

The Passing Track

January/February 2008

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Planning Meeting Sets Goals and Standards Construction Phase II To Begin November 2008

A planning meeting attended by thirteen Club members during the Saturday work session on January 13 yielded a strategy for the balance of the year on the permanent layout, as well as improvements to communications among the Club members. Club President Dave Carr chaired the meeting.

In combination with earlier discussions at the December Board Meeting, the Club set a goal to begin the final phase of the permanent layout construction after the 2008 public Sunday run sessions, on or about November 1. While discussions will be ongoing about how and where to store the modules (currently pursuing the trailer option, but no Board decision has been reached), there is a lot of work to do to prepare for the eventuality of removing the modules and beginning the final phase of the permanent layout.

The first goal is to organize the area under the first phase of the permanent layout. More than one member has experienced the difficulty of working on a piece of the permanent layout with so much material stored underneath. Many of us have also experienced long search times for an item we cannot find, but just “know” it to be somewhere underneath the layout. It is recognized that the outside storage shed is intended for long term storage of some of the material that is now underneath the layout, but the shed’s current role is to provide storage for the sheets of plywood and other materials yet to be used for the second phase of the layout. The backroom was designed to be a workshop area, but it currently serves more as a storage unit, also. It was therefore recognized that while we may be able to better organize the area underneath the permanent layout, not all of the permanent storage locations are available at this time. Nonetheless, having supplies grouped will make it easier to find what one is looking for, as well as making it easier to determine what we have and what we need.

A cleanup was scheduled and held on Saturday, January 27. About a dozen club members descended underneath the layout, into the backroom and across the floors and sorted, stored, organized and cleaned. It is amazing how many samples and collections of soil, rocks and ballast was found. The collection of Styrofoam was reduced in size. Boxes of unusable supplies were tossed, as well. Both the backroom and the underneath storage is now organized, the most

commonly needed scenery and building supplies near the front of the building and less used material toward the back. Thanks to Jim Dougall for hauling off a number of bags of recyclables.

Pacific & Eastern Construction Gangs

<p>Terrain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Spakousky • John Gerritsma • Larry Tuttle • Ed Kleinman • Bruce McGarvey • Tom Baldwin • Dick Stark • 	<p>Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brad Fawcett • Bruce McGarvey • Larry Tuttle • Dave Spakousky • E Don Pettit • Fred • Jim Dougall • Tom Baldwin • Jay Mudge • Wil Cleveland
<p>Rail & Bridges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Mudge • Larry Tuttle • Dave Spakousky • E Don Pettit • Tom Baldwin • 	<p>Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brad Fawcett • 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 • Jim Dougall • Dick Stark • Tom Baldwin • Wil Cleveland 	<p>DCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Mudge • Dick Stark • Wil Cleveland • Tom Baldwin • Bruce McGarvey
<p>Backdrops & Clouds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce McGarvey • Dick Stark • Jim Dougall • John Gerritsma • 	<p>Signals, Operating Authority, Grade Crossings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Mudge • Dave Carr • Wil Cleveland • Brad Fawcett

The second goal is to develop and maintain the standards for everything from terrain, to ballast, to structure specifications, to the type of bridges and signals. It is important for each of the facets of the permanent layout to blend into one another, as well as having each section of the layout being championed by various members be consistent from one section to another. To that end, Larry Tuttle reviewed the list of construction gangs and members present added their names to a host of gangs. The primary objective of the gangs is for each group to discuss and agree on standards to be applied to the entire layout. This gives each member a chance to parlay his expertise into a group decision for standard application on the permanent layout. This opportunity and Larry's proposal for notifying members about spur of the moment meetings, construction gang discussions, or any other meeting and/or outing should hopefully eliminate the false, but well-intentioned modeling efforts that

get altered or changed by others. Dave Carr emphatically declared that such a practice that has led to hard feelings and disenchantment would no longer be tolerated. With improved communication in place and standardization by group decisions, Dave expects such unwanted behavior will no longer occur. Once standards are agreed on, they will be written down and kept in the "Construction" handbook.

Dave believes that a modeling effort similar to what has occurred the last 6-9 months will be needed to get us ready to implement the beginning of Phase 2. The intent is to have no "plywood" scenery, have all trackwork completed and fully functional, and at least a base scenery on everything visible by the public. It is likely that some point prior to reaching this goal, the Club will begin operating sessions on the permanent layout, a goal that all present at the planning meeting enthusiastically endorse. Dave also emphasized that the Club continue with the high quality of the ongoing construction work. All in all, the goal setting and improved communications discussed and agreed upon should make for an easy transition to beginning Phase 2 of the permanent layout.

Christmas Party Yields Fun and Awards

The annual Club Christmas Potluck and Party was held at the home of John and Cathy Gerritsma with about 15 Club members, friends and spouses present. Ham, smoked turkey and a winter pear salad were provided and guests brought an array of great breads, desserts, and other yummy dishes.



Sally Mudge starts one of the games...opening a box within a box within a box, etc. with kitchen mittens to "help" her with the task. Oh Yeah The boxes were taped with duct tape!

While Santa skipped this deserving bunch of kids, there were presents nonetheless, most notably during the famous White Elephant gift exchange. Awards were then presented to three club members. As explained by the awards committee, some years there are no awards and other years there are multiple awards. The criteria include the quality and quantity of modeling, attitude, amount of time, and helpfulness to the Club.

Wil Cleveland was presented with the modeler of the year for 2006. According to Jay Mudge, of the awards committee, "Wil always has a smile, a friendly tone with the kids and is always willing to help when needed. He donates to the club in many ways. "



Jay Mudge presents Modeler of the Year for 2006 to Wil Cleveland

Jim Dougall and John Gerritsma were presented with the modelers of the year for 2007. Jim, a retired forester with the Bureau of Land Management in Medford, joined the Club in 1984 and has held numerous jobs including news letter editor, secretary, librarian, painter, organizing the Sunday Public Run days, and takes an active role in the various swap meets in which the Club participates. He has been an active member of the Railroad Show Committee for about five years, and was a member of the Bear Creek & Rocky Flat Railroad (HOn3). Jim spent substantial time last year painting the sky backdrops on the permanent layout and has modeled the beginnings of Eagle Point.

John joined the Club in 2001, having transferred to the area as a forester with the Bureau of Land Management and the Rogue River National Forest. He is an active modeler in N-scale and has demonstrated modeling skills through scenery construction, landscaping, and painting the permanent layout backdrops. He has patiently helped work the Club through some sticky issues and has been the Passing Track editor for nearly four years (publishing “regularly irregular”, as Bruce quipped during the presentation). He also served the Club as Secretary. John is involved with the Railroad Show each year, as well as Sunday run sessions, and other opportunities on behalf of the Club.

Model trains on display at library



Locomotives at the library The close-up model is a Chinese 2-8-2 steam locomotive, circa 1980. It is on display, along with other train models, at the Flora-Monroe Public Library. One of the exhibitors is Doug Howard. He is shown holding a model of a one-of-a-kind Swiss locomotive from 2003. It was designed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the German model train manufacturer, Marklin. Comet photos by Jennifer Archibald

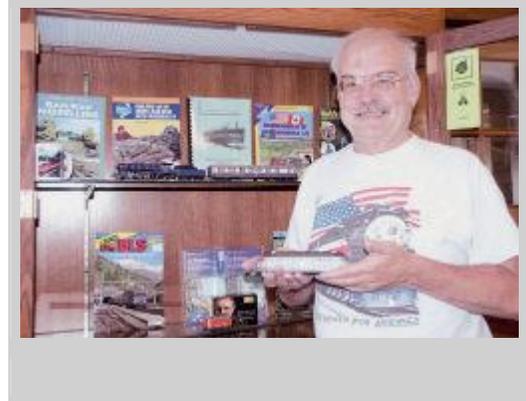
Doug Howard Creates Library Display in Indiana

Doug Howard provided a model train display at the Flora-Monroe Public Library as part of National Model Railroad Month.

Doug has been involved with model railroading for 50 years. and is a life member of the National Model Railroad Association. I

Doug particularly likes to talk model railroading with other enthusiasts.

Having grown up in Oregon, Doug favors the Southern Pacific Railroad. Doug is



quite knowledgeable about railway outside the U.S. partly because he spent time in other countries during his 20-year Air Force career, having experienced railroads in Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and Great Britain.

The library display includes HO scale locomotives and railcars representing railroads from both inside and outside the U.S., as well as HO scale buildings and a number of model railroad magazines. Doug has downsized his collection quite a bit - just keeping his favorites. He moved to Flora in August, and because of his interest in model railroading, Kathy has taken up the hobby, too. They are in the process of setting up a model railroad in their home. Doug said it will be a modular (convertible) railroad. They each have their own workbenches for building and painting. Kathy intends to set up Flora in the 1950s, when the Pennsylvania passenger train went through town. Doug's setting will be the West Coast and the Southern Pacific Railroad. They say it will probably take two years to complete.

February/March 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

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 2008

Feb 16-17 – Great Train Expo, Portland Metro Expo Center, Portland, Ore. 10AM-4PM. Info: <http://www.greattrainexpo.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 drdrews@msn.com

Mar 8 – WINTERAIL 2008, Scottish Rite Masonic Lodge, Stockton, Calif. Info: Vic Neves at winterail@comcast.net or <http://www.altamontpress.com/winterail/>

Mar 14-16 - Klamath Museum Railroad Show, Armory, Klamath Falls, Ore. Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club and others. Info: Bruce 541-890-8145 or iwcr@charter.net and check <http://www.co.klamath.or.us/museum/Profile%20KCM.htm>

Mar 29 – PNR 1st Div Mini-Meet, Douglas County Public Library, Roseburg, Ore. Clinics, + clinics, fellowship with other modelers, door prizes, etc. Stay tuned for details as available. Info: Bruce McGarvey

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 tandt@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

June 5-7 – ESPEE in OREGON 2008 meet at First United Methodist Church, 607 W Main Street, Medford, Ore. Featuring modeling, clinics, layout tours, slide shows and more. Info: <http://www.geocities.com/duncan2train/espeeinoregon.html> Check web site for updates.

June 13-15 – Dunsmuir Railroad Days, Info: <http://dunsmuir.com/visitor/railroad.php>
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. 02/09/2008

Kiddie Groaner – Q. Did you hear about the boy who had to do a train project?
A: He had to keep track of everything!

Patience is the art of losing your temper slowly. Anon

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

