



The Passing Track

May 2008

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

Elections at May General Membership

The election for Board Officers is held annually at the May general membership meeting. A election committee comprising of Jim Dougall, Dick Stark and John Gerritsma was formed. The committee polled some of the membership for interest, and their collective work resulted in the following initial slate of candidates. Additional nominations will be accepted prior to the voting at the membership meeting. The candidates, thus far, are as follows:

President	Dave Carr
Vice-President	Jay Mudge, Dave Spakousky
Secretary	Jim Dougall
Treasurer	John Gerritsma*, Bruce McGarvey

**if elected would resign as editor of the Passing Track*

Railroad Park Opens for 2008

On a balmy Sunday on April 13, the Medford Railroad Park opened its doors for the 2008 season. The parking lots were filled to capacity by 11:30 and remained that way until around 2:00 pm. The park clubs have been busy with additions and renovations, including the addition of the motorcar rides by the Historical Society. The RVMRC showed off its new transition layout, with the temporary yard modules attached to the helix to what will be the Klamath Falls yards. Given the near-perfect weather, the addition of a food facility, and the addition of the hand-car rides, there was a steady, albeit light, stream of visitors to the layout. Many a visitor was heard to say: "things have changed". Indeed, things have changed.

From a bright blue sky on the north and east walls, to the detailed scenery at Medco and in the Cascades at the summit, at Butte Falls and at Derby, to the new helix, and the near dominant DCC operation, the RVMRC showed off a winter of work. Members who participated in the Sunday session had some interesting observations. Several members commented that there were times when trains were either not running or not visible to our guests, and people just left. A number of guests expressed interest in wanting to see the closed area of White City and Eagle Point. Several times, RVMRC members escorted folks into the closed area and the people were appreciative. One club member suggested that we make such "tours" more available and take advantage of educating our visitors one-on-one about the basics of model railroading and layout construction. Another suggested

we place Plexiglas along the edge and allow the publics [but control numbers to comply with fire codes and aisle widths] in our “closed” area, but wait to do so until a little more scenery is completed. It was noted that the fire department would not allow unfettered access past Derby and Medford Yard due to the narrow walkway at that point. Thus, only controlled, limited, and escorted access is allowed. Several members commented that more interaction with our visitors would be nice.

Because there is a change to predominantly DCC, Club President Dave Carr would like to remind everyone that preparation to run one’s DCC equipment should be done prior to operations on Sunday. Jay Mudge and others who have expertise would like to enjoy the Sunday run sessions operating *their* equipment, and not spend the day programming, trouble shooting, and coaching on DCC. The Club periodically offers DCC learning and programming sessions, and experts are generally available on Saturday work sessions to help with technical issues. Though there were a few momentary glitches, train operations were very smooth.

Be sure to sign up for engineer slots, as well as parking duties, to give those in charge of scheduling the information they need to secure the people needed for each Sunday. The signup sheets are on the bulletin board.



Jay Mudge showed off his new set of Santa Fe Dash 8s in the warbonnet paint scheme. Not to be outdone, Art McKee rolls his shay pulling a load of logs on the Cascades logging spur on the upper tracks.



*Above: The Club sports a new look for 2008. The helix, toward the back of the photo, connects the permanent layout to the yard modules (in the foreground). Dave Carr gazes upon a short freight rounding the corner at Derby.
Below: Looking into Medford Yard on lower loop and the Cascade Summit on the upper level.*





Dave Carr rolls his brand new Southern Pacific F7s, an A-B-B-A-A consist, past railfans east of the Cascade summit.

May 2008 Calendar of Events

Note Special Events Below—Help Needed!!

Public Run Session
2nd and 4th Sunday of Each Month
 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

General Construction/New Layout
Saturdays
 Generally From 9:00 AM to 4 PM
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****Eagle Point Head Start****
Friday, May 2
 From 9:30-11:30 AM

****New Hope Christian School****
(approx 40 kids)
Thursday, May 8
 10:45 AM to 1:15 PM
Board Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month
 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

General Membership Meeting
4th Wednesday of each month

Elections, May 28
 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
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****Phoenix Head Start****
 (approx 38 kids/10 adults)
Friday, May 9
 9:30-11:30 AM (Class #1)
 1:00-3:00 PM (Class #2)

April Board Meeting Notes

The Club Board met on April 9, 2008. Two Club officers (President Carr, and Secretary Dougall) were present as well as member-at-large Dick Stark. In addition, four members were present giving the Club a quorum in which to conduct business. In the Treasurer's absence, Jim Dougall read the financial report. The club's finances are in good standing. The purchase of a new heating and air conditioning system accounted for the Club's largest recent purchase, though significant expenses have been incurred with the recent explosion of work on the permanent layout.

Dick Stark reported on the Railroad Park Committee meeting. The group discussed the parking issues noting that each of the Clubs need to be vigilant about supporting and participating in the parking lot attendant duties. This is important since the Park is becoming very popular and generally fills the available parking. Dick reminded us that we cannot have a single incident while using the fire department parking lot, or that privilege will be lost. Dick was given several suggestions to take back to the Committee including having clubs rent scouts, service clubs, or security services should they not be able to provide personnel to the parking duties.

Jay reported on the Electrical Committee. He and Ed Kleinman reported numerous electrical issues when they tried to connect the DCC to the modular portion of the layout, and later discovered the source of the problem as competing power sources. Jay also reported that the permanent layout will use the SRC-80 exclusively.

E. Don reported problems with most of the trucks on LBF cars. The multi-part construction of the trucks interfere with proper operation. He has replaced many of the trucks on cars being used on the layout. Otherwise, 95% of the cars scheduled for use on the layout are passing muster.

Several groups will visit[ed] the park during April: a retired senior group (April 18); Central Point third graders (April 25). Important dates for which the Club needs to be open include June 5-7 for the SP Historical Society meeting in Medford and June 20 for the KADEE QUALITY Products annual company party. Members are encouraged to help staff the layout during those events.

The Club is planning an operations session sometime in late July. This will serve as the first of several trial sessions prior to the Labor Day operations session with the Lane Society of Model Engineers. A roster of P&E locomotives and paint schemes are being developed.

A DCC session will be held soon for those needing to install/learn about DCC.

Espee In Oregon

This year's 2008 "Espee in Oregon" Meet will be June 5, 6, 7 in Medford Area at the First United Methodist Church at 607 W Main Street in Downtown Medford. Events scheduled as follows:

June 5—Tour of Micro-Trains plant, a local sawmill, and several layouts.

June 6—Clinics. Everything about flat cars of the Espee--prototype, building models, and how tie down a load on it. Also, the Ashland eoundhouse, Tunnel #13 at the summit, semaphores and more.

June 7—Morning tour of a shortline and the Medford Railroad Park. Lunch in the Park. The Medford Railroad Park includes the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Park layout; Southern Oregon Chapter National Railway Historical Society which has restored Espee equipment and other items; Southern Oregon Live Steamers who will be hosting train rides; Southwest Oregon Large Scale trains which will be running their garden layout; and the Morse Telegraph Club showing us the good ol' days. More clinics after lunch at the church, dinner on your own, then evening slide show.

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2008

May 3-4 – **Model Train Swap Meet**, Rickreall Grange Hall, 280 Main St, Rickreall, Ore. 10AM-4PM. Info: Tom Pryor 503-606-0398 or pry626@juno.com

June 5, 6, 7 – “**ESPEE in OREGON 2008**” meet at First United Methodist Church, 607 W Main Street, Medford, Ore. Featuring tours of Micro-Trains and sawmill, modeling and prototype clinics, short line tours, slide shows, Railroad Park special run day, and more. Check web site for updates and application form. Info: <http://www.geocities.com/duncan2train/espeeinoregon.html>.

June 13-15 – **Railroad Days** Dunsmuir, Calif. Historic train cars will be brought to Dunsmuir by Union Pacific. Enjoy handcar and speeder car rides, parade, downtown walking tour, and more. Info: <http://dunsmuir.com/visitor/railroad.php> or 1-800-Dunsmuir.

July 13-19 – “**Anaheim Special**”, NMRA National Convention, Anaheim, Calif. Info: www.nmra.org/2008/

If you know of shows not listed here please let me know so we can share that information with our readers.
Contact Bruce at ivcrr@charter.net or 541-890-8145. 04/23/2008

The Warning Signs: You might be a Model Railroader if...

- You've ever worried about spelling the coupler "Kadee" or "KD."
- Brass isn't something you polish, it's something you paint and weather.
- You spend more on your model trains in a year than some Third-World nations spend on the real thing.

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