



## The Passing Track

January 2007

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club  
PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501  
Home page is <http://rvmrc.railfan.net/>

### Layout Planning Meeting Saturday January 20



**This Saturday, January 20 at 1:00 p.m.**, the Club will hold a layout planning meeting. A number of questions have been raised regarding construction and scenery for the permanent layout and need to be addressed. How often and to what degree should we make changes to track and scenery already

under construction? Should we purchase a substantial number of factory-built trees to give our forests a good start? What should our painted backdrop look like (other than the sky)? What is the process for purchasing and reimbursement on scenery supplies, structures, and tools? What kinds of clinics are needed to involve more of our club members in the scenery/structure construction portion of the permanent layout? When do we begin the final phase of our permanent layout?

These are but a sampling of questions up for discussion, debate and resolution. We need to have a coherent and focused plan, so the Club can move forward effectively with our permanent layout. It's been four years that we have been working on our permanent layout. A lot of effort toward scenery has occurred in the last 2-3 months and the momentum seems to be growing exponentially. What a treat it would be to show the public this summer a substantial improvement on our permanent layout!



If you have not been to the clubhouse recently, come by to check out our collective progress. If you have felt somewhat left out or intimidated by creating scenery, give us ideas on workshops and clinics to give you more confidence to participate at this point in the layout construction. If you need further encouragement and incentive, check out the following photos and the progress being made!



## December Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 p.m. with three board members and four club members present. John Gerritsma acted as Secretary for Jim Dougall. There were no meeting minutes available, but they were paraphrased from the *Passing Track*. Also noted that the Club decided not to sell magazines at the RR show.

Four members are in arrears and have been dropped from the membership. Total club membership is 51 members. Marcus Johnson was approved for a student membership even though he is under the age of 14. An exception was made because Marcus has demonstrated great maturity and interest in model railroading as evidenced by his RR show display and rapport with visitors to his display.

There will be no December program. A layout planning meeting is tentatively set for Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1 pm. The Klamath Falls Museum Show is tentatively March 17-18 with an alternative date of March 10-11 as a second choice. The Club is awaiting a response from the museum.

Our Christmas party is set for Saturday, December 11. Don Terrell and the Medford Inn are gracious again to host our event, and will be providing coffee, etc. John Gerritsma will bring the miniature tree and provide instructions for the potluck and the white elephant via the *Passing Track*.

We need to be cognizant of other organizations using our building. That means we cannot leave our work and clutter in the aisles or around the meeting area. The heat was inadvertently left on at 68 degrees for some period of time. Bruce will check into options for installing a programmable thermostat.

Doug Howard has nice ON30 equipment for sale.

Our club insurance provides contents and liability for 3<sup>rd</sup> party; therefore, it is a good idea to purchase additional insurance whenever we rent a vehicle transporting modules. Insurance on the truck over the railroad show period was \$22 per day.

There is room for volunteers on the Railroad Show Committee. The show in 2007 will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary show. The show committee appreciates evaluation and feedback of this year's show. One recommendation is to have the public layout lower to the floor with short legs. John Gerritsma and Dick Stark have volunteered to do a makeover of the layout for the 2007 show.

## January Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. with four board members and five club members present. The December board meeting minutes were approved with an amendment. The treasurer reports the Club to be in good standing with income exceeding expenditures for the year 2006. Bruce has requested the transfer of the Club's share of the Railroad Show to the Club's account. This money will be used for continued development and construction of the permanent layout and to cover the Railroad Show's portion of the insurance that is paid for by the RVMRC. The Treasurer asked the Club President for a written paragraph outlining the Club's goals for the year for the annual report.

The City of Medford has removed trees from the circular area of the parking lot near the clubhouse because the tree roots were beginning to damage the curbing and asphalt. An in-ground irrigation system has already been installed and new trees and shrubbery will be planted.

The Club has all issues for 2005 and 2006 of *Model Railroad News* now in the Club library except the December 2006 issue. Even though we have the January 2007 issue, the library only has room for about two years worth of issues. The Club has also expressed interest in maintaining two to three years of *Scale Rails* (published by the NMRA). The Club librarian will see if shelf space can be found.

Jay Mudge reported that the Club website is out of date, but he has not had time to attend to it. The *Passing Track* editor requests photos and stories for the *Passing Track*. A possible program for the Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting could be a segment from one of the Dream, Plan, Build DVDs. There are now seven volumes to this set, and each disc has many informative segments having to do with scenery and other aspects of model railroading. Future programs and clinics could come from ideas and discussions brought up at the Saturday planning session.

Work is continuing on the scenery at Derby and Eagle Point, and also along the route between Derby and Butte Falls, as well as along the Cascades. Art McKee continues his work on the logging railroad at the Cascade Crest. Preparations are also underway of the surface of the north wall adjacent to Cascade Summit. These areas are ready for sky treatments, which Jim Dougall will do soon, as well as touching up other sky areas.

Jay reports that a number of additional Tortoise switch machines will be required. Jay recommended obtaining those that have the "Hare" computer chip attached which would allow DCC operation from your handheld controller or a manual override through a switch installed on the fascia. The Board approved Jay to spend up to \$300 for a dozen or so of these machines.

Todd Kepple of the Klamath County Museum approved the Club's desire to come for the weekend of Saturday March 17. The Club plans to load up on Thursday evening, March 15, and drive over to set up on Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup>. Dick Stark volunteered to make truck rental arrangements, but no one has volunteered yet to drive it. The Board will decide at its February meeting which modules to take to Klamath Falls.

The Board discussed the possibility of purchasing a trailer for the Club. This trailer would replace the need for truck rentals to haul modules to our shows; would give us more options to do shows during the year because modules would simply be stored ready to go (no loading and off loading pressures before and after planned shows); and would give us additional and weather protected storage for most of our modules between shows. Jay Mudge and Bruce McGarvey have done some preliminary research into our various options. More discussion is needed to determine the best sized trailer, though everyone agreed from a safety and handling perspective, a dual axle trailer seemed to be best choice. There are concerns that a size be selected that most people would be comfortable pulling. Another idea is to have a moderate sized trailer, with an additional smaller trailer to be purchased some time in the future.

## Swap Meet Items Sought

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet will be held at the Lane County Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15. We will drive to Eugene and set up our tables on Friday, April 13. **The Club will sell surplus items from both the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club inventory and from individual club members.** The Board approved charging a 25% commission on individual club members who will have items for the club to sell on consignment. So, please set prices on your items to reflect this amount. If you have any items you wish to donate to the Club for sale at this event, please get them to the Clubhouse well before (about mid-March) the swap meet.

## **Missing: 2006 Walthers Catalog**

The 2006 Walthers Catalog is missing from the library. If you have this catalog, will you please return it to the library? This also serves as a reminder that whenever one checks out a book or magazine, you need to leave a checkout card in the book or magazine slot you removed your item.

## **February 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—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday

### **Construction/Cleanup Sessions:**

#### **Thursdays**

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

### **Board Meeting:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month**

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

### **General Membership Meeting**

**4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month**

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Below: The dark red-brown soil of the Butte Falls area is starting to make itself present. A steel tower viaduct bridge will soon find itself over McNeil Creek between Derby and Butte Falls (lower left).



## **RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2007**

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Railroad Swap Meet, Camp Withycombe Armory, Clackamas, Ore. 10am – 3pm. Free admission. Donations accepted.

**Apr 14-15** – 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [iwcrr@charter.net](mailto:iwcrr@charter.net) or 541-890-8145. 01/15/07 jeg

*Thought for the month: "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." –Yogi Berra*

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**PLANNING MEETING JAN. 20**  
**(Details Inside)**