

The Passing Track

December 2007

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

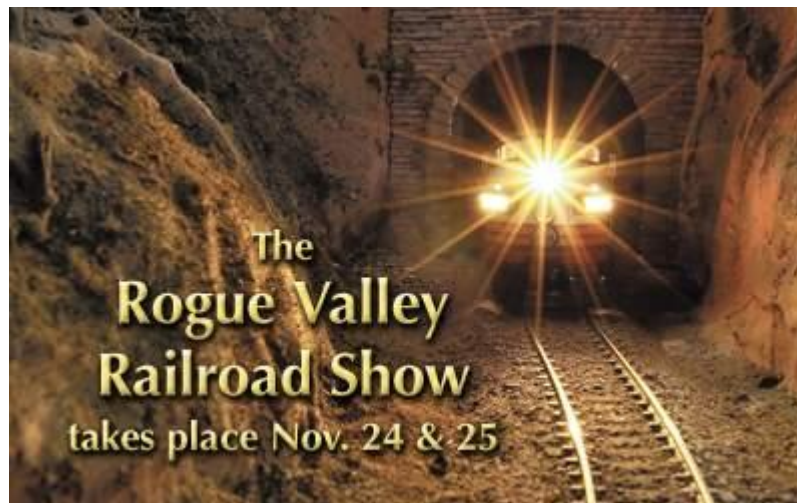
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2007 Rogue Valley Railroad Show



Continuing a long-standing Southern Oregon holiday tradition, the annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show celebrated its 30th anniversary with exciting exhibits and record crowds. This year's event, held at the National Guard Armory in Medford, OR, on Nov. 24th and 25th, **attracted over 4,300 railroad fans of all ages!**



Front page of the Medford Mail Tribune's Tempo section of the newspaper notifying of the 2007 RR Show. Photo was taken on Bruce McGarvey's module of the Club's modular layout.

The Rogue Valley Railroad Show is proudly organized and staffed by the five organizations that share facilities at the City of Medford's Railroad Park: the Southern Oregon Live Steamers, 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 Medford Railroad Park.

Twenty-six different exhibits filled the large Armory floor, with displays emphasizing railroading history and railroad safety, as well as the art of model railroading. The exhibits included twenty-five working model railroad layouts encompassing a wide variety of sizes and styles.

Saturday's attendees were encouraged to vote for their favorite exhibit, and showed a taste for the whimsical. Gary Johnston's (Central Point, OR) eclectic multi-level N-scale layout was the "People's Choice" for a second straight year, incorporated scenes featuring a fanciful winter landscape, a bridge over a large river, an aircraft carrier, a military airport, and a small town. Frank Anderson (Roseburg, OR) displayed his popular On30 Winter Wonderland holiday train, as well as detailed N- and Z-scale layouts, earning him second place in the voting. The Ashland-based Siskiyou Toy Train Club's highly animated layout featuring O-scale Lionel trains placed third.



Best of Show Winner—Gary Johnson

Two other fanciful layouts followed closely behind in the voting. The large G-scale layout operated by Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains (SOLST) featured a variety of scenes including a wedding chapel, golf course, and auto junkyard. The White City Model Railroad Club combined G-, HO- and N-scale trains on a holiday-themed layout, as well as exhibiting three finely crafted N-scale layouts.

Other notable modeling exhibits included the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club's large modular HO-scale layout, two complex and beautifully landscaped N-scale layouts by Bob Marcy (Grants Pass), two small and one modular exhibit from the On30 Conspiracy (Rick Ludlow and Duane Ericson, Medford), and Marcus Johnson's (Medford) HO-scale railroad.

Several interactive exhibits provided visitors a chance to "control the throttle", including Bryan Fraser's (Medford, OR) Lego trains, and Vinnie and Robbie Moscaritolo's (Medford) HO-scale railroad. Three "switching puzzle" layouts gave onlookers a chance to prove their railyard management skills – an O-scale layout by Art McKee (Prospect, OR) and two HO-scale puzzles by John Huckaby (Ferndale, CA). Meanwhile, 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.



Campbell Scale Models Diorama

Other crowd-pleasers included two award-winning dioramas created by Dick Hotchkiss (Merlin, OR) featuring G-scale trains, and a display of railroad-themed quilts from the Jacksonville Museum Quilters.

Several fascinating displays highlighted railroad history. The National Railway Historical Society provided information about their restoration projects at the Medford Railroad Park and showcased a display of railroad artifacts, including its new custom-designed handcar. Parked next to the handcar was Syd Stoner's (Medford, OR) beautifully restored maintenance speeder. The Ashland Historic RR Museum's exhibit highlighted Ashland Oregon's rich rail history. Steve Miller of Caltrans provided information about Amtrak rail service. Meanwhile, the Morse Telegraph Club was busy sending free telegrams across the Armory floor or across the U.S.

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.

In honor of our 30th anniversary, a commemorative plaque was presented to Dale Edwards, co-founder of Kadee Quality Products, in appreciation for his role in founding and supporting the Medford Railroad Park. 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 cornucopia of railroad-related goods offered by vendors stationed in the Armory's balconies.

November Board Meeting

The meeting on November 14 was called to order at 7:27 p.m. with four board members and four club members present. The minutes from October's board meeting were approved. Bruce presented the summary of expenses for the year and reported the Club's finances to be in good standing. Liability insurance and utilities were the largest non-discretionary expenses for the year. The Club also spent over \$1,000 on the permanent layout in 2007. The Club sent the Klamath County Museum a Thank You for their contribution to the Club toward expenses for truck rental for the March railroad show at

the museum. Due to non-payment of dues, the Club notified Don Terrell that his membership has been terminated. The Club currently has 46 members.

Committee Reports:

Building and Park—The city's Recreation Department has cleaned the leaves from outside the fenced area of the Railroad Park. Upon being presented several options for energy use categories with Pacific Power and Light, the Board decided to keep our present status at this time. There was discussion that the building's heating system will need to be replaced in the near future.

Signals Committee—Discussed the need and construction of a "test board" for the proposed permanent layout signal system to test the proposed signal system on a portable structure with all the basic components and wiring readily visible. The estimated cost was placed at \$160.00. The Board approved the proposal.

Program—The Board discussed the Christmas party with a preference for John Gerritsma hosting at his home. Bruce also offered to check use of facilities at the United Methodist Church. Another option was using the Clubhouse. In addition, the Public Layout (Kid's Layout) needs to be checked prior to the RR show to make sure it is operational.

Railroad Shows--Brad Fawcett reported the A&P Engineers have withdrawn from the Show which means there is more room available for the RVMRC layout. The Board agreed to take a larger layout to the show than currently planned. Due to renovation at the armory, part of the south balcony is not utilizable because it has duct work stored, and the supplies cannot be moved prior to the RR show. Brad proposed that signal masts donated for the show be swapped with a set of P&E box cars to which the Board agreed.

The Board also approved initiating a request with the RR Show committee to replace Irene Zajac with Nancy Aubin, a member of the show committee, as a signatory on the show account.

Old Business:

Jay Mudge asked a question as to what the Club bylaws state in regards to defining "family member". Jay is concerned about very young children operating trains on the Club layout without adequate, full-time supervision. Many Club members voiced the same concern. Dave Carr stated he would provide clarification via a letter to be published in the November *Passing Track*. He anticipated the letter would address the issue regarding operations and children, as well as non-members.

New Business:

A 2008 calendar was donated to the RVMRC by Kadee Quality Products. Bruce requested this calendar be donated to the RR Show. There were no objections. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

January 2008 Calendar of Events

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

January 9 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

General Membership Meeting

4th Wednesday of each month

January 23 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM



**Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club Christmas
Family Potluck and Party**

Saturday, December 15, 2007 at 6:00 P.M.

At the Home of

John and Cathy Gerritsma

789 Mendolia Way

Central Point

Smoked Turkey, Honey Baked Ham

"Winter" Salad , Beverages

Provided

What to Bring

Bread, Veggies, Munchies, Desserts
White Elephant Gift for Gift Exchange

Directions

From RVMRC Clubhouse:

Exit Railroad Park by turning left at signal onto Table Rock Road. Turn right onto Highway 99 (at the Jack-in-the-Box). Proceed for about two miles to Beal Lane (just past Shell Gas Station). Turn left onto Beal Lane and proceed 1 mile to four-way stop at Hanley Road (with flashing red light). Proceed (after stopping) on Beal for about 300 feet. Turn right onto Grant Road. Turn right again on Mendolia Way (second right) after about 1/3 mile on Grant. Fifth house on the left.

RSVP at 541-664-1139

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2008

Jan 19 – Railroad Swap Meet, SP&SR Historical Society, Holiday Inn, Portland Airport Convention Center, Portland, Ore. 10 AM – 3 PM. Info: Bruce Barney 503-257-8855 or bebarney@msn.com

Feb 23 – 23rd Annual Railroad Swap Meet, Willamette Model Railroad Club, Camp Withycombe Armory, Clackamas, Ore. 10 AM – 3 PM. Fee admission. Info: Rick Andrews 503-642-3298 or rdrews@msn.com

Mar 8 – WinteRail

Mar – TBA - Klamath Museum Railroad Show, Armory, Klamath Falls, Ore. RVMRR Club and others. Info: Bruce 541-890-8145 or jwccr@charter.net

Apr 12-13 – 20th Annual Model Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Ore. Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM. Info: Lee & Diane Temple 541-954-4917 or ttandt@ram-mail.com

May 3-4 – Model Train Swap Meet, Rickreall Grange Hall, 280 Main St, Rickreall, Ore. 10AM-4PM. Info: Tom 503-606-0398

May ?? – TBA ESPEE in Oregon meet in the Rogue Valley (?) Featuring modeling, clinics, slide shows and more. Info: <http://www.espeeinoregon.com/> when available.

July – Dunsmuir Railroad Days

If you know of shows not listed here please let me know so we can share that information with our readers.
Contact Bruce at jwccr@charter.net or 541-890-8145. 11/28/07

The Warning Signs... You might be a model railroader if....

- You see a piece of plywood and your first thought is to imagine what kind of layout could be built on it.
- You really agonize over decisions like, "Should I buy flowers for my wife or turnouts for my new staging yard? Or... Do I need to buy flowers to get these turnouts in the house?"

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
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