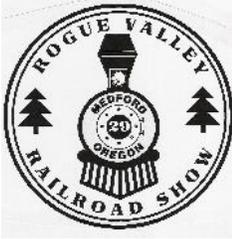
It is reported that Dick Hotchkiss Manufacturing is closing *Clear Case*. This high quality product line of optical grade acrylic display cases, solid oak bases, and anti-static cleaner apparently has fallen victim to overseas competition. *Clear Case* has a "shelf full" of display case items for sale to club members and the public at garage sale prices. (See Walthers Catalog for photos and retail prices). Bruce presented shares of the P&E to Kadee Quality Products for their recent generous donation of Kadee products to the Club.

Thoughts and Prayers

A number of our members have either been ill or have had a traumatic event touch their lives recently. Fred Christian's wife passed away recently, as did Tom Baldwin's father. Jerry Helinga had heart surgery just prior to the railroad show. He is home recovering. Andy Anderson had carpal surgery and is recovering, as well. Chuck Stuts' wife is recovering from breast cancer.



Photos Courtesy of Don Terrell



29th Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show Steams to Success

A long-standing southern Oregon holiday tradition, the 29th Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show was held at the Medford Armory on Nov. 25th and 26th, 2006. Over 4,000 railroad fans viewed model trains in a myriad of types and sizes, along with related exhibits and displays.

This year's show was proudly sponsored and staffed by four organizations that share facilities at the City of Medford's Railroad Park: the Southern Oregon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, the Morse Telegraph Club, Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains, and the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club. All proceeds from the show fund improvements to the exhibits at the Railroad Park.

Over twenty model railroad layouts were incorporated among the twenty-six exhibits that filled the large Armory floor. In a poll of Saturday's attendees, the exhibit by Gary Johnston (Central Point, OR) was voted the show's favorite. Johnston proudly displayed a multi-level N-scale layout featuring a fanciful winter landscape, a bridge over a large river, a small town, and an airport. The large garden-scale layout operated by Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains (SOLST), with a variety of scenes including a wedding chapel, golf course, haunted house, and amusement park, finished closely behind in the balloting. The Ashland-based Siskiyou Toy Train Club's eclectic layout featuring O-scale Lionel trains placed third.

Among other notable exhibits were two creations by John Huckaby (Ferndale, CA), including a crowd-pleaser that featured a Western town scene rife with visual puns. Both the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club (RVMRC) and the Klamath Rails club (Klamath Falls, OR) exhibited large modular HO-scale layouts. Two complex and beautifully landscaped N-scale layouts by Bob Marcy (Grants Pass, OR) included close to 150 feet of track each. The White City Model RR Club displayed their N-scale line, complete with mountains, tunnels, and a harbor. Loren Snyder (Medford, OR) and the Cascade Z Modelers exhibited several Z-scale layouts, including a modular layout featuring mountainous terrain, a layout incorporated inside a briefcase, and a tiny layout cleverly mounted inside the shell of a computer monitor. Our youngest exhibitor, 11-year-old Marcus Johnson (Ashland, OR) proudly showed off his 4-by-8 HO-scale layout featuring a town and small lake.

Several interactive exhibits gave children of all ages a chance to "control the throttle", including Bryan Frazier's (Ashland, OR) Lego trains, Rick Korner's (Medford, OR) Fisher-Price trains, Art McKee's (Prospect, OR) O-scale "Switching Puzzle", and the RVMRC's popular HO-scale "Junior Pretzel" layout.

Southern Oregon is home to three premier manufacturers of model railroad equipment – Kadee Quality Products of White City, Micro-Trains Line of Talent, and Campbell Scale Models of Central Point – and the show was very proud to host exhibits that highlighted their products. A fourth manufacturer, Sea Rails of Valley Ford, CA, also displayed its products.

Other notable exhibits included a whimsical diorama created by Dick Hotchkiss (Merlin, OR) showing a G-scale logging train's bridge crossing predicament during an earthquake, and several buildings and dioramas created by the Medford Evening Miniatures club.

Several fascinating exhibits highlighted railroad history. The National Railway Historical Society's exhibit featured a mix of railroad artifacts along with information about their restoration projects at the Medford Railroad Park. Show attendees took their turn sitting in two restored speeders once used to maintain track in the mountain West. Meanwhile, the Morse Telegraph Club was busy sending free telegrams across the Armory floor or across the U.S. Visitors to the Operation Lifesaver booth could occupy the engineer's seat in a mock-up of a locomotive cab, as well as learn about railroad safety.

Hourly door prize drawings and a large show-ending raffle allowed many lucky patrons to take home a gift, and bargain hunters took advantage of the eighty tables of railroad-related goods offered by vendors stationed in the Armory's balconies.

Media response was excellent, with coverage by all three of Southern Oregon's major TV network affiliates and the Medford Mail Tribune newspaper. Special thanks go to Southern Oregon Public TV for their participation and promotional efforts.

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped organize and staff this year's event (including Boy Scout Troop 111), and to the over forty different businesses and individuals that donated a wide variety of merchandise and services to the Show.



Bruce McGarvey's RVMRC display at the Medford Library. Bruce has been asked to keep the display up through the end of the year, a request not usually made by the library. As Bruce quipped: "maybe they don't have someone lined up for the next display". From the looks of the display, however, the library seems to know a good display when it sees one!



Yup, that's our own Brad Fawcett along with several other members of various Railroad Park clubs tackling the phones at the Southern Oregon Public Television broadcast on the UP Challenger. Bruce McGarvey also did a several minute spot with the host about one of Campbell Scale Models dioramas. SOPTV continues to offer railroad enthusiasts great railroad-related programs!



RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2007

Jan 20 – SP&S Historical Society Swap Meet, Holiday Inn at Portland Airport, 8439 NE Columbia Blvd. 10 am to 3 pm. Info: Bruce Barney at 503-257-8855 – bcbarney@msn.com

Feb 17-18 – World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, Portland Metro Expo Center, Portland, Ore. Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Info: <http://www.wghshow.com>

Feb 24 – Willamette Model RR Club's 22nd Annual Railroad Swap Meet, Camp Withycombe Armory, Clackamas, Ore. 10am – 3pm. Free admission. Donations accepted.

Apr 14-15 – 19th Annual Model Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Ore. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. Info: Lee & Diane at 541-954-4917, ttandt@ram-mail.com

May 5-6 – Model Train Swap Meet, Rickreal Grange, 280 Main St. Hwy 99W, Rickreal, Ore. 9am-3pm. Info: Tom Pryor at 503-606-0398, pry626@juno.com

If you know of shows not listed here please let me know so we can share that information with our readers.
Contact Bruce at iwcr@charter.net or 541-890-8145. 12/06/2006bhm.

Thought for the month: "Do not take life too seriously; you will never get out of it alive." –Elbert Hubbard

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
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**OPEN IMMEDIATELY:
RVMRC CHRISTMAS PARTY INFO**