



The Passing Track

March 2006

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

March Calendar of Events

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

General Construction/New Layout Saturdays

Generally From 9:30 AM to 4 PM

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

Check out the Club's website (above) and treat yourself to a tour of this past year's Medford Railroad Show!

Planning Meeting Yields Field Trip and Strategy for Permanent Layout

On Saturday January 14, the RVMRC held its 1st (for this year) Layout Planning meeting to see what, why and where and we are going on the permanent layout. We had around a dozen members attend and there seemed to be lots of energy during the two-hour meeting. Part of the discussion focused on the organization of scenery construction, while an equal amount was spent on the character of the scenery itself. There were several concerns raised about doing scenery work with which other members might not concur, resulting in feelings hurt over the quality and/or interpretation of the scenery. The group had consensus that as long as everyone stuck to the basic flow of the real life scenery along the P&E, that we could always help one another improve our modeling skills as the work is progressing on the permanent layout. Several people remarked that if a real disaster occurs in someone's modeling effort, it is cheap and easy to change. Everyone liked the idea of "adopting" a chunk of the line and being the task leader for the scenery implementation, but also staying open to suggestions from the visionaries and designers of

the permanent layout, as well as constructive criticism from any and all

January Board Meeting Notes

The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club Board of Directors met on January 11, 2006 for the monthly board meeting. There were four officers and three members present. Bruce presented the End of the Year Financial report and advised the board that we were in good financial status. The Board approved the rollover of the Club's Certificates of Deposit. Bruce received a compliment for his outstanding work as treasurer, and the rest in attendance quickly seconded the motion and all in attendance gave Bruce a nod of appreciation. Bruce also reported he changed out the relief valve on the water heater. He also reported that the Starlings have broken some of the vent screens on the side of the Clubhouse. To date the Club has 49 members, two of which are life members, one a student member, 20 associate members and 26 regular members. Three members have dues that are past due. Two others are to be billed in January, leaving all memberships up to date and caught up to the end of the current dues year (May 31, 2006). The Passing Track editor reported the need for members to submit articles for the newsletter. The newsletter is only as good as the participation by members to share information, photos, and items of interest. Jay is open to suggestions for future program events (for the monthly General Membership meetings (4th Wednesday of each month). The Board voted to commit the Club to the Klamath Falls Museum railroad show in March 10-12. Club members living in Klamath Falls are always enthusiastic about helping at the Klamath end of the trip in setting up and loading for the return to Medford. The Board proposed to load the truck on a Thursday evening preceding the show, with the drive to K Falls on Friday with setup that day. The Hobby Tree is moving to the west side of Medford on West Main street directly across from King Bo. Terry said he hopes to move the last week in January and be in operation at his new location in early February. Several Club members have offered help should Terry need some. Club members are reminded that there is a donation box in the Clubhouse for the Ft. Tall Afar Coalition Hobby Club (military detachment in Northern Iraq). Items that are needed include model kits, small games, sports equipment, etc. that can be easily mailed in a modest sized box. Jay looked over the options for

the Club in purchasing a track cleaning car. There appeared to be many more options than first thought. Dick Clark offered to buy the Club a cleaning car, and the Board postponed buying an additional car until that one arrives to determine a complementary additional car. The Club's brochures are being updated. The Board noted we should have a good cleaning of "stuff" in and around the Clubhouse. We don't anticipate attending the Eugene Railroad Show this year with a sale table.



Wil Cleveland works inside the Cascade Crest installing a curved scenery backdrop

January General Membership Meeting Notes

The Club's Annual Report Meeting was held as part of the January General Membership Meeting on January 25, 2006. There were three board officers and four members present. Jim Dougall graciously offered to once again take notes in the absence of our secretary John Gerritsma. Bruce reported on the Club's past year's financial transactions and standing and gave an overview of the proposed budget for 2006. E. Don followed with a "Thank You" to all the Club members who have put work into the RVMRC during the past year, also stating he appreciated the support and efforts for all of the Club's 2005 efforts. Mike Tompkins, a new associate member from Grants Pass, was introduced. Mike brought his new Bachmann 80-ton, three truck shay for members to examine. Brad shared the color photos of the Club's January field trip along the historic P&E. The evening program was an excellent 70-minute video entitled

“California’s North Coast Logging Railroads”. Most of these were shortline logging company railroads. One or two, however, were larger common carrier railroads (e.g., The Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, and The Redwood Empire Route). The video was in both black and white and color format, using vintage film and photos, plus interviews with railroaders and other folks involved with or who were privileged to view and record these historical operations. Mike Thompkins provided the video.

February Board Meeting Notes

The February Board Meeting was held on February 8. There were four board members and five club members attending. Bruce reported that thus far the club has spent almost \$6,000 on the permanent layout. Major expenses for the year included insurance, printing/postage for the Passing Track, and supplies for the permanent layout. The Annual Report is at the printer and will be mailed out to Club members with the next issue of the Passing Track. SOLST has announced it will no longer be holding their club meetings in our Clubhouse. The membership has grown so much that the RVMR Clubhouse is no longer spacious enough for SOLTS’s meetings. Andy Anderson has donated Railroad News to the Club. Jim reported he would only keep a year’s worth of the magazine due to space limitations. Bud Shirley is reported to be moving to Southern California [*a week later, Bud relayed to me the move was cancelled...ed.*], Ray Kornell has resigned, and Jim Fisher sends his regards from the BNSF at the Gorge. Dick Stark has donated a cleaning car to the Club. Dick also volunteered to drive the rental truck to the Klamath Falls show. The Club will be “center stage”, again. Jim volunteered to head up both the nomination committee (for May elections) and to take charge of this year’s Public Sunday run scheduling (beginning second Sunday in April). Since the Club will not be running trains on the permanent layout for sometime while scenery construction is moving full speed ahead, Jay will wire the outside track of the modules for DCC. The Club is also concerned about the amount of trash being left behind following the Friday night video. Bruce will make contacts to correct the situation. John Wilson will bring his famous homemade chili to the next Saturday work session. There are boxes of old electrical “stuff” displayed on a table for members

to take [with small donation] before it goes to the recyclers.

DCC Update

For those of you interested, the DCC is staying on the permanent layout and will be installed on track 1 of the modules for show operations. Also, on the K Falls loop of the permanent layout, there will be 2 show loops that will have the capability to switch from analog to DCC and back so all can run their equipment for the Sunday open houses. --Jay Mudge

I’ve Been Working on the Railroad!

Our January strategy meeting and field trip inspired a large number of club members to join one another to get moving on the scenery of the permanent layout. As you can see from the picture that follows, a lot of good work is happening. Work has been progressing on Thursday evenings and again on Saturdays, usually starting about 9:30 am. The Club’s goal is to have the scenery roughed out before the public open houses begin in April, to have demonstrations of scenery building during the Sunday open houses, and to have the current portion of the permanent layout substantially scenicked by Fall.



Fresh from the field tour of the Eagle Point area, a group confers about scenery ideas, while Dick Stark and Fred Christian work on the upper half of the permanent layout toward the Cascade Crest.

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2006

Mar 11 – Winterail 2006, Scottish Rite Masonic Center - 33 West Alpine Ave, Stockton, Calif. 9:00am-10:00pm. Info: <http://altamontpress.com/winterail/2006.html>

Mar. 10-12 – Klamath County Museum railroad show, 1451 Main Street, Klamath Falls, Ore. Model layouts by the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club and the Klamath Rails. Info: contact a club member or the museum at 541-883-4208.

Apr. 8-9 - 18th Annual Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Ore. Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 10am-4pm More info: Lee or Diane Temple, 541-688-9112 or email at tandt@ram-mail.com or ldtemple@ram-mail.com

Apr. 2-4 & 6-12 – Charter Train Excursions by Trains Unlimited, Tours, LLC. Pacific Northwest including Eugene, Roseburg, Grants Pass, Ashland, Weed Apr 2-4; Ashland-Grants Pass Apr 6; Weed, Ashland, Eugene Apr 6-12. Info: 1-800-359-4870, www.trainsunlimitedtours.com

May 5-7 – ESPEE in Oregon 2006, Oakridge, Ore. “At the Foot of the Cascades – Helper Station” Limited to 150 people. Info: <http://www.espeeinoregon.com/>

May 20 – Meet-'N'- May, a gathering of N-scale modelers, Fir Grove Elementary School, Beaverton, Ore., 10am–4pm. Info: Bill Ervin 503-293-1591 or billervin46@aol.com

Jul 7-9 – Dunsmuir Railroad Days, plans are in the making. Info:<http://www.dunsmuirrailroaddays.com/>

Jul 12-16 – 2006 SPH&TS Annual Meet, Hilton at Oakland Airport Hotel. Info: <http://www.sphts.org/>

Nov 11-12 – 30th Northern California Model Railroad Show, Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville, Calif..Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4. Info: <http://www.internationalrailfair.com/>

Nov. 25-26 – 29th Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show, Medford Armory, Medford, Ore. Sat 10 – 5 and Sun 11 - 4. Info: Brad Fawcett 541-535-7952, bfawcett@mind.net

Dec. 2 – Railroad Show and Swap Meet, Polk Cty Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Ore. 10am-3pm. Info: Judy MacInnes 503-581-6071 or macinnej@open.org, www.open.org/wvmrc

If you know of shows not listed here please let me know so we can share that information with our readers.

Contact Bruce at jwccrr@charter.net or 541-779-8145. 02/17/2006bhm.

Thought for the month: “Everything is funny as long as it is happening to someone else. - Will Rogers”

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