



The Passing Track

January 2011

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

E. Don Pettite is 2010 Modeler of the Year

The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club presented E. Don Pettite with the 2010 Modeler of the Year at its annual Christmas dinner that was held at Elmer's Restaurant December 17. The modeler of the year nominees are selected and evaluated by the previous three year's winners.

Each year, the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club looks within itself to determine if a person stands out who has demonstrated notable accomplishments in modeling. Each year, there is much that we, as a club, accomplish. Is there an individual in 2010 who stands out above the general membership, who has embodied exemplary modeling skills recognizable as distinct, masterful, and worthy of praise? The answer for 2010 is "YES".

The 2010 Modeler of the Year is characterized by precision, tenacity, and a warm heart.

This person has an eye for detail, and a passion for meeting and maintaining specified standards for scenery, for track, and for railroad equipment. Because of our modeler's efforts, we often take smooth operations for granted (well at least when the DCC is cooperating). Because of our modeler's efforts, we are able to have meaningful operations sessions. In the course of a year, it is not unusual for our Modeler of the Year to perform some kind of routine maintenance on likely every Club car that touches our layout. Tedious work for sure, but highly essential. Our Modeler of the Year built tens of magnificent loaded log cars, and tediously created a forest of trees, many of which adorn the modular layout giving it a brand new look and artistry. This person has spent many hours mentoring our younger modelers. E. Don Pettit has these outstanding modeling skills, and wraps them up with a presence that warms any and all who come to visit the park. Always ready to help, and always lending a smile and a laugh, E. Don Pettit is perfectly fitting for the 2010 Modeler of the Year!

Congratulations E. Don!



John Gerritsma announcing E. Don as Modeler of the Year

More Holiday Frivolity

The Christmas Dinner was attended by about 20 members and their guests. We had a robust gift exchange with the usual really good items mixed in with true white elephants.

After the gift exchange came the first surprise. It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a team to build a railroad. Such was the premise for the first annual presentation of the Certificates of Appreciation given by Larry Tuttle and Dave Spakousky. The humor was provided by a cast of thousands (well, a dozen or so, anyway).

R. Dave Carr--For enduring yet another year as President -- we all thank you for that. Also, for your many calls to Eugene Toy and Hobby brokering our acquisitions and discounts and your transportation services for our supplies. *(Finally, for your never ending string of esoteric acquisitions that grace the Pacific & Eastern. I mean, who else would have dared to dream of Pennsy Centipedes crawling -- both on and off the rails -- over our empire?)*

Jim Dougall--For your time, dedication and perseverance, Managing the Sunday Run Days, Maintaining our Library, Working on Scenery for the Layout and Cleaning our Clubhouse. *(Ahh, there's nothing like the smell of Pine Sol and the sound of a screaming vacuum on a Saturday morn.)*

Brad Fawcett--For your year-long Efforts on the Show Committee, an Outstanding Job running the Railroad Show, Representing the Club on the Parks Committee and your Scenery Work on the Layout. *(Meetings, meetings, **MEETINGS** all year long, with your leg in a cast at half of them!)*

Jerry Hellinga--For a great job as Treasurer including printing out all those reports and reining us in on spending -- or at least trying to make us stick to a budget. Also, for your fine sense of humor and desire to run every position (except maybe Pelican Yard) on the P&E. *(And finally your uncanny*

ability to seat yourself in the middle of the room with your legs stretched out and in the way of **EVERYONE** attempting to move about.)

Bruce McGarvey--For your hard work and year-long effort on the Show Committee, an amazing feat of fortitude on Thanksgiving weekend, a most commendable effort rehabilitating the Central Point module and your continuing work on scenery and the permanent layout. *(Not to forget ongoing maintenance at the clubhouse and the monthly "Light Bulb Change-out Report" to the Board.)*

Jay Mudge--For your dedication and hard work on the DCC system and patience in programming member's power. Also, for the great looking locomotives you've done up in P&E. And for "lighting up the night" with illumination on structures. *(Then, there's your finesse with creating flashbulbs. No one else can come close to the visual effects in miniature of your filament flashes and LED bursts.)*

E. Don Petit--(This was Don's first award of the night). Most notable is your dedication to maintaining rolling stock and track standards. But, you're also the unsung hero of the back room and maintaining the club's supply of refrigerated carbonic acid -- oversweetened and chemically augmented to make it palatable. *(And not to leave out your acquisition of the **Mother of All White Elephants**, that lovely wood and cable suspension bridge!)*

Dick and Carol Stark--For your patience and endurance handling the Sunday Parking Lot Detail, Representing the Club on the Medford Parks Committee and being the Tireless Thomas promoter. *(Also, Dick, many thanks for being of good humor when having to bring unpopular proposals to the Club's attention -- Contributing to a Porta Potty Fund, Good Lord!)*

The final surprise of the evening was the presentation of the Night Train (wine) by Stretch Manley to Dave Spakousky, an tradition passed along every 2-4 years to members of the "old guard" to commemorate the camaraderie and tenacity of the club's "early" years, especially during the time when there was no facility and permanent layout. Ask some of the long time club members about this tradition. There are stories!



Sympathy

Brad and Kris Fawcett lost Kris's oldest daughter just before the New Year. Holly was the mother of Taylor Royer, who was a member of the RVMRC for several years, but is now living in Northern California. The Club passes along its deepest sympathies to the Fawcett family.

January Program: A Multi-Media Look Back and Forward

At January's Membership meeting on January 26, Larry Tuttle is presenting a multi-media look back at where we started on the permanent layout and where we are now. The permanent layout construction started seven years ago, and some of the comparison photos will demonstrate the strides we have made. Moreover, there will be a planning session following the presentation to chart out the goals of the Club for 2011.

Construction Disrupts Ops, But Not the Fun

The December Operating Session became a Work Session when it was revealed that the track realignment program at Merganser (aka the Mayhem at Merganser) had yet to be wired and trains could not operate reliably in that area. Still, a goodly number of members showed up to work on scenery and other projects. Below, Tom and Tuscan squatted down in the middle of Lake Ewauna to schlep plaster-soaked towels. Meanwhile, Matt, Carlos and Tim graze on local feed lot fare. Apparently a lot of serious foaming has been going on the west (left) side of Pelican Yard. In fact, Tim had been working on ground forms beyond the Highway 140 bridge (based on photos festooning cars in the yard) while Matt and Carlos applied plaster cloth over Jim Dougall's scenery forms near Eagle Point. A pleasant time was had by all and a whole lot of progress was made that day.



The Mystery of "What's That Load" Solved?

While on vacation in the northwest, Brad Fawcett took a picture of a mystery load (see the December Passing Track, in which the question was raised, "what's that load?"). Several members responded. Blair Moody said, "I would think those large white pipes on the flats are parts or the "tubes" of the towers for wind turbines. On my trip to Chicago, I saw several wind turbine blades each individual blade lashed down to three long flat cars. They are big once fully assembled. Also we have been importing almost all of the wind turbine components from manufactures in Europe". Dave Carr responded similarly.

January Board Meeting Notes Summary

The Board met on January 12 with three Board members and 5 members present. Our finances are in good standing, the Club having spent slightly more than it took in last year, but maintaining a healthy balance. The Board approved a budget for 2011 similar to 2010. Dick Stark and John Gerritsma will perform the annual audit of the books within the next several weeks, or so.

The Club replaced the UR-92 which a DCC vendor suggested needs to be sent back to the factory for repair. Nonetheless, the Club continues to have DCC issues, as experienced during the January operations session. Several theories for fixes will be implemented/tested. One fix involves routing power to the frogs in switches, and the other involves the installation of a "snubber", a device that prohibits digital signals at the end of the bus line from bouncing back into the line as a reduced signal distortion. Another suggestion was moving the UR-92 to a more central location on the divide between Eagle Point and Butte Falls.

Tom Jacobs donated layout has been posted on Craigslist. The RR Show Committee is seeking replacements for several members who are retiring from the committee. Dave Carr acquired *The Official Railway Equipment Register, January 10, 1990* for the club. The *Jefferson Monthly* will carry an article about the Railroad Park in their March issue. The Railroad Park Committee will be presenting a professionally produced video about the park to the Parks Commission.

The board approved the purchase of a static grass applicator and a topside creeper. The board approved a rule for future donations that no conditions are attached unless the board approves in advance prior to the donation. The UPS to protect the DCC has been installed. The signal system can be protected with installation of inexpensive surge protectors.

February 2011 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

Operations Session**

2nd Saturday of each month
10 am to 3 pm

Construction will NOT disrupt the op session!

General Membership Meeting

4th Wednesday of each month
7:00 PM to 8:30 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.

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
P.O. Box 1362
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RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2011

Feb 11 – Toisan: Home of the First Chinese Immigrants – Irene Kai. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm. Info: 541-261-6605, <http://www.ashlandrrmuseum.org/>

Feb 19-20 - Great Train Expo, Portland Metro Expo Center, 2060 North Marine Drive, Portland, Ore. Info: <http://www.greattrainexpo.com>

Mar 11 – *She's Been Working on the Railroad: Women Railroad Workers* – Suzanne Marshall, PhD. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm. Info: 541-261-6605, <http://www.ashlandrrmuseum.org/>

Mar 12 – Winterail 2011, Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 33 West Alpine Ave, Stockton, Calif. 9am – 10pm. Info: <http://www.winterail.com/>

Mar 18-27 - Klamath County Museum Train Show, 1451 Main Street, Klamath Falls, Ore. Klamath Rails Model Railroad Club. Info: 541-883-4208.

Apr 8 – *Dixie of the Pacific Northwest: Southern Oregon's Civil War* – Jeff LaLande. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm. Info: 541-261-6605, <http://www.ashlandrrmuseum.org/>

Apr 9-10 - 23rd 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 30 - 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/>

Jul 3-9 – NMRA National Convention and Train Show, Sacramento, Calif. www.x2011west.org/index.html

Sep 8-11 - SPH&TS Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Portland-Lloyd Center. <http://www.sphts.org/convention/>

"You Might Be a Model Railroader If" -- someone says he's finished his model railroad, and you sadly shake your head and say he's missed the point of the entire hobby. (With thanks to Glenn from The Brakeman' Rag Dec 2010.)