



The Passing Track

November/December 2008

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

It's Showtime!

The 31st Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show begins with the routine of setting up on Friday, November 28th in the Medford Armory. Modules will be loaded Friday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. Members should plan to meet at the clubhouse around that time. The truck is expected to be at the Armory around 10:30 at which time we will unload and begin assembling the modular layout. Our display will be approximately 25 x 37 feet, a bit larger than what was assembled at Klamath Falls a few weeks ago. The main show floor is filled with exhibitors, and the balconies are nearly full with vendor tables. It should be a very busy weekend.

The Club earns a share of the show profits by providing workers to the various job slots it takes to run the show. We have filled our percentage of the work slots. However, there is opportunity for those who did not sign up to take on some of the work assignments. As always happens, unforeseen absences occur and anyone without a specific work task should be available to step in, if needed. Dave Carr will be managing the layout during the show, as well. We are planning to run both DC and DCC, but one should be prepared to run only DC. Dave Carr, who will be managing the operations of the layout, would also like all operators to work at least one of the railroad show jobs (or minimally make themselves available for taking on a work assignment).

In preparation for the show, the Club has refurbished the Public HO Layout, which it sponsors so kids can run trains. The bulky layout has been cut in half, and prepared as two easy to handle sections. Several members have contributed to relaying some of the track, redoing the wiring such that a simple harness connection is all that is needed, plus repairing the scenery.

The following table lists the work jobs and persons assigned for the railroad show. These tasks are the credited work assignments that add up to give the club a share of the show's receipts. Work associated with packing, setting up, and tearing down the club's modules is not shown, but is the responsibility of all club members who are able to lend a hand Friday morning/afternoon and Sunday afternoon/evening.

Day/Date	Time	Who	Task
Friday, 28 th	9-11 am	Jay Mudge	Direct Setup of Displays/Vendors
		E. Don Pettit	Setup Front Entrance Tree/Platform
		John Gerritsma	Pick Up and Set Up Public HO Layout
	11 am -1 pm	Jay Mudge	Check-in Vendors
	4-5 pm	E. Don Pettit	Clean Men's Bathroom ***
Saturday, 29 th	9:30 -11:30 am	Wil Cleveland	Raffle
		Andy Anderson	Raffle
		Larry Tuttle	Best of Show Ballots
	11:30 am -1:30 pm	John Gerritsma	Raffle
		Carol Stark	Ticket Sales
		Larry Tuttle	Public HO Operator
	1:30-3:30 pm	Andy Anderson	Raffle
		Wil Cleveland	Ticket Sales
		Ed Kleinman	Public HO Operator
		Judy McGarvey	Best of Show Ballots
	3:30-5:30 pm	John Gerritsma	Security
		E. Don Pettit	Raffle
		Sally Mudge	Women's Bathroom
Sunday, 30 th	10:30 am -12:30 pm	Larry Tuttle	Ticket Sales
		John Gerritsma	Public HO Operator ***
	12:30-2:30 pm	Andy Anderson	Raffle
		E. Don Pettit	Ticket Sales
		John Gerritsma	Men's Bathroom
	2:30-4:30 pm	Chris Fawcett	Raffle
	5:30-6:00 pm	Art McKee	Inside Sweeping and Cleanup
		E. Don Pettit	Outside Sweeping and Cleanup ***
			*** =Task Available for Substitute To Take On

Club Christmas Party

The Club will hold its annual Christmas party on Friday, December 19th at Elmer's Restaurant beginning at 6 p.m. The restaurant is located just off Biddle Road in front of Food For Less and to the south of Highway 62. We have reserved a room there. Please RSVP (verbally, phone, email, or carrier pigeon) to Jay Mudge so he can get an estimate of the number of people interested to adequately have the restaurant be prepared. Spouses, friends, and family members are invited, as well. Please bring a White Elephant gift that is railroad themed for the gift exchange. The White Elephant may be serious or whimsical, cheap or elegant, small or large (you get the picture).

November Board Meeting Notes

A total of 11 Club members attended the November 12, 2008 board meeting. Four board officers were present: Dave Carr (president), Jay Mudge (vice-president), Jim Dougall (secretary) and Bruce McGarvey (treasurer). Seven general members were also present: John Gerritsma, Larry Tuttle, Dick Stark, Brad Fawcett, Dave Spakousky, E. Don Pettit, and Ed Kleinman.

The Board Meeting of October 8, 2008 was not a quorum and no business was conducted. Consequently, there were no minutes for the November Board Meeting to approve. The treasurer's report established that the Club was in good standing, even though year-to-date expenditures have exceeded year-to-date receipts.

Bruce reported that the west outside door was not closing properly and has been fixed. He also replaced a fluorescent bulb and a broken handle on the men's bathroom toilet. The hot water in the building reads at 119 degrees. Bruce has been looking into possible replacements for the old water heater, but has no recommendation to report at this time. While a bit on the warm side, the water is within an acceptable safe range. Bruce also cleaned the building's rain gutters, before it rained.

Bruce also updated the club's application brochure, and passed it around the members present to solicit any other changes. None being heard, he plans to print sufficient numbers of brochures for the club's needs, especially to have sufficient brochures on hand at the railroad show.

Jay stated the railroad yard modules are having serious electrical issues and failing on a regular basis. Because these are modules proposed for liquidation, the club took no further actions toward repairing these 30+ year-old modules. Dave Spakousky noted he attempted to locate the electrical issues at the east end of Crater Yard, but was unable to do so. Jay surmised that the summer heat might have been a party to the electrical problems causing tightly cut gaps to close and short out. Dave suggested we re-establish the gaps and trim/glue a shim to prevent further issues with these turnouts.

Larry Tuttle raised the issue of reducing the number of modules in order to properly plan storage and care for the remaining modules and not storing unwanted/unused ones, especially where we are planning to build the final phase of the permanent layout. Surplus modules could be donated to club members or other clubs. This topic was discussed previously at the October General Membership meeting. Dave Carr asked for the club to make a list of modules to be surplus so the club can take some action on this suggestion. Larry also proposed the construction of a temporary structure along the outside wall by the back door to house saws, wood and other equipment related to building the final phase of the layout. Noting the difficulties in the past with having tools outside with the constant threat or occurrence of rain, he proposed this temporary structure which would be made of 1x4's and sheets of black and clear plastic. This structure would also keep sawdust out of the building, and the temporary "shed" would be removed prior to next April's Sunday runs. He was authorized by the Board to spend up to \$400 for this structure.

Ed Kleinman gave a presentation of his current work on the permanent layout signaling system and led a discussion on possible options. Based on previous issues with colors not properly mixing for a searchlight signal [*having to do with asking a bi-colored LED to mix and produce yellow...ed.*], losing the true color when viewed from angles other than straight ahead [*again, a limitation of a bi-color LED to mix red and green to produce yellow...ed*], and finding unacceptable searchlight signals that both look good and have proper color, Ed demonstrated a tri-color LED that he installed in a NJ International searchlight signal whose pole and mast the Club has determined to be of high quality. The tri-color LEDs can be purchased for \$1.00 each, plus shipping and handling. Ed noted that these are highly unusual, and extremely rare to find. The Board authorized the purchase of 100 of the LEDs.

Klamath Railroad Show

A handful of Rogue Valley Club members made the trek to Klamath Falls to participate in the Klamath Falls benefit railroad show the 1st and 2nd of November. The show was a benefit for the Klamath Rails Club who is attempting to raise money for a permanent club location. About 500 people attended the two-day event. Brad Fawcett and Bruce McGarvey spent the weekend in Klamath Falls, while E. Don Pettit and Carlos Furcal commuted each day from Medford to be at the show. Art McKee setup and worked with the O-scale switching puzzle. Many had fun switching cars on this layout. Bruce sold \$80.00 worth of club cars at the show. The layout went together very quickly and the trains ran smoothly the entire time. We found a "missing" cable that was tucked up under one of the modules. The highlight of the show, however, was not at the show as a few of the club members got a tour of the BNSF yard facility and tower including a visit inside the cab of locomotive.



*Bruce McGarvey explains some of the details of the Club's layout at the Klamath Falls Railroad Show.
Photo courtesy of Brad Fawcett*



Photo at the Klamath Falls BNSF yard courtesy of Brad Fawcett

December 2008 Calendar of Events

General Construction/New Layout

Saturdays: Generally From 9:00 AM to 4 PM

General Membership Meeting

4th Wednesday of each month 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Board Meeting

2nd Wednesday of each month 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Ashland Historic Railroad Museum

Railroad buffs and friends are invited to attend the "Second Friday History Night" presentation and holiday open house on December 12th. Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Free.

Location: Ashland Railroad Museum, 258 'A' Street, Suite 7 (upstairs, across the street from Ace Hardware), Ashland, Oregon. Program as follows:

"Whistles in the Canyons: The coming of the Railroad to the Rogue Valley"

From US Army surveys of the 1850s until the driving of a golden spike in Ashland in 1887, pioneers dreamed of seeing the isolated Rogue Valley connected to the world by iron rails. Using historic photographs and contemporary accounts, railroad historian Larry Mullaly recounts the dramatic construction through Oregon and California by two separate railroads that forever changed the face of Southern Oregon. Presented in cooperation with the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
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RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2008

Nov 29-30 – **31st Rogue Valley Railroad Show**, Medford Armory, Medford, Ore.
Show time: Sat. 10am – 5pm, Sun. 11am – 4 pm. Model railroad displays, exhibits, swap meet, door prizes, raffle and more. Info: Bill 541-821-5547 or Brad 541-535-7952 bfawcett@mind.net

Dec 6 – Rickreal Train Show, Polk County Fairgrounds, Show time 10am – 3pm. Info: 503-581-6071

Dec 12 - Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7, Ashland, Ore. Show time 6:30pm-8:00pm. Presentation and holiday open house. Info: 541-261-6605 www.ashlandrrmuseum.org See article on page 5.

If you know of shows not listed here please let me know so we can share that information with our readers.
Contact Bruce at iwccr@charter.net or 541-890-8145. 11/18/2008

The Warning Signs: You might be a Model Railroader if...

- Your spouse assumes you can fix light switches, toasters, radios, and vacuum cleaners because “you know all about that wiring stuff from working on trains, right?”
- You’ve ever suggested that your wife’s ceramic Christmas village needs a train running through it.