



## The Passing Track

November-December 2011

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

### Key Upcoming Events

**Railroad Show November 25-27**--Help load the truck at the Clubhouse beginning at 7:30 AM on Friday November 25 (the day after Thanksgiving). Unload at the Medford Armory and complete setting up the Club layout. Two of the tracks will be DCC while the third will be DC. The show runs Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. All club participants will need to have a RR Show name badge provided by the Club at the armory for security purposes, especially for Friday and for admittance prior to opening on Saturday and Sunday. Don't forget to check the job schedule for your assigned tasks. Help is needed to disassemble the layout and return it to the Clubhouse immediately after the show on Sunday. Club members are reminded to interact with show visitors as much as possible. Each year we attract new members to the Club as a result of the show. Contact Bruce McGarvey at 541-779-8145 for more information.

**Christmas Party December 9**--The annual Club Christmas dinner and white elephant gift exchange is to be Friday, December 9, at Elmer's Restaurant on Biddle Road in Medford (adjacent to Food For Less) beginning at 6 PM starting with a bit of social time. Subsequently, you can order *ala carte* off the menu. Don't forget a white elephant gift that is railroad related. There is always a surprise of some sort. What will it be this year?

**Operations Session December 10**--Even though we are in construction mode, members have felt the need to improve our operations skills so we can put on a good showing when the national convention comes to town in May. In addition, there are plans to integrate a number of through trains during the operations session which adds additional complexity.

## **P&E to be in the 2013 *Great Model Railroads!***

The Club received word that Kalmbach Publishing (*Model Railroad Magazine*) is planning to feature the P&E in the "Great Model Railroads". It was previously thought the photo shoots would be in the spring of 2012, but the timing related to publishing is too tight, so the Club will be featured in the 2013 issue. This gives the Club the time it needs to prepare for the May national convention and subsequently for the magazine. The club identified priority work items to get the layout ready for both of our moments of "fame". The work lists are posted at the Clubhouse. The following are the first priorities identified by the Club at the October Board Meeting. Names are included where club members have indicated a strong interest to lead and/or work the priority.

- Pelican Yard (Larry, Dave C., Jay)
  - Yard Office (Larry)
  - Engine House
  - Access Road
  - Fuel and Sand pad and equipment (Dave C., Larry)
  - Lighting (Jay)
- Lake Ewauna and environs
  - Rip Rap, fill and vegetation along
    - Pelican Yard
    - Wye
    - SP Main to divider
  - Lake bed paint – touch up, blend in brown near shoreline
- Basic scenery, vegetation and ballast
  - Removable "finger"
  - SP main and both switch leads at least to the beginning of the divider
- Columbia Plywood
  - Building mockups (Dave S)
  - Road into mill complex (Larry)
  - Ground cover around mill – tie into existing US 97 scene
- McNeil Creek drainage
  - Trestle (Tim J)
  - Footings, abutments and approaches
  - Forest scene below and to the logging/forest scene towards Butte Falls
- East of Summit (Bruce M)
  - Ground cover over foreground scenery
  - Continuation of forest/other scenery, especially between Summit and the first tunnel
  - Ballast
- Summit & Logging Branch (Bruce K., Don)
  - Complete ballast and minor scenic details at Summit (Larry)
  - Relay switches on logging line
  - Make logging branch operational
  - Rough scenery over any exposed foam
- Highway 99 (N. Pac.) Crossing (Larry, Bruce K)
  - Blend gate/cantilever modules into scene (Ron Harten)
  - Burger King (Dave S.)
  - Complete foreground between the plywood mill and Bear Creek
  - Finish ballast on main line
  - White House (Bruce K)
  - Finish Backdrop (John G)

- Bear Creek into Crater Yard
  - Tie in existing Pape' Cat building
  - Unloading ramp and drives
  - Second Pape' building (Jay)
  - Ballast into Crater Yard
- Signal System (Ed, Dave S)
  - Complete the signal system and rewiring – Center Peninsula
  - Signal number boards (vertical) with “G” and “D” plates (Harten and Larry)
  - Blend signal pads in with ballast and scenery
- Fascia & Paint
  - Fascia at least to Vilas Road (Larry)
  - Paint new fascia and ....
  - Touch up/repaint movable wood skirting
- Web site upgrade/update completed (Larry)
- Resistors on wheel sets (Jerry, Dave C, Harten)
- Backdrops
  - Klamath Falls west hills (South wall)
  - Clouds
  - Behind Columbia Plywood

## **Building the Pacific & Eastern – Another Busy November Saturday** *Photos and Text by Larry Tuttle*

Now that the public run days have ended for the winter, construction work has resumed in earnest on the P&E. There's a sense of excitement and renewed commitment, as the Club looks towards the joint PNR/PCR NMRA convention in May. Lots to do and lots getting done on Saturday, November 5.



*Bruce Kelly is sifting red cinder ballast for the logging branch. In the past few weeks, he's been up on the “dance platform” busily working on track and planning scenic features for the logging areas. At home, he's building the “White House” Medco headquarters building.*



*Bruce McGarvey continues work on his scene near Summit. However, there's more to Bruce's club activities than meets the eye. In addition to working many hours on the upcoming [Rogue Valley Railroad Show](#), he's been helping out other members' modeling efforts by procuring detail parts from [Campbell Scale Models](#).*



*Among the unseen details required for the signal system to work correctly are resistors on the outer axles of every car. Jerry Hellinga and E. Don Pettit team up to install these 20k $\Omega$  resistors. Jerry appears to need three pairs of eyes to accomplish the delicate task of cementing the nearly invisible resistors to the right spot bridging the insulation between the wheel and axle. Meanwhile, Don tests each wheel-set before placing it back on the layout and fetching another car for Jerry to work on.*



Larry Tuttle has been busy constructing the much-awaited Pelican Yard engine house. Most of the work has been done at home, but Larry had the building taped together in order to evaluate the final window and door placement. While not a scale replica, this building was inspired by the one Great Northern built in Klamath Falls.



*This picture, taken by "FGS" and posted on Trainorders shows the BN engine house as it looked in the summer of 1985. While much too big for the space available, by shortening, narrowing and leaving out some tracks, the look and feel of the Great Northern influence has been retained and incorporated into our version. Anyone want to build a sanding tower or two?*



*What to do about the foreground scene at the Highway 99 crossing near Medco has been a nagging problem. Dave Spakousky remembered a Burger King at this location and Google Earth aerial photos support this. We finally found an out-of-stock AHM Burger King model on eBay and Dave Carr arranged its purchase. But, alas, it wasn't configured correctly for our BK and it was too big for the space. Undaunted, Dave Spakousky set to work sawing and filing it into a more accurate rendition. In this photo he's shortened the building and is contemplating how to carve up the roof so as to fit.*

*Also, Ron Harten showed up with a "black box" housing the DCC components to be used with the modular layout at shows. All the components, plus some spares, are secured in place and all that's needed is to plug the thing in and turn it on. Last but not least, Jay Mudge dropped and did some work on the DCC for the permanent layout. I have no idea what he was doing, but the DCC system kept chirping.*



*John Gerritsma, Jim Dougall, Bruce McGarvey, and Bruce Kelly work the two-day craft fair at Wilson Elementary School to demonstrate crafts related to model railroading. The Club provided a unique demonstration booth among craft sellers and was highly appreciated by both the public and the event organizer. We have been invited back for next year.*



*Young guest inside the RVMRC's layout at the Klamath Railroad Show in October epitomizes what model railroading is all about. A number of our Klamath Falls members helped with the setup, operation and take-down of the Club's modular layout. Thanks to Ken Dencer, Carl and Susan Jensen, Joe Brick, and others. (Bruce McGarvey Photo)*

## **December 2011 Calendar of Events**

### **General Construction/New Layout**

Saturdays  
Generally 10:00 AM- 4 PM

### **Operations Session**

2nd Saturday of Each Month  
Saturday, December 10  
10 am to 3 pm

### **Board Meeting**

2nd Wednesday of each month  
December 14  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

### **General Membership Meeting**

4th Wednesday of each month  
Cancelled For December  
Merry Christmas!

## RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2011

**Nov 26-27 – 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show**, Medford Armory, 1701 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford, Ore. Info: Dick at 541-621-5337, or Bruce 541-890-8145.

**Dec 3 – Willamette Valley Model Railroad Swap Meet**, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Ore. Sat. 10 am – 3 pm. Info: Judy 503 -581-6071 or [macinnej@msn.com](mailto:macinnej@msn.com)

**Dec 9 – *Now Bakersfield Oil Transformed Ashland Railroad*** – Larry Mullaly. Second Friday at the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum, 258 A Street, Suite 7 (upstairs), Ashland, Ore. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

**Looking ahead to 2012**, mark your calendars for the following events:

**Feb 25-26 – World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Train Show**, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Ore. Info: <http://www.wghshow.com/shows/2012/portland.html>

**March – Klamath County Museum Train Show**, Klamath Falls, Ore. Date TBA

**Apr 21-22 – 24th Annual Model Railroad Swap Meet & Train Show**, 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](mailto:ttanddt@ram-mail.com)

**May 2-5- Siskiyou Summit 2012**, Joint PNR/PCR Convention, Red Lion Hotel, Medford, Ore. Info: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/> “Early Bird” registration special through Nov. 30! And Online registration.

**Jun 27-Jul 1 –N-scale Convention**, Red Lion Hotel, Medford, Ore. Info: <http://www.nationalscaleconvention.com/>

**Jul 7-11 – Great Northern Historical Society Convention**, Klamath Falls, Ore. Info: <http://www.gnrhs.org/conventions.htm>

### **Oxymorons**

1. Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
- 2.. Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?
- 3.. Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?

**I dunno, why do we?** (11/14/2011)