



The Passing Track April 2009

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

P&E Makes History: Train Service from Medford to Klamath Falls!

On Saturday, April 11, the P&E Director's Special made history by riding the rails from Medford to Klamath Falls—the first train ever—a historical and momentous event observed and captured by a number of railfans, pillars of the community, local politicians, and a strong showing of the P&E Board of Directors! Due to last minute preparations, an exuberant press corps, and winded speeches by celebrities and P&E personnel, the Director's Special left Crater Yard at 2:45 p.m, stopped at Butte Falls not even a half hour later, and arrived in Kamath Falls later that afternoon with additional fanfare. The P&E construction gangs worked with unflappable diligence and fervor to create the final phase of the line in about 90 days!

Preparations for the benchwork of the final phase of the permanent layout began on about January 8. On April 11, the historic journey was made. An incredible amount of work was done by a core group of members including Dave Spakousky, Larry Tuttle, Jay Mudge, Carlos Furcal, E. Don, Ed Kleinman, Wil Cleveland, Dick Stark, and Brad Fawcett. Without the strong effort on behalf of those dedicated club members and with a little help from a number of others, the public would simply be peering into an assemblage of wood and wires and little else. The Club opened to the public for 2009 on Easter Sunday, April 12, and ran the layout portion without any issues related to the track and power (though there were some operator errors and some issues related to rolling stock).

At the April Board of Directors meeting, Dave Spakousky gave heartfelt thanks to all members who have contributed to the final phase noting especially the exceptional quality of the work. It was Dave's vision that created the sketches that was to become the permanent layout. Dave noted that all of you who have suggested the various changes over the years that were incorporated into the final design made the layout exceed his expectations. *(While the reader may not have been there, I observed that Dave was very proud of the resultant effort not only for the recent addition of Phase 2, but for the entire buildout of the permanent layout, and his thanks to the club members was deep and heartfelt—ed.).*

When asked if we learned anything about the work to date on the final phase, Jay Mudge reported that

we should have done the first phase like the second, to which he received an eruption of laughter (*hindsight makes a genius out of each of us—ed.*). Dave Spakousky believes, except for the Derby area, wiring for signaling and to improve the DCC operation should be relatively easy. Each section of track on the new phase received a pair of drop down feeders. That way there will be no need to rely on soldering track joiners and replacement or movement of laid track will be simple. Turnouts were prepped as well with feeder wires.



Above: Railfans vie for turf to capture the Director's Special on its historic journey to Klamath Falls
Below: The P&E Special heading downhill from the Cascade Crest toward Klamath Falls



April Board Meeting Notes

The Board meeting on April 8 was called to order at 7:34 p.m. with four board members, nine club members and several guests present. Jerry Helinga reported the club finances to be in good standing while maintaining adequate liquid funds for the immediate needs. The Klamath Museum has indicated it will

reimburse the club for both the cost of the truck and fuel. Details of the club finances are in the board meeting minutes. Bruce McGarvey printed new business cards for the Club. Contact work by the nominating committee is ongoing, with at least three persons thus far interested in a club board position.

Dave Carr, Jim Dougall and Bruce McGarvey each contributed maintenance work to the building. Larry Tuttle acquired replacement bulbs for under the layout's second level. A number of these had begun to burn out. The Board voted to renew the annual service contract on the inspection and maintenance of the heating/cooling system, which was installed new last year.

Being there were no takers on the recently acquired back issues of Model Railroader, Jim Dougall reported the timely demise of these magazines in recycling heaven.

The April General Membership Meeting will feature both DCC basics and some advanced instruction in setting and changing default codes.

To make loading/off loading modules easier, John Gerritsma suggested the club pour a concrete pad between the back of the clubhouse and the shed. Dave Spakousky suggested the effort include a ramp into the shed. No discussion or further action was taken at this time.

The Board approved the acquisition of a new club website, which will house an electronic version of the *Passing Track*. While the expectation is that most members will be able to read online or download the *Passing Track*, those who cannot do so will continue to receive a hard copy. The website gives the Club much more flexibility and expansion opportunity to put a lot of material online and available to everyone. The proposal also includes a section that only Club members can access. Larry Tuttle is taking charge of the effort and is interested to hear from anyone who would like to learn how to create and upload web pages.

There is a proposal being discussed to open the Park this year on July 3 and 4. Input is being sought from the fire department as to availability of their parking area.

Klamath Falls Railroad Show

This year's railroad show was held March 13-15, and about a half dozen of the RVMRC members helped make the event another successful one. Approximately 500 persons attended the show at the Museum, which holds this popular annual event at its Klamath Falls Museum. Art McKee entertained the visitors with his switching puzzle. Upon returning from the show, Bruce McGarvey and others inventoried the condition of several of the modules, noting they needed maintenance work, particularly the Central Point module. Bruce suggested we keep buildings for each of the modules together in labeled boxes. Previous discussions at board meetings included the need for putting each of the modules through a refurbishing and maintenance routine. The intent is to make the modules easier to handle and transport, easier to assemble, and less susceptible to damage. Bruce also donated a new granary for the Central Point module.



Bruce McGarvey answering questions at the Klamath Museum RR Show



A Klamath Rails member aligning rolling stock on their club modular layout

May 31 Invitation for Ops Session in Eugene

The Lane Society of Model Railroaders are inviting members of the RVMRC to a joint DCC operating session on Sunday, May 31 beginning approximately at 10 am. The Lane Society trekked to Medford last year for an operations session over the Labor Day weekend. Those needing more information regarding carpooling, etc. please contact Dave Carr at 541-245-1648 or dcarrman@charter.net.

SP Fans Take Note

Doug Howard has his SP loco items for sale. All are **new in box**, never run, except as noted. Contact Doug directly by email if interested in purchasing (hdouglas.doug@gmail.com).

Diesel Locos, Black Widow Era:

- a. Athearn "Blue Box" SP #5600 GP-9 body \$10 **USED**
- b. Athearn " " SP #5459 SD-9/7, no box \$25 **USED**
- e. Bowser BLW AS-616 SP #5205 \$90
- f. Bowser BLW AS-616 SP #5207 \$90
- g. Bowser GE U-25B SP #6800 BiCentennial \$125
- h. Lifelike Proto 2000 Alco PA Daylight #6005 \$75

Diesel Locos, Bloody Nose Era

- a. Athearn "Blue Box" GE C44-9W SP #8102 Spd Ltrg \$35
- b. " " " GE C44-9W SP #8170 Spd Ltrg \$35
- c. " R-T-R EMD GP-35 Kodachrome #6577 \$85
- d. " R-T-R EMD SD-40 Experimental Red.Orng #7342 \$85
- e. " R-T-R EMD SD-45T2 BiCentennial #9389, Decoder, \$200
- f. " EMD F-7A/F-7B #6349/8225 \$55
- g. " EMD GP-35 #7428, DCC plug \$65
- h. " EMD GP-40X #7201, DCC plug \$70
- i. " EMD SD-40 Kodachrome #7303, DCC plug \$65
- j. " EMD SD-40 Kodachrome #7357, DCC plug \$65
- k. " EMD SD-40T2 #8251, DCC plug \$80
- l. " EMD SD-40T2 #8283, DCC plug \$80
- m. Athearn BLW S-12s (Two), custom-painted in Pumpkin colors by Cooper & Oshtemo SP #1457 and #1511, sell only as a pair \$55
- n. Broadway Limited Alco RSD-15 #5162, Quantum sound \$100
- o. " " GE AC-6000, SP #600 Quantum sound \$175
- p. Bachmann GE 70-tonners SP #5101 & #5106, DCC-equipped \$35 each
- q. Kato EMD GP-35 SP #6612 \$90
- r. Walthers Trainline GE Dash 8-40B #8000 \$40
- s. Walthers EMD SW-1 SP #1004 \$30

Doug adds, "I think my prices are fair. Some I might dicker with; some I shall and will not. I will also ask for postage from my Zip Code to yours."

May 2008 Calendar of Events

**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

General Membership Meeting

4th Wednesday of each month

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Public Run Session

Sunday May 10 and 24 (Memorial Weekend)

11 am to 3 pm

Lots of engineers needed!

Run those trains!!

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2009

April 18-19 – Willamette Cascade Model RR Club, 21st Model Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Ore. Sat 10am – 5PM, Sun 10am – 4pm. Info.: Lee & Diane Temple, 541-954-4917 or ttandt@ram-mail.com

May 2-3 – Model Train Swap Meet & Show, Rickreall Grange Hall, 280 Main Street “Hwy 99W”, Rickreall, Ore. 10am – 4pm. Info.: Tom Pryor 2085 S Pacific West, Dallas, OR 97338

May 16 – NMRA/PNR 1st Div. Spring Mini-Meet, Adair Village (99W north of Corvallis), hosted by the Corvallis Society of Model Engineers. 9 AM start with clinics, door prizes, layout tours, and more. Inf: Gene Neville 541-745-5502 or 541-602-3630. Open to all model railroaders. Come join the fun and fellowship with model railroaders.

Jun 17-21 – N-Scale collector Convention, Red Lion on the River at Janzen Beach, Portland, Ore. Info: dick@nscalecollector.com

Jun 25-27 – “Railroads In and Around Klamath Falls” SP&SRHS convention, Shilo Inn, Klamath Falls, Ore. Info: Bruce Barney 503-257-8855 or bcbarney@msn.com or http://www.spsrhs.org/news/2009_SP&S_Convention_Flyer.pdf

Jul 5-11 - NMRA National Convention, Hartford, CT. <http://hn2009.org/home.html>

Oct 10-11 - Eastern Cascades Model RR Club open house. Sat & Sun 10 – 4. Bend, Ore. Info: <http://www.ecmrr.org/>

Oct 24-25 – Klamath Rails 2nd Annual Model Railroad Show and Sales, Klamath County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall A, Klamath Falls, Ore. Info: Steve Hart 541-892-2550 or Joe Brick 541-883-3071.

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

04/13/09bhm *“I’ve reached the age where the happy hour is a nap.”*