



The Passing Track

October/November 2007

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Club Policy on Youth and Nonmembers Operating the Layouts

An Open Letter to the Membership
by *Dave Carr, President*

Youth are the lifeblood of any organization or club, and I am proud to say we are fortunate to have a number of very responsible and enthusiastic young members in our Club. Recognizing the importance of bringing in youngsters and developing a life-long enthusiasm and appreciation for serious railroad modeling, the Club's bylaws provides for membership to kids as young as 14. In addition, our members frequently assist youngsters, usually family members or relatives, in *brief* operations of the trains on our layout to give them the thrill of operating a train and subtly begin teaching appreciation of *model* railroading.

Most of us were exposed to trains in some fashion in our younger days, and most likely at a time when the "model" part of model railroading had little, if any, meaning. Until youngsters begin to grasp the purpose of railroad modeling, I feel it is inappropriate to allow children substantive operation time on our layouts, whether it is the modular or

permanent layout. We are creating a museum class model layout with the permanent layout, and there is absolutely no room for toy-like train operations or behaviors. Young children generally do not have a concept of railroad operations, nor do they have the awareness needed to properly care for the delicate locomotives, rolling stock, electronics and scenery.

It is for these reasons that I am reminding members both of existing bylaws and by extension, my expectations when children (and/or nonmembers) are being allowed to operate on our layouts.

- ❑ Per the bylaws, membership may be conveyed to applicants as young as 14. Generally, young and new members are mentored and supervised to learn the rules and guidelines for operations on the Pacific and Eastern.
- ❑ Nonmembers, especially children, are the supervisory responsibility of the member who invited such persons to operate the trains.

- ❑ Operations by nonmembers must be closely supervised at all times, and must conform to the modeling and operation standards expected of serious model railroaders.
- ❑ Operation on the layout to nonmembers is for a brief time only (generally 15 minutes or less), and not repeated time after time. The club offers memberships to appropriate persons for the purpose of conducting lengthy operations.
- ❑ Family memberships are approved with the provision that the adult closely monitor younger children at all times, and that young children operate trains and complete modeling tasks appropriate for their age and their maturity. A family membership is not an open invitation to allow younger members free reign.

- ❑ Accidents happen. The rule is simple. Be responsible. If you or your guest break/damage something, fix it.

I absolutely support sharing the layout with enthusiastic visitors from time to time, but in a very controlled manner. The annual railroad show at the Medford Armory provides children of all ages who are not members with any club the opportunity to run trains on a number of layouts, including the HO Public Layout the club supports. These are appropriate venues for people to try running trains. I do not expect that we regularly allow underage or nonmembers to take away from the operational time on our Club layouts.

From time to time it becomes necessary to address behaviors within our Club that are contrary to the bylaws and contrary to the expectations serious model railroaders have when they join the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club. This is one of those times.

Dave Carr, President RVMRC

October Board Meeting

The meeting on October 12 was called to order at 7:34 p.m. with three board members and six club members present. The minutes from September's board meeting were approved. Because Bruce McGarvey is on vacation, there was no treasurer's report.

Committee Reports:

Building and Park—Jim Dougall has completed painting the "Southern Pacific orange" on the storage shed and has started painting the trim. The brown paint found in the Railroad Club building is not quite the same color shade, nor is it a semi-gloss, as is the trim paint on the RR Club building. Jim will use it though as a base coat, and a proper finish coat will be painted in the future (presumably after winter).

Library—All of the doors except for one on the library cabinets have been installed. The final door will have to wait until the modular layout is disassembled for the November Railroad show. Larry Tuttle recommended that all the books, pamphlets, 3-ring binders, etc. that are currently being used in the construction, scenicking, wiring, etc. of the permanent layout be kept on one, accessible shelf in the bookcase located in the workroom. Jim said he would follow Larry's recommendation.

Program—Dave Carr recommended the October General Membership meeting be devoted to a discussion of the current status of work on the permanent layout, work that can be accomplished this fall and winter after the November RR Show, and a plan for calendar year 2008.

Layout Operation and Electrical—Dave Spakousky reported operations are going well on the permanent layout, but reminds operators they need to remember to close turnouts behind their

trains. Additional training on DCC can solve most of the problems with operations. Dave cautioned members should not be operating both the permanent and the modular layouts at the same time. Because with DCC trains are no longer operating within blocks that control potential collisions, etc., members need to be paying even more attention when operating with DCC. Dave also reported some damage to cars on the permanent layout from unsupervised operations by a child. Dave Carr stated he would address the problem directly.

Rolling Stock—E Don reported that all rolling stock on both layouts now have metal wheel sets. E Don reports that the Club needs a box of 33" diameter wheel sets, and Dave Carr will check to around to see where he might get a good deal on a box.

November RR Show Report—Brad Fawcett asked the RVMRC should determine their needs for layout floor space at this time and get this information to the show committee by November 1. Jim Dougall is requesting the job schedule from the Club by November 2.

Old Business:

Brad Fawcett is needing to meet with the Signal Committee regarding the Club's needs to be able to determine the wiring needs. We may need to approximately double the numbers of control boards on the permanent layout signal system, which uses an ABS. The Signal Committee will next meet on Saturday, November 11.

A Thank You letter for a donation to the Railroad Park, which was split evenly among the park clubs, has been prepared.

New Business:

Dave Spakousky reported that the cover photo and centerpiece photo taken on the permanent layout and featured in *Model Railroad News* received favorable comments, specifically complimenting the scenery work done by Larry Tuttle. These comments were received while Dave was making inquiries back East on a model RR item. Kudos, Larry!

A field/fact finding trip is being planned by Dave Spakousky and Larry Tuttle to the Umpqua Lumber Company at Round Prairie, Oregon. They will do some information gathering and take photos of the mill, and to the extent possible, of the mill's operations.

E Don stated he had a large, steel viaduct from Micro Engineering, and will begin assembling the structure which is to be located just west of Butte Falls near Derby.

Annual Rogue Valley RR Show

The annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show will be held November 24th and 25th at the Medford Armory. The Club has a relatively modest oval layout planned for this year's show recognizing the logistical ease of setting up and taking down a similarly designed layout last year. A photographer for the Medford Tribune was at the Clubhouse taking pictures Saturday morning, so the event will be well publicized in the newspaper. Looking ahead, the weather appears to be cooperating, a factor that always has an impact on attendance. This year is the 30th anniversary edition, and as it seems from year to year, the shows get better, bigger, and more widely attended.

To help make the 30th edition of the Rogue Valley RR Show a success, the Club needs as much help with transporting the modular layout from the Clubhouse, setting up the layout, running trains and answering questions from the public, working the variously assigned support jobs that make the show a success, and cleaning up after the show is done.

Layout Transport and Setup—Friday, November 23 (the day after Thanksgiving) at 8:00 am at the Clubhouse. It takes young(er) muscles to carry the modules and load them into the rental truck

along with all the supporting scenery, rolling stock, electronics, and various equipment for the show itself. The layout must be setup and running by about 4 pm, so the Club is ready to go for the opening on Saturday.

Running Trains and Working the Show—This is your chance to show off your trains, as the Club continuously runs three trains (or more when the DCC side of the modules is operating) throughout the show. As always, make sure your equipment has been maintained. There is nothing more frustrating than trains that will not run properly or constantly derail. **See the assignment chart below for jobs for which the Club is responsible.** Every year there are last minute adjustments and it is helpful to let Dave Carr, Bruce McGarvey, Jim Dougall, or Brad Fawcett know if you are available as a substitute for an assignment, especially if you are not already pre-assigned to jobs. Fulfilling the job schedule is important, as the proportion of the total work that the Club does is directly proportional to the money the Club derives from the show.

Cleanup and Return to Clubhouse—When the show ends Sunday afternoon around 4 pm, all of the vendors and exhibitors at the show have a limited time to cleanup and be out of the Armory, or steep hourly rental rates apply. So, this is everyone's hectic time, and all available help for cleanup and transport of the modules back to the Clubhouse is essential. In year's past, the shortage of people seems to happen late Sunday afternoon, so if you are available please come to help.

RR Show Work Schedule

<i>Friday, November 23</i>		
9:00 am	Carol Stark	Christmas Tree Setup in Lobby
	Jay Mudge	Set up Vendor Tables
	Wil Cleveland	Set up Vendor Tables
11:00 am	Dick Stark	Vendor Registration
1:00 pm	Dick Stark	Vendor Registration
4:00 pm	Jay Mudge	Check Men's Bathrooms
<i>Saturday, November 24</i> <i>(Show open from 10 am to 5 pm)</i>		
9:30 am – 11:30 am	Andy Anderson	Raffle
	Carol Stark	Ticket Sales
	Larry Tuttle	Best of Show Ballots
11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Larry Tuttle	Raffle
	Wil Cleveland	Ticket Sales
	John Gerritsma	Public HO Operator
1:30 pm- 3:30 pm	Andy Anderson	Raffle
	Carol Stark	Ticket Sales
	John Gerritsma	Best of Show Ballots
	Dennis Sinclair	Best of Show Ballots
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Wil Cleveland	Raffle
	Bob Griffith	Security
	E. Don	Women's Bathrooms

RR Show Work Schedule (*continued*)

Sunday, November 25 (Show open from 11 am to 4 pm)		
10:45 am – 12:30 pm	Carol Stark	Ticket Sales
	John Gerritsma	Public HO Operator
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Carol Stark	Raffle
	Dave Spakousky	Ticket Sales
	John Gerritsma	Men's Bathrooms
	Wil Cleveland	Ticket Sales
2:30 pm- 4:00 pm	Chris Fawcett	Raffle
	Dave Spakousky	Security
	Taylor Royer	Public HO Operator

November-December Calendar of Events

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

Rogue Valley Railroad Show, Medford Armory

Friday, November 23 (Setup) 8-4

Saturday, November 24, 10-5

Sunday, November 25, 11 –4

RVMR Club Potluck Christmas Party

Saturday, December 15, 6:00 P.M.

At John and Cathy Gerritsma's
789 Mendolia Way, Central Point

General Construction/New Layout Saturdays

Generally From 10:00 AM to 3 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

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2007

Nov 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25 – Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club Open House, Portland, Ore. Check <http://www.cgmrc.com> for club location and operations.

Nov 10-11-31 International Railfair, Model Railroad Show, Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville, Calif. Sat. 10-5, Sun 10-4. Info: <http://internationalrailfair.com> or Paul at <http://IRFinformation.aol.com>

Nov 24-25 – 30th Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show, Medford Armory, 1701 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford, Ore. Info: Bill at 541-821-5547 or Brad 541-535-7952.

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.

Every smile makes you a day younger, every sigh a day older—Chinese Proverb

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
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Christmas Party Details in the
December Passing Track!