



The Passing Track
November - December, 2009
Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club
PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501
Home page: <http://rvmrc.net/>
Forums: <http://rvmrc.net/index.php>

GETTING READY FOR THE ANNUAL ROGUE VALLEY RAILROAD SHOW

The 32nd Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show will be held **Saturday, Nov. 28th**, and **Sunday, Nov. 29th**, at the Medford Armory. As you know, the Annual Railroad Show offers a wonderful opportunity to promote our hobby to the public and proudly display the “fruits of our labors”, as well as being an important revenue source for our club. RVMRC club members Bruce McGarvey, Brad Fawcett, and Jim Dougall are members of the RR Show Committee that is organizing the event in conjunction with the other four organizations at the Railroad Park.

As usual, we will need plenty of help with setting up, taking down, and transporting the modules before and after the show, as well as operating the layout and filling volunteer positions during the show. As always, the more volunteer positions that we fill during the show, the greater our share of the income. Scheduling of the volunteer positions at the show is organized similarly to previous years, using 2-hour time slots. This includes volunteer positions for the **show set-up on Friday, Nov. 27th**, as well as during the show on Saturday and Sunday.

The good news is that the Club has filled all of its allocated work slots. But, there is always a need for extra persons or roamers who can step in when someone cannot fill their job. In addition, some of the Club members have signed up for a number of jobs and would be happy to have some of those transferred to others. If you will be at the show and would like to help in one of the work slots, but did not sign up earlier, please contact Dave Carr or any board member to sign up to work at the show.

Everyone's help will be needed on Friday, Nov. 27th, to transport all the modules and equipment to the Armory and set up the layout (meet at the Clubhouse at 8:00 am Friday, Nov. 27). Similarly, everyone's help will be appreciated immediately after the show closes on Sunday at 4 PM to move the layout back to the Railroad Park building. As a condition of running trains at the show this year, the Club president is expecting operators to help with either or both the setup or the cleanup. As usual, the club will be renting a truck to facilitate these moves.

We'd like to encourage everyone to wear their RVMRC T-shirts, hats, and name pins while attending the show. This year's show will be huge, with two additional rooms of sale tables and a floor fully filled with displays.

Some Show Operating Tips

When operating trains at the Railroad Show, please remember that our objectives are to put on an exhibit for the public and to recruit new membership. Let's impress the attendees with our knowledge, skill, expertise, and friendliness. Working on equipment and entertaining ourselves can wait until our guests have left. Our objective is to demonstrate that our hobby is fun and rewarding. The latter can only be done by spending time with our guests to share that enthusiasm and pride.

If you wish to run equipment, please take the time before the show begins to set them up and test your rolling stock and locomotives (Friday after setup, or Saturday and Sunday mornings before each day's show). We attract crowds when the trains are running, not when we are running trying to fix our layout issues. Let's provide plenty of rail traffic for visitors to enjoy

When swapping consists and trains, do so while keeping the maximum trains running.

HAVE FUN..... ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBERSHIP



Jim Dougall interacts with guests at the recent Klamath Rails Railroad Show. People enjoy hearing about the layout and railroad operations amidst lots of rail traffic. Such are the results the Club aspires to every year at the Rogue Valley Railroad Show.

Op Sessions Now Standard Fare

The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club has set aside the second Saturday of each month for an operations session. Signups begin at 10 am, and the ops session begins at 11 am. Generally, the sessions are completed by 3 pm. Each of the work areas have specific printed instructions and car cards are nicely organized in the nearby drawers. Unsure of how what to do in an ops session? Sign on as the engineer or the brakeman and work with a more

experienced member as a tandem. This is especially helpful for the more complex jobs like Crater or Pelican Yards. Each session is programmed to move about 300 cars. There is nothing like an ops session to really appreciate the design of the layout and the attention to construction and trackwork! E. Don and Dave Spakousky have spent a tremendous amount of time preparing each ops session. If you enjoy your time, please give them a word or two of appreciation. The next operations session is Saturday, December 12.

Christmas Dinner Celebration

The Club is holding its annual Christmas dinner and celebration on Friday night December 4, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the **Black Bear Diner** on Barnett Road in Medford. Don't forget the restaurant location is affected by the bridge replacement construction, but follow the detour signs and you should easily come right into the parking lot. If you have not signed up, please call Jay Mudge at 944-3987. There is still room for additional guests, but it is important for us to give the restaurant a head count. You will be ordering off the menu (not buffet style), and are asked to keep in mind there is an 18% gratuity that will be added to your bill.

Please bring a "White Elephant" for the gift exchange after dinner. Of course, you can always wrap something nice that everyone will want to "steal" during the gift opening game that accompanies the White Elephant.



There's nothing like eye candy on a pair of rails. Youngsters enjoying the Club's layout at the Klamath Rails Railroad Show in late October.

The DCC Dog

It's like a dog that knows you don't like him. As nice as you try to act, every time you get near, he growls, snarls, barks and lets you know on no uncertain terms that he doesn't appreciate your presence.

"Come on, nice DCC," I plead. "Here, let's try to MU these two locos. No? Well, how about if you let me run just this one? Rats! Okay, maybe I'll just watch."

A section of the SP main between the Lake Ewauna wye and the BN crossover behaves mysteriously and then acts normally again as soon as I leave the area.

I try to test another engine on the main in Medco. Certainly, if any area on the P&E likes me, it would be Medco. But, alas, the DCC Dog growls again and power drops out of Medco. The DCC Dog Handlers calm the Dog and power returns as I leave.

I try the SD-38 again on the P&E main at Pelican Yard. The Dog will not play. I wander one way, the power wanders another. "Where'd my locomotive go?" I ask. "It's took off to Merganser" comes the answer. All, by itself, without me, bidding the will of the Dog.

Finally, I retreat to the safe confines of Crater Yard. The DCC Dog has cornered me again. Once more I work the yard in relative peace and harmony with the Dog. I'm where he wants me, apparently. Everyone else has a good time running haulers, switchers and turns. The Dog likes them. They are at peace with the Dog. Life is good again.

Larry, Humble Servant of the DCC Dog...and forever cornered in Crater Yard.



October Board Meeting Notes

The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club board of directors met on Wednesday, October 14, 2009. There were four board and six club members present. Jerry Helinga provided the treasurer's report in which he displayed both the spent funds and those not yet spent, but obligated. The Club continues to be in good standing financially, though concerns were expressed over the amount of expenses lately for the permanent layout (cabinetry, wiring, DCC, scenery, etc.). Dave Carr wishes to carry a sufficient amount of reserve funds should the clubhouse roof need replacing over the next several years (it is coming close to the end of its useful life). In order to maintain a good accounting of expenditures and obligations and manage our finances appropriately, Dave reminded all to make sure *all* purchases are approved by the board in advance.

Dave Spakousky reported that the fluorescent tube(s) above the Derby portion of the permanent layout have been replaced. Dave has also been working on defective switches in the White City section of the layout. He is also refining the job descriptions for Club operating sessions.

The club has received four new members.

Jim Dougall continues to update the library with new magazines.

Larry Tuttle described electrical improvements. All fascia outlets for utility use are marked "U". Receptacles for all lights under the valence and rope lights are marked "L". In the back of the layout staging area (Siskiyou Yard), receptacles for DCC switches and all "fuel tanks" are marked "E-1". Receptacles for all other layout electronics are marked "E-2", and layout structure lights and animation are marked "U-2". Receptacles for switches for the Klamath Falls section are marked "U-3" and all Klamath Falls electronics are marked "E-3".

The Club has been invited by Joe Brick to join the Klamath Rails for the second annual Railroad Show and Swap Meet at the Klamath County Fairgrounds on October 23-25. Joe outlined some of the details and noted that the Cimarron Motor Inn is offering special room rates to our members. Brad Fawcett will pick up the rental truck and drive it to Klamath Falls and return. Dave Carr said that two club members from Redding will come to Klamath Falls directly to help.

Bruce McGarvey requested that the Club determine which modules we are planning to take to the Medford railroad show and whether the setup will be all DC or have one track of DCC.

Larry Tuttle asked the board to approve \$13.00 for the cost of a bulletin board that will be constructed on the west wall underneath the TV and up to the door. This board (previously approved) will be for RVMRC business only.

John Gerritsma (requested via email to Dave Carr) and Larry Tuttle propose the continuation of the backdrop on the south wall (where historical pictures and memorabilia is now displayed). The backdrop will come across the rear door (sorry, cannot paint the fire extinguisher) to the library cabinet (hence the location of the new club bulletin board). The board approved the request.

Larry also requested a general cleanup to get rid of unwanted items and continue organizing the storage areas, particularly in the back work room. There was general agreement that such was a good idea.

Dave Carr instructed the secretary to prepare a "Thank You" letter to Coral Edwards for her donations of various items to the club. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

This, That, and the Other

In describing the re-wiring that is occurring to properly district the DCC and to provide appropriate wiring for detection and signaling, Dave Spakousky was heard to say about the wiring in the MedCo area, "There's enough wire spaghetti to start an Italian restaurant".

There were approximately 16 persons present at our operation session November 14. John Gerritsma stretched a two hour switching operation at White City into four hours. The P&E is desperate for conductors, otherwise he'd have to go back to his day job at BLM. Rookies!

It was good to see E. Don Petit who had been ill with a cold/flu. As one of the conductors at Pelican Yard, he universally declared the main line to be "occupied", to the chagrin of the dispatcher. The P&E has colorful employees!

January 2010 Calendar of Events

General Construction/New Layout

Saturdays

Generally From 10:00 AM to 4 PM

Board Meeting:

2nd Wednesday of each month

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

General Membership Meeting

4th Wednesday of each month

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Operations Session

Saturday, January 9

10 am to 3 pm

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2009

Nov 28-29 – 32nd 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 5 – Rickreal Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Poke County Fairgrounds, Rickreal, Ore. Show time 10am – 3pm. Info: Judy MacInnes 503-581-6071 or macinnej@msn.com

Dec 5-6 – Corvallis Society of Model Engineers Open House, 7155 Vandenburg Road, Adair Village, Ore.
Sat & Sun 10am – 5pm. Info@csme1959.org

Looking ahead to the year **2010**:

March – Rogue Valley Model RR Club and Klamath Rails Model RR Club - Klamath County Museum railroad show, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Spring PNR/NMRA Mini-Meet, Southern Oregon area??

April – Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club Swap Meet and Show, Eugene, Ore.

April – Z-scale convention, Rogue Valley, Ore.

May – Model Train Show & Swap Meet, Rickreal Grange Hall, Ore.

July – National Train Show

September/October – SPH&TS Convention, Sacramento, Calif.

October 23 & 24 – Klamath Rails 3rd Annual Railroad Show, Klamath Falls, Ore.

November – ESPEE in Oregon 2010, Salem, Ore.

November 27 & 28 Rogue Valley Railroad Show, Medford, Ore.

11/15/09bhm "No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationary."