



The Passing Track

April 2008

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Accomplishments at Rapid Pace

At one of the RVMRC board meetings in the fall of 2007, club president Dave Carr noted that the construction/layout development pace for the upcoming year would have to maintain the pace in 2007 if we were to be able to phase in to constructing the final section of the permanent layout this fall. It seems the club membership listened. Consider these major developments:

- Larry Tuttle, Dave Spakousky and E. Don (with additional help) have constructed a helix below Butte Falls at the hidden stage yard to connect the modules to the permanent layout. A beautifully constructed swing bridge connects the helix.
- While Larry Tuttle has been detailing the Medco facility, John Powell has scratch built a gorgeous locomotive shed for the area. Their combined effort is resulting in a busy and attractive scene.
- Art McKee has nearly completed the base scenery for the logging spur at the Cascade Summit.
- Ed Kleinman and Jay Mudge have upgraded DCC electronics and are installing DCC remote operated turnout controls at the hidden yard areas underneath Butte Falls (and other locations). These innovations will help us utilize our DCC capabilities to a series of turnouts with one button for appropriate routing through the hidden yards, saving us from having to control each turnout independently.
- John Gerritsma continues to paint backdrop scenery ahead of the scene construction crews. He also painted the north and east walls a sky blue, which gives the layout better overall definition (since sky is proportionately the overwhelming portion of any outdoor scene).
- The combined efforts of a number of other active club members to support the administrative and maintenance tasks, and to assist in construction/scenery has added to the vibrant and goal driven atmosphere associated with our current layout work. The ultimate goals: provide the public with a pleasing viewing and learning experience of the Pacific and Eastern while we transition to the final construction phase. Oh yeah...and members having FUN!

Elections at May General Membership; Committee Formed

Club President, Dave Carr, appointed a three-person committee to identify a slate of candidates for board positions. The election is held annually at the May general membership meeting. The committee will contact club members to determine who might be interested in a leadership position with the club. However, you may also directly contact the committee members, who are Jim Dugall, Dick Stark, and John Gerritsma.

April Begins Sunday Run Sessions, Parking Duties

How time flies. Once again, the Medford Railroad Park will open its gates and doors to the public beginning Sunday, April 13 for the twice-a-month public run sessions. Jim Dugall has volunteered once again to maintain the sign-up forms, and has taken on an additional duty related to the parking protocol. It is imperative that we help Jim as much as possible by signing up for running trains (morning, afternoon, or both sessions) and/or parking duties (two sessions each Sunday) ahead of time, so we will be adequately prepared for these sessions. Saturday, April 6, is cleanup day in preparation for the run sessions. Parking protocols are now in place to maximize effectiveness.

Success Again at Klamath Falls Museum RR Show

The RVMRC participated in the Klamath Falls Museum's annual train show on March 14-16. The railroad show is the museum's largest public draw each year and greatly enhances monetary contributions. Due to county cutbacks on services and discretionary funding, the museum is relying more and more on these kinds of funds to keep open. The three-day event drew an estimated 600 persons. *(Photos courtesy of Brad Fawcett)*



Ken Dencer, Bruce McGarvey and E. Don Setting Up



Klamath Rails Club Members Working Their Modules



Art McKee Challenges Youngsters on the Switching Puzzle



There Is Nothing Like the Real Thing!



Model Railroading Is All About the Kids, No Matter the Age

March General Membership Meeting Notes

A lot of discussion, precipitated by the rapid pace of layout work, and the viewing of a portion of Joe Fugate's DVDs on DCC operations on the *Siskiyou Line* dominated the March general membership meeting. Eleven members were present.

The Pacific Region of the NMRA mini-meet in Roseburg is to be held March 29, with Jay Mudge and Ed Kleinman scheduled to present a track routing clinic using the SRC-8 decoder, which can control up to 8 turnouts and associated push buttons. A number of RVMRC members are expected to attend.

Bruce reminded the members that a number of other clubs meet in our clubhouse and we need to keep the meeting area clean. He noted we have tended to leave our various construction related messes, as if we were the only ones using the building.

On Friday, April 18, about two dozen seniors from one of the local senior centers will be touring the Park (live steam, garden and HO clubs) for about 2 hours beginning at 10:30. Brad Fawcett has asked for volunteers to run trains on that day. Please contact Brad or Dave Spakousky if you are able to help.

The 30th Annual Anniversary Railroad Show pins are available at the Clubhouse for a bargain price of two dollars. The show committee donated a limited number of the left over pins for each of the clubs to sell.

The next four months of general membership meetings will provide a show and tell format for learning about railroad operations. There is substantial interest from outside the Club to participate in the planned Labor Day weekend ops sessions. In addition, the learning will include the use of operations cards and DCC related subjects, including basic installation and using DCC.

DCC operations was the subject of a long discussion. The primary issue is that the gapping necessary for DCC/analog compatibility on the module peninsula conflict with the track gapping needed for signal operations. To make the compatibility happen, we need much more complex wiring and the addition of two control panels. A solution was to make the club layout DCC only, and discussion centered on how we can still accommodate some level of analog (DC) due to a number of concerns. Members with older equipment not easily convertible to DCC, with the desire to keep locomotives in DC mode for home operations, and with a lack of DCC equipment or operations knowledge would be left out of operating on the layout, save the shows/events where modules are used. The group concluded it would be wise to accommodate DC in some fashion, and the current set-up will give us a "laboratory" to explore how we can best accomplish that desire. The electrical committee was tasked to help with the fact finding. While there is no immediate rush to make a decision, the board will need to make a decision prior to construction of the next layout phase. The Club will continue to provide assistance to those who need DCC related information, and is also planning to provide some level of DCC ready locomotives and throttles for use on Sunday run sessions and our eventual ops sessions later this year.

April 2008 Calendar of Events

Public Run Session
2nd and 4th Sunday of Each Month
10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

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

General Construction/New Layout
Saturdays
Generally From 9:00 AM to 4 PM
Cleanup Session, April 6

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

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2008

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

June 5, 6, 7 – ESPEE in OREGON 2008 meet at First United Methodist Church, 607 W Main Street, Medford, Ore. Featuring modeling, clinics, layout tours, slide shows, Railroad Park special run day, and more. Info: <http://www.geocities.com/duncan2train/espeeinoregon.html> Check web site for updates as they become available.

June 13-15 – Railroad Days Dunsmuir, Calif. Historic train cars will be brought to Dunsmuir by Union Pacific. Enjoy handcar and speeder car rides, parade, downtown walking tour, and more. Info: <http://dunsmuir.com/visitor/railroad.php> or 1-800-Dunsmuir.

June 13-19 – NMRA National Convention, Anaheim, Calif. Info: www.nmra.org/2008/

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. 03/28/2008

Comedy is talking about things that people think about...and that you have in common with someone else. – Eddie Murphy

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