



The Passing Track

February 2010

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Rusty Wimmer's Magnificent Layout

The Club has been the recipient of two magnificent HO layouts in the past month or so, not the least of which is Rusty Wimmer's Rivetless Railroad with substantial detailed scenery. There will be a photo



documentary of Rusty's layout on the club website, soon. For now Larry Tuttle, Judy Mallchock and several others have been cataloguing rolling stock and scenery. The layout will be dismantled by the middle of February with as many detailed scenes salvaged as possible. Some of these will be displayed in the Club's display case for the remainder of the year, a tribute to Rusty and his remarkable eye for detail. Where they fit the permanent layout, Rusty's detailed scenes and structures will continue to entertain. Larry will appreciate anyone who can volunteer to help dismantle the layout, which is about 14x26, give or take a few feet.

Operations Session with Track Warrants

January's operations session was a first ever to use track warrants. After a brief introduction on the warrant system, the ops session began. Yard limit signs ("Y") were posted along the P&E. If a Y was facing you on your right you were entering the yard. If it was facing you left, you were leaving the yard. If you ventured out on the mainline past the yard limit, you were required to obtain a track warrant, which specified when, how long, and to what point you would be allowed on the main. These were communicated via radio to each conductor/engineer who requested use of the mainline. In a few locations, like White City, there is little need for a warrant. The haulers, however, were in constant need of a warrant, and the respective conductors were quite busy with the necessary communications and paperwork. Dispatcher Tuttle's philosophy is simple...*let us learn about TWC and use it for a few months to see how we like it. Then, if somebody wants to work up Direct Traffic Control and implement it, we can run with DTC for a while. By the end of the year, we should have had ample opportunity to work with and evaluate both systems and make a decision on which one we prefer for the P&E. If no one comes up with a DTC system this year, no problem -- we can always consider it at a later date. Better to do a well thought out system later than a hap-hazard one now. (Dispatching should not be hap-hazard!)*

P.S. Some of our scenes are getting close to ready for prime time, no?



A P&E local works MedCo

January Board Meeting Notes

The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club board of directors met on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. There were four board and twelve club members present. The Club continues to be in good standing financially, buoyed by a financially very good November railroad show. Jerry presented a proposed budget for 2010 in which income exceeds anticipated expenses for the year, unlike 2009 when many expenses went into the permanent layout.

Dave Spakousky reports that he and Ed Kleinman are finishing up the signal wiring for the Medco and Cascade Crest area. Both of them need a little healing, however, before they can finish their work (knee and back, respectively). Gas (and therefore heat) was shut off for a day or so as the Fire Department put in a new gas line for a training facility which led to a new line into the building for the club.

The Club received kudos and a big thanks from Klamath Rails Club for our participation in their annual railroad show in October. An invite was sent to the club to participate again this year. While likely planning to do so, the Club did not formally discuss the event so far out in the year. The board voted to continue supporting the November railroad show using the Club's insurance policy for the event. The club is reimbursed for that use.

Larry Tuttle will NOT present the January program on building a scene, but instead provide a session on operations using Track Warrants.

Dave Spakousky shared a drawing of the proposed Thomas the Tank kids layout he and several club members proposed for our Sunday run sessions. The layout features two independent loops with a number of industry sidings and a few other structures. The idea is to give the younger kids a hands-on experience at the park while the adults be more in tune with the club's layout. It is a 4x6 layout that will fit over a folding table to keep it from moving.

Dave and E. Don are looking for clips, other than paper clips, or some kind of sleeve system for the waybill cards. It was noted that the paper clips tend to be grabby and cause some of the car cards to come apart.

Note: The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club board of directors did NOT meet in December.

Klamath Museum Railroad Show

The Klamath County Museum has once again invited the Club for their annual train show and display on March 12-14. Contact Bruce McGarvey at 541-779-8145 for more information if you are interested helping with the show. We will need help to load and unload the truck at the clubhouse on Thursday evening, March 11 and Sunday evening, March 14, respectively. Hotel discounts are available for those who plan to stay overnight. Klamath Falls is a great place for railfanning and becoming familiar with the sites modeled on our permanent layout.

March 2010 Calendar of Events

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

Board Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month
March 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**
2nd Saturday of each month
March 6 (Note: not 2nd Saturday due to Klamath show during March 13-14 weekend).
10 am to 3 pm

**Please sign up for engineer and conductor assignments upon arrival. By coming before the session starts, you have time to setup/acquire throttles, radios, and motive equipment, if needed, as well as become familiar with the assignment. Operations session begins promptly at 10:30. The March 13 (2nd Saturday) session falls on the same weekend as the Klamath Museum Train Show. Thus, no op session on March 13.

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2010

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.sphts.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