



The Passing Track

January 2010

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

2009

Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club Modeler of the Year

The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club has seen many significant changes this year: the Keno Helix and the entire Klamath Falls District were designed and constructed, card shelves and handy pull-out drawers have been installed throughout the layout, trackside industries and aerial photographs were studied and numerous permanent and temporary scenes were crafted, a multi-circuited electrical outlet system has been wired, our signaling system has been integrated into the layout, our website has been revamped, and our first op sessions in many years have been successfully executed and dispatched.

All of this has been the product of countless hours of work by many. There are, however, two individuals whose vision and tireless work have made all these changes possible. Both these members have been involved in every phase of work, and they have helped craft the layout to museum quality standards. These members hold us all to high standards so that the result of our labor is a model railroad of which we can be proud and which differs from the real thing only in scale. These individuals are educators, they are craftsmen, and they possess every quality necessary to be called this year's Modeler of the Year.

The recipients of this year's award were chosen, as always, by those who received this award over the past three years. The decision for the winners of this year's award was unanimous.

The Rogue Valley Modelers of the Year are Dave Spakousky and Larry Tuttle.

Permanent Layout Work Continues

by Larry Tuttle

There's been a rather amazing amount of progress on the P&E during December, a month which typically sees members drift off to pursuits of the family and the holiday.



Ed Kleinman at work on the panel in the Medco Pit. Shows some of the wiring and all that's going into the signal system, and Ed's intensity when it comes to doing this work.

For starters, Ed and Dave have been doing an incredible amount of work on the signal system and rewiring around Medco, North Medford, Summit and environs. This is on top of Dave working every night for Harry & David in what's turned into a near record season. Larry has also been busy, harassing Ed and Dave and making a little progress on the new Medco plywood plant and, finally, the light blue soffit above Medco. A few pictures show the progress.

First a short quiz:

In the picture below, Dave:

- A. Just stuck his finger into a 120 volt socket
- B. Being himself at the end of 24 consecutive night shifts.
- C. Just got a Christmas "Goose"
- D. Celebrating successful wiring of the second S-MINI board.



Actually, this is the new S-MINI board and related wiring in the "Medco Hole". If you guessed "B", you're correct.

The picture below features two noteworthy accomplishments. First, on the left is new Medco Plywood mill building which Jay and Larry have been working on. Getting the roof to curve down and stick to the formers was a chore which finally worked. (And yes, Larry removed all the scrap iron and cleaned up the mess at the end of the KF peninsula.) The printed sides which Jay made are stood up for effect (a very good effect!) while a train sits nearby. (Note the signal to the right of the locomotive). Also, note the blue soffit above the scene -- this was just installed today and will help create additional realism with low angle photography. And, don't the doors look better painted sky blue (just wait until Gerritsma comes across with his mountains of Jacksonville)? Thanks Tim Jamin!



Finally, Jay and Larry have conspired to rebuild the McAndrews Road overpass. More correctly, Larry emailed Jay, "How hard would it be...to rebuild the McAndrews Road overpass to a full four lanes." (Jay immediately deleted this email!) But alas, both modelers realized the old overpass had problems and, with the extension, it'd need to have the other two lanes added for a ways. So, the overpass is gone for a rebirth into four lanes. All in all, it's been a great year for the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club and our Pacific & Eastern Railroad.

Amtrak Came Calling

With the series of storms slamming Oregon and the Cascades, The rail line between Klamath Falls and Eugene was closed because of the fear of slides and heavy snowfall. With the closer, Amtrak contacted Pacific & Eastern management and acquired trackage rights over the P&E line in order to remain somewhat on schedule. Amtrak came on to the line at P&E's Pelican yard and made good time, and although at restricted speed, was able to make it to the SP interchange in north Medford and continue north to Eugene with little time lost.

Amtrak management was heard saying that the P&E was a nice change of scenery for the crew and passengers alike and might consider a light schedule thru the Southern Cascades rather than risk the hazards of the Cascade Pass in inclement weather.



Amtrak Coast Starlight dropping downgrade between Butte Fall and Derby

November Board Meeting Notes

The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club board of directors met on Wednesday, November 11, 2009. There were four board and ten club members present. The Club continues to be in good standing financially. Though we continue to incur expenses for the permanent layout, we are maintaining a reserve for future expenses like roof repair/replacement.

Dave Spakousky shared the progress of dropping feeder wires from signal #17 to signal #11 to the electrical bus line. Replacement DB-200 Boosters and some throttles are ordered and scheduled to arrive at

Eugene Toy and Hobby on November 17. Jerry Helinga requested the Board approve an increase in the budget line for DCC equipment to cover the cost of the additional supplies.

Brad Fawcett queried the board as to what layout the club is planning for the railroad show and who/how many members will be attending (for name tag purposes). Dick Stark offered to arrange for the rental truck. The board approved the donation of P&E boxcars (one of each color) for raffle prizes at the RR show.

Larry Tuttle's program for the January General Membership Meeting is on the evolution of a scene.

E. Don has checked almost all of the rolling stock now on the layout.

Jay Mudge provided details of the Club's Christmas party. It will be held December 4th at the Black Bear Restaurant at 7 p.m. There will be a white elephant gift exchange. Gratuities will automatically be added to your bill, but you will be able to order from the menu.

The Eagle Point Library is asking for a display. Jim will contact Bruce about using items in our display.

Dave Spakousky proposes to build a small basic children's layout to set up on Sunday runs, much like the Public Railroad at the annual show. The goal is to give kids hands-on opportunities.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 P.M.



Club members, families, and guests enjoying the annual Club Christmas Party and Dinner at Black Bear Restaurant

February 2010 Calendar of Events

General Construction/New Layout
Saturdays
Generally From 10:00 AM to 4 PM

Board Meeting:
February 10
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, February 13
10 am to 3 pm

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2010

Jan 23 – Spokane Portland & Seattle Railway Historical Society - Railroad Swap Meet. Holiday Inn - Portland Airport, Portland, Ore. 10 am to 3 pm. Information: www.spshts.org

Mar - Klamath County Museum Train Show, Klamath Falls, Ore. Klamath Rails and Rogue Valley Model Railroad Clubs. Check back for details TBA.

Mar 13 - 25th Annual Model Railroad Swap Meet, Willamette Model Railroad Club, New Hope Church, 11731 SE Stevens Road. Clackamas, Oregon. 10 am to 3 pm. Info: Steve Cook 503-309-9543 or 503-236-1481, s.c00k@comcast.net

Mar 20-21 - Great Train Expo, Portland Metro Expo Center, Portland, Ore. Info: <http://www.greattrainexpo.com/>

Mar 26-28 - Lower McKenzie Modular Railroad Show and Sell, Jasper Grange, Jasper, Ore. Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 9-5. Info: Allan 541-741-1359; Mike 541-912-8637.

Apr 10-11 - 22nd Annual Model Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Willamette Cascade Model RR Club, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Ore. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. Info: Lee & Diane Temple, 541-954-4917 or 541-225-7394, ttanddt@ram-mail.com

Apr 17 - PNR/NMRA 1st Division Mini-Meet, Douglas County Library, Roseburg, Ore. Doors open at 8, Meet/clinics start at 9am. Clinics, door prizes, model contest, and more. Info: <http://pnr.nmra.org/1div/>

Apr 30-May 1 - First annual National Z Scale Convention, ☐☐ Ramada Medford Convention Center, Medford, Ore. Variety of events including tour of Micro-Trains plant, private trip to Medford's Railroad Park, public show day, clinics, and more. Info: www.national-zscaleconvention.com, or Sara at 541-535-1755 x250.

May 1-2 - Rickreall Grange Train Swap Meet & Show, 280 Main St. "HWY 99W", Rickreall, Ore. 10AM-4PM. Info: Pry626@juno.com or 503-606-0398.

Jul 11-18 – 75th Anniversary NMRA National Train Show, Milwaukee, Wis. <http://www.nmra75.org>

Oct 23-24 - 3rd Annual Model Railroad Show & Sales Event, Klamath Rails Model RR Club, Klamath County Fairgrounds, Klamath Falls, Ore. Info: Steve Hart 541-892-2550, Joe Brick 541-883-3071

Sep 30-Oct 2 - 2010 Annual SPH&TS Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, Calif. Info: <http://www.sphs.org/>

Nov -- ESPEE-N-OREGON 2010 will be held in Salem, Ore. Check web site in the future for dates and location, <http://espee-n-oregon.com/convention.html>

Nov 27-28 - 33rd Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show, Medford Armory, Medford, Ore. Info: Brad at 541-535-7952, Bruce 541-890-8145 or jwcr@charter.net