



The Passing Track

August/September 2007

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

To Build or Not to Build...

...the next phase of the permanent layout after the Railroad Show this November. To adapt the famous poet's line..."that is the question". The buzz around the clubhouse during work sessions has been that very question. At the September General Membership Meeting, the topic was discussed at length. The Club President, Dave Carr, is now asking what all of our members think, so we can have further discussion and begin planning for the eventual next phase.

There were viewpoints both pro and con expressed at the meeting last Wednesday. A concern was raised about taking away some of the work effort now going into the permanent layout. Other questions included the storage location of the modules. Where would the Club store them during the next phase of construction? It was thought to be unfeasible to store them under the permanent layout due to the lack of general space and height and the amount of stuff already stored underneath the layout. A solution was offered to store the modules in a large, steel container or purchasing a trailer as previously suggested to make both transport and storage an easy

In regards to the trailer, someone raised the question of who would tow it, and would the Club always have a person and vehicle available to tow a heavy-duty trailer?

matter for the modules. Are there other solutions?

In addition, there is a need to evaluate the partially completed modules now stored in the shed. What does the Club want to do with these unfinished modules? Do club members want to adopt or take responsibility for finishing the modules and perhaps store them offsite for the Club?



Early 2006 Construction on the First Phase

How often would the trailer be used? There are at least four shows the Club could do on a regular basis if there was no need to continually set up the modules in the

Clubhouse. Those shows are: Klamath Falls Museum in March, Eugene in April, Dunsmuir in the summer, and the Medford show in November.

It appears there are more questions than answers, and will require time for thinking about the logistics involved in making the transition to the next phase of construction. It will take some time to scope out all of the issues, find solutions, and have a timeline with benchmarks and responsible parties, so the progression to a full permanent layout in the Clubhouse ends up being a smooth one.

Is the club ready to begin the next phase after the November railroad show? What are the steps necessary to begin that transition? If not now, when, and how? These are the questions that the President would like

to have more discussion on before commitments are made.

If these topics are of interest to you, please attend as many board meetings and general membership meetings as you can in the next several months to discuss the various facets of this very important decision. If you are unable to attend our meetings, then contact any one of the board members (Dave Carr, Dave Spakousky, Bruce McGarvey, or Jim Dougall) and let them know your opinions. Another option is for you to simply contact a fellow club member who attends the meetings and express your opinions verbally. Those in attendance for this discussion included Dave Carr, Dave Spakousky, Jim Dougall, E. Don Petit, Art McKee, Wil Cleveland, Paul Konig, Brad Fawcett, and Marcus Johnson.

Club Library Upgrades

Our library is looking rather spiffy these days thanks to the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. The Society donated used cabinets to replace the open shelves the Club has been using for years to house its library. An excerpt from the Thank You letter reads...*“On behalf of the Rogue Valley Railroad Club, thank you for your donation of the bookshelves. They have replaced some less than adequate shelving located in our railroad park building and fit nicely along one wall. As we are open to the public on Sunday open house days, the doors will add a bit of security for our valuable collection.”* While security is certainly a bonus, the cabinets give the Clubhouse a more elegant look, and significantly add to the ambience of a professional layout we are currently creating with our permanent construction.

A byproduct of this donation is more organization around the Clubhouse using the old shelves. Some are now located underneath the permanent layout for storage of supplies, making some of the areas much more organized and materials easier to find. Another bookshelf has found its way into the workroom and contains additional model railroading magazines, planning documents and publications, various publications on layout, scenery and electrical, P&E permanent layout information, the Club's library book collection, and various reference catalogs.

September Board Meeting

The meeting on September 12 was called to order at 7:37 p.m. with four board members and four club members present. There were no minutes because there was not a quorum at the August Board Meeting. The treasurer reported that the Club's finances are in good order. There are 45 members on the roster.

Committee Reports:

- Jim Dougall reported that he is painting the Model RR Club storage shed the “Southern Pacific orange”.

- Dave Spakousky reported that the relays that control the electrical feed between tracks 1 and 2 and between tracks 2 and 3 on the modular layout are having some intermittent problems and need to be looked at.
- Jay Mudge reports that the DC on the permanent layout seems to be working OK, but notes there is one “gremlin” causing problems at various locations.
- Jay Mudge and Brad Fawcett will be reviewing signal installation and operation instructions (the manufacturer’s instructions are not very clear).
- There have been some problems with the Proto 2000 wheel sets (see E. Don or Dave Carr for specifics).
- Jim Dougall would like to have the job schedules for this year’s Railroad Show completed by November 2 after which he will compile the final list of names selecting additional persons for vacant positions from any (all) lists provided by each of the clubs.

Old Business:

Bruce is evaluating a business source for a plaque to be prepared for Gordon Nunally in recognition of his fantastic landscaping work at the clubhouse. The Club did present Gordon a gift certificate for dinner at Vinny’s Restaurant, which he greatly appreciated.

New Business:

Two park clubs, SOLST and the Railway Society, will be manning a “whistle stop”/rest stop at the upcoming Ride the Rogue cycling event on September 22, and be distributing fliers and information pamphlets, as well.

Ben Thielmann, head of marketing for Microtrains, recently visited the RR park and was impressed with all the improvements. Joe D’Amato, also of Microtrains, is interested in starting an N-scale or Z-scale Club at the Park (or elsewhere).

October Calendar of Events

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

Sunday Public Run Sessions

Sunday, October 14 and 28
10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

General Construction/New Layout

Saturdays

Generally From 10:00 AM to 3 PM

Board Meeting:

2nd Wednesday of each month

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Construction/Cleanup Sessions:

Thursdays

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

Oct 6 – Fall 1st Div PNR Mini-Meet to be held in the Newport/Toledo area. Stay tuned for details or check with a PNR member.

Oct 13-14 – Central Oregon Live Steamers & Eastern Cascades Model Railroad Club Open House, 21520 Modoc Lane, Bend, Ore. Info: 541-317-1545.

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 jwcr@charter.net or 541-890-8145. 09/09/07

Words of Wisdom:

- *The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and leaky tire.*
- *Some days you're the bug; some days you're the windshield...and finally...*
- *There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.*

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