



The Passing Track

February 2011

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Mammoth Construction Effort Cancels Op Sessions

Members of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club have come out in droves during the "construction season" of 2010-2011. No less than 18 people graced the Club this past Saturday working in every corner of the layout. Such a show of enthusiasm and desire has translated into a maddening array of project sites and their consequential messes. The natural choice is to get out of the way and let the construction enthusiasm continue unabated...op sessions be cancelled! With the upcoming Winterail slated for the same weekend as the March op session, the construction season will go unabated until we start the cleanup process toward the April operations session and the following day public run Sunday, the opening April date for the 2011 Railroad Park season.

P&P Tree Company (that is "Treedon" Pettit and Powell) have been cranking out the green (and a few ungreen) that get planted before the glue has even set. Such is the frenetic appetite of the helix. Guest tree builders take up the visitor seats under the P&P tutelage and the company keeps growing, and future craftsman tree builders are being born. In an article on the air filter tree construction method, trees depicted in a recent *Model Railroader Magazine* (and built by the MR staff, no less) cannot hold a candle to the high end trees being manufactured by the P&P. The trees are awesome!

The effort on the helix by Larry Tuttle and John Gerritsma has created a few WOW scenes even where the scenery was meant to be secondary. Of course it helps to have some of the world's best trees to work with. The photos and site visit from last fall's field trip to the old Weyerhaeuser line above Keno and the Klamath River dam has paid huge dividends as the look and feel of the scene is coming to life in our Club house.

Ron Harten has added an electronic WOW at the Highway 99 road crossing. The warning lights have been complemented by crossing gates complete with working lights on the bars. The whole system is tied into detectors that activate the gates, lights and bells (sound, too). Quite the visual candy!

Not all of the work is instantly producing a "looker", but is nonetheless critical toward getting there. Bruce McGarvey is working the fascia in the White City area and Jim Dougall is chipping away at the scenery above Eagle Point. Completing the fascia will give the scene from Medford to Eagle Point the a tidy, finished look that draws the eye to the scene, not the bench work. The irregularities of the edge currently in place presents a particular challenge. Dave Spakousky has been filling in Lake Ewauna after it became apparent the lake was modeled too deep. While the imagination can picture a finished lake, the scene is merely dry wall and plaster, the foundation for a great scene to come. To be able to pour the lake and still build the bridge afterward, Dave has had to make a "floating" section of the track where the bridge will be built in place.

Finally, the P&E yard is starting to look like a working yard with Dave Spakousky having ballasted the entire yard, and Gerry Hellinga putting the car repair facility part of the scene together. Other behind the scenes work is continuing with DCC and the signal system, both of which are not very apparent except when they are not working.



A quality scene on the P&E helix. Note the raptor nest in the snag (dead tree). A little more detail with talus and rock features, shrubbery, debris...almost ready for primetime! Oh yes, when the DCC gets turned back on (read engine lights) and a little diesel exhaust gets photo shopped in...the next MRR News cover?



The forest in the background has since been completed. Once we determine the best method, the whitewater will be added to Klamath River.

Wil

Wil Cleveland is recovering from his heart attack and is continuing some medical procedures. He can't wait to come see us, but can use our continued prayers and thoughts. Get well, Wil!!

March 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

Cancelled for March. Construction continues!

General Membership Meeting 4th Wednesday of each month

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
P.O. Box 1362
Medford, OR 97501

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.

Mar 31, Apr 1&2 - ESPEE-N-OREGON 2011 will be held in Salem, Ore. Check web site for details.

<http://espee-n-oregon.com/>

Apr 8 – *Dixie of the Pacific Northwest: Southern Oregon's Civil War* – Jeff LaLande.

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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/>

May 7-8 – Model Train Swapmeet & Show, Rickreall Grange Hall, Rickreall, Ore. Swap hours 10-4. Info: Tom Pryor pry626@juno.com or 503-606-0398.

Jul 3-9 – Extra 2011 West, The Unconventional Convention, NMRA 2011 National Convention and Train Show, Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, Calif. www.x2011west.org/index.html

Sep 8-11 - SPH&TS 2011 Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Portland-Lloyd Center. <http://www.sphts.org/convention/>

Nov 26-27 – 34th Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show, Medford Armory, 1701 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford, Ore. Info: Brad at 541-535-7952, Bruce 541-890-8145 or iwccr@charter.net

"You Might Be a Model Railroader If" -- *you've ever told anyone, "I can quit buying freight cars any time I want!"*
(With thanks to Glenn from The Brakeman' Rag Dec 2010.) 02/07/2011