

The Passing Track

February 2007

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Layout Strategy and Committees Formed

The net result of our **January 20 planning session** was the creation of a strategy to outline the systematic order of actions needed for completing the permanent layout scenery and the formation of committees to develop consistency in applying that scenery. An important tenet for the permanent layout is that the plan was designed with the prototype in mind. Scenery is to follow the real world along the tracks. While there is some creative license in developing that scenery, the objective is for people to recognize the various locations along the P&E from their real world knowledge of the area. The current lack of standards for everything from track ballast to soil colors lends itself to many interpretations and approaches to scenery that will give a disjointed appearance, or an appearance that would be foreign to the actual P&E. The formation of committees allows interested individuals to develop standards for the Board to consider and adopt for things like tree construction, painting

backdrops, building drainage structures, or selecting buildings/kits.



A primary objective is to put the mainline back together. This means installing bridges, culverts, and making track alignment adjustments. This also means installing the remaining Tortoise switch machines and hand throws. We would like to have the fascia installed, screw holes filled and sanded and the fascia painted in a dark black/green type color to set off the scenery. Scenery would not have to be completely done, as the final sections will be done with a few square feet at a time to both add the time-consuming details and minimize the disruption to running trains.

We want to follow a principle of working from the back forward and from top down. Appropriately, the upper decks will be finished first, as we don't want to reach over lower level finished scenery to reach the upper levels. Materials used for scenery often drip or fall onto scenery below. Thus, the emphasis areas are the Cascades between Butte Falls and the summit. Jim is concentrating on finishing the airbrush painting of the sky. We also recognize the need to paint the backdrops before we attempt to add trees and other vegetative and geological scenery up against the sky. Bruce McGarvey will be contacting a gentleman artist who had indicated previously an interest in painting our backdrops. Additionally, we'll want to add clouds where appropriate.

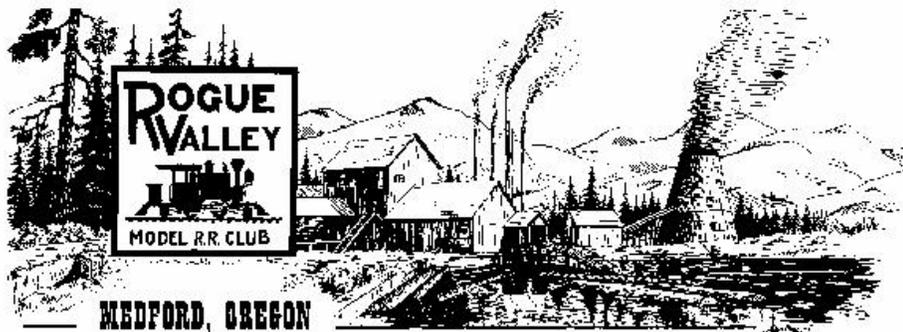
Having the fascia in place and secure will allow us to finish the base scenery by building up to and along the top edge of the fascia. It is little consequence if we stain the fascia with hydrocal or plaster as it will be prepped and painted later on after the plastering is completed.

We also discussed reimbursement procedures for items purchased for the layout scenery. While the Club always appreciates donations of materials and supplies, kits and scenery materials can add up quickly. The proposal formulated during the planning session is to allow club members to recoup up to \$50.00 for out of pocket expenses. The Board will take up the issue at the March Board Meeting. Expenses over \$50.00 should be approved by the Board in advance. One should not expect to be reimbursed for freelanced items independent of the responsible committee and the Board. Bruce would also like to have members submit a note to him for purchases that are donated. It is valuable information for the Club to acknowledge and tabulate donated items.

For a membership list of each of the "construction gangs" (committees), turn the page. Notice there is room for additional names; so, let one of the gang know if you would like to join a committee.



Spakousky's granddaughter Katie lets her imagination roll as the bridge at Derby is temporarily adorned by trains and trees. A taste of things to come...



Pacific & Eastern Construction Gangs

<p>Terrain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Spakousky • John Gerritsma • Larry Tuttle • • • 	<p>Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brad Fawcett • Bruce McGarvey • Larry Tuttle • Dave Spakousky • E Don Pettit • Fred
<p>Rail & Bridges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Mudge 	<p>Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brad Fawcett

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larry Tuttle • Dave Spakousky • E Don Pettit • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce McGarvey • Dick Stark • Jim Dougall • Jay Mudge •
<p>Ballast, Soils & Rocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Spalously • Dave Carr • Larry Tuttle • 	<p>DCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Mudge • Dick Stark • •
<p>Backdrops & Clouds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce McGarvey • Dick Stark • Jim Dougall • • 	<p>Signals, Operating Authority, Grade Crossings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Mudge • Dave Carr • •

In regards to trees, Bruce stated he has been collecting a sampling of some of the better and more applicable trees for our consideration. Some are commercially available while others are individually crafted.

A discussion on signals also ensued. Larry Tuttle suggested there needs to be a discussion by the entire Club as a group regarding what type of signal system and the extent the Club wishes to go with a system. Bud Shirley shared the current status of the signal system used by the Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad. Jay Mudge volunteered to gather information as to what signal systems are available and bring information back to the Club for a future discussion. He suggested, however, that now would be the most convenient time to install a signal system while the scenery is not in the way and the wiring is more accessible. The construction gang responsible for signals will also deal with highway crossing guards and signals.

A decision was made by the Standards Committee to set the time period of the permanent layout for September 1990. This will allow the greatest amount of flexibility regarding equipment, have the ability to participate in the modern era, and allow the use of some fall colors for the vegetation. Track work and clearance will conform to NMRA standards and will allow for the use of extra large locomotives and cars such as articulated locos, double stack container cars and excess height auto rack cars. While the latter may not necessarily fit the 1990 time era, they can certainly be run on the Sunday public run sessions and other special operation's days.

Annual Club Meeting

The Club's Annual Meeting, as required by the RVMRC bylaws, was held on January 24th and called to order at 7:42 p.m. with four board members and four club members present. Bruce gave the annual financial report which included a summary of income, expenses, and other transactions. The Club's finances are in good standing. Income exceeded expenses, largely due to receipts from the annual Railroad Show, which continues to provide the Club with operating and construction funds. The Annual Report will be included for members only with the February *Passing Track*.

Jay Mudge reported that a “Tortoise” switch machine was purchased for the staging yard on the permanent layout, but noted that additional switch machines will be needed. Jay estimated he needed 12 more and was authorized to purchase a 12-pack.

Bruce noted that the Hobby Tree has both Woodland Scenics and Timberline Scenics brand of miniature trees, but Bruce felt the Timberline Scenics has better trees architecturally.

February Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. with four board members and two club members present. Bruce McGarvey reported on the Annual Financial Report and also reported the he prepared the State of Oregon Corporation report which included an annual required fee of \$50.00. The January meeting minutes were approved. Bruce also reported that the City of Medford Fire Department inspected the Railroad Park Building. The only comment was that a table holding a computer was encroaching on the yellow marked “Clear Zone” in front of the electrical panel. The Fire Department’s report will be placed in the Club’s files. Bruce also reported the Club has 51 members in good standing. Jake and Eileen Thomas of Central Point have been visiting the Club on several Saturday’s and have shown interest in the Club’s activities. They are working on a home layout

Gordon Nunally continues his work on building landscaping and is also working on replacing damaged screening from the eaves. The birds have been tearing up the screens, again.

Jim Dougall reports that Kadee Quality Products has donated several boxes of model railroad magazines and several boxes of hobby industry trade publications. Jim plans to sort through these and determine what can be used in the library. The remainder will become available to Club members and not cost.

The program for the February General Membership meeting will be a DVD on Joe Fugate’s Siskiyou Line layout. The subject will be decoders. [Portions of this series has been played during our Saturday work sessions, and they are superior in quality and information—*ed.*].

Dick Stark has completed arrangements for the truck rental for transporting the modular layout to the Klamath County Museum. The total fee for the truck rental is \$222 plus gasoline. The truck will be at the RR Club building for loading on Thursday evening before the **trip to Klamath Falls, March 16-18**. A “show and tell” that interacts with the public is requested. Jim Dougall stated that Art McKee’s Switching Puzzle would be a good candidate.

Bruce estimates the Club will need three tables for the Eugene Railroad Show and Swap Meet in April. The Board authorized Bruce to make payment for three tables.

Bruce also reported that Southern Oregon Public Television needs people to answer telephone calls during their upcoming Pledge Drive night, Monday March 5th at 7 pm. This event will run to about 10:30 pm by the time the volunteers are finished with their tasks. Dick Stark volunteered to handle one of the phones. [Interested members contact Bruce at 890-8145—*ed.*].

Finally, Bruce reported that Thomas Neuman of Ashland has a 4x8 foot N-Scale model railroad layout that he is willing to donate to the Club (or anyone who would like to “take care of it” and not dismantle the layout for parts or financial gain. While there is no room at the Clubhouse for this layout, the Board asked Jim Dougall to head up a group of N-Scale enthusiasts to look this layout over and report back on possible use the Club might have. Paul Konig indicated he would store and setup this layout at his apartment.

March Calendar of Events

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

Klamath Falls Museum RR Show

Thursday, March 15, Load Truck

Friday, March 16, To Klamath Falls

Sunday, March 18, To Medford (Help Needed to Unload the Truck!!!)

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

Mar 5 – “Celebrating 175 Years of the American Railroad”, SOPTv on KSYS & KFTS, 7:30 – 10:30 pm,. Info: www.soptv.org

Mar 10 – WINTERAIL 2007, Stockton, Calif. Info: <http://www.altamontpress.com/winterail/>

Mar 16-18 – Klamath County Museum Railroad Show, 1451 Main St., Klamath Falls, Ore. Klamath Rails and Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club layouts. Stay tuned for more info in the Passing Track. Info: <http://www.co.klamath.or.us/museum/index.htm>

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

May 4-6 – ESPEE In Oregon 2007, Klamath Falls, Ore. Details coming, check: <http://www.espeeinoregon.com>

May 5-6 –Model Train Swap Meet, Rickreal Grange, 280 Main St, Hwy 99W, Rickreal, Ore. 9am-3pm. Info: Tom Pryor 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 iwrr@charter.net or 541-890-8145. 02/11/2007bhm.

Thought for the month: *“Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.”* – Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
PO Box 1362
Medford, OR 97501-0102



KLAMATH FALLS MUSEUM SHOW
MARCH 16-18
(Details Inside)