

## The Passing Track

August/September 2008

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

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

### October Board Meeting Topic: Some of the Modules Have to Go!

During discussions at the August general membership meeting, it was suggested that the first step toward starting the next and final phase of the permanent layout is downsizing the number of modules. We currently have approximately 40 modules. Some are incomplete. Some, like the corner tunnel module ("Big Bertha"), are grossly out of square, and extremely heavy. Some of the modules, like the regular yard and engine terminal, are rapidly aging to the point of no longer being functional.

Downsizing will give us room in the shed for storage of modules we wish to keep, as well as removal of modules temporarily stored against the south wall, to accommodate the building of the peninsula (Klamath Falls). After much discussion at the conclusion of the meeting, Dave Spakousky brought out the box of module "cards", and the members present gathered informally to play "what if" scenarios. What we found was that a complement of about 20 modules is all it takes to have a decent portable layout with some variations depending on the space in which we are setting up. In addition, we suggested a few additional modules to keep in order to provide a bit of variety. The basic need of a yard is met by keeping the coach yard, which was deemed to be in much better shape than the regular yard, and which is more ideally suited for simply running trains, which we do when displaying the modules for the public. In other words, operations on the modules are a lower priority. In addition, the coach yard allows us to have one DCC track, if desired. A total of 25 modules are proposed for retention including the Mine Spur corner, N. Medford, Jay's truck terminal (which Jay stores at home), McGarvey's Derby and Hillside, Wes Car corner module, White City, and the bridges corner. Mount Pitt, the yard and engine terminal, Central Point and several of the corner modules, including Big Bertha, are proposed for downsizing.

It was suggested that the downsized modules be offered to their builders and/or club members for possible conversion to On30 modules, or that they be offered to the Klamath Rails club. Because this action is key to moving ahead with the final phase of the layout, the Board will decide on this action at the October Board meeting (October 8).

### August Board Meeting Notes

The Club Board met on August 13, 2008. Four Club officers and three members were present. The club's finances continue to be in good standing. The July meeting notes were not read as John Gerritsma, subbing for Jim Dougall in July, forgot he did so, and forgot to bring them to the

Board Meeting. [*The meeting notes were published in the July Passing Track...ed.*] All but three of the club memberships (associate memberships) have been renewed.

Jim Dougall has finished painting the trim of the storage shed. Both Jim and John Gerritsma trimmed the branches of the adjacent spruce tree. Jim and John each took a load of the branches and the scrapwood underneath the tree to Biomass One.

The Medford Parks and Recreation Department is publishing a revised railroad park brochure and requested edits/changes/suggestions. Contact Bruce McGarvey if you have any.

Operations at the Sunday open houses are going well, but Jay reported a couple of electrical problems he surmises are caused by intermittent shorts such as placing metal tools on the tracks, and a few faulty turnouts.

Jay relayed information he gathered regarding trailers. Jay estimates the cost of a 6 to 8 foot wide by 14 foot long trailer with a side door, to be between \$4,200-\$4,700.

The Board discussed having an operating session with the Eugene Model RR Club over Labor Day weekend, but no decision was made.

The Board discussed the need to do some maintenance work on the Public HO ("Junior Pretzel") layout that is now stored in Bruce McGarvey's neighbor's barn. The Club needs to bring the layout to the clubhouse (or someone's house) and work on it for the show. Otherwise a decision needs to be made not to have the layout at the show (as was done last year).

## September Board Meeting Notes

The Club Board met on September 10, 2008. Four Club officers and six members were present. The club's finances continue to be in good standing. Bruce offered that one of the Club's CD's could be rolled over into a higher interest bearing CD.

Bruce reported the repair estimate for the roof, if done this year, would cost about \$6,000. If the old roof is not torn off, there is a savings of \$500-1000. There was some discussion about replacing the existing roof with a metal one, but no further decisions were made. A representative from a local roofing company stated the roof is good for about 2-3 more years, but it would be wise to make some spot repairs (which Bruce has already done). Bruce noted the heater/air conditioning unit has had its seasonal inspection. Bruce also noted the hot water heater is running very hot and may be a signal that the unit is on its way out. It has the potential to scald people who are running the hot water in the bathrooms, or Club members at the mop sink. Due to concerns over a possible scalding, the Board decided to turn the hot water off to all the restroom sinks, until Bruce returns from Germany and can work on getting a replacement for the hot water heater. Finally, Bruce reported the club has 47 paid up members.

Jay discussed DCC findings during the Eugene Model RR club operations visit over the Labor Day weekend. Jay made adjustments such that the voltage from one end of the layout to the other is now the same (there were substantial differences). Jay also discovered that the number of addresses is set to 20 every time the system is restarted. Jay was shown how to set the addresses to "999", so there will no longer be memory issues that had been plaguing the Club. We need an accessory circuit installed on the permanent layout. Ed Kleinman reminded us that work-gangs need to be considerate of one another as they operate across one another's "jurisdictions".

Ed has ordered some resistive epoxy for wheel sets so that cars can trigger the signal light indicators. This allows the lights to change only when all of the cars are free of the block.

Dave Spakousky continues his search for the "right" price to have a railroad print framed that the Club wishes to donate to the Sumpter Valley RR. The price for a 16x20 matted and framed print, with non-reflective glass, was about \$250, which Dave felt (and all concurred) was more than we wanted to spend.

The steps on the viewing platforms still need to be reinforced.

There are turnouts in the east end of Crater Yard that have and did cause problems with a short that shuts down the DCC. Dave Spakousky understands the problem and will try to make an adjustment. Otherwise, the turnouts will have to be replaced with "DCC friendly" turnouts. (*Switching across these turnouts at last Sunday's open house did not cause any problems, so the issue may be resolved—ed.*)

Ed Kleinman requested and received reimbursement for costs associated with continued exploration of signaling systems.

## Railroad Shows

The Klamath Falls railroad show will be on the first weekend of November (see advertisement on the following page) on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The RVMRC will need to address several critical items at the October board meeting to determine if there are enough members to participate and line up the logistics (truck rental, layout configuration, etc.). Dick Stark volunteered to make arrangements for the truck rental. Loading would be on October 30 or 31. Upon Brad Fawcett's motion, the Board approved the donation of three P&E Club car kits to the Klamath Falls show for raffle prizes.

The annual Rogue Valley Railroad show over Thanksgiving weekend (November 28-30) is fast approaching. Jim Dougall will have the show job schedule to the Club by the October board meeting. The Board also approved donating three club cars to the November RR show, as well.

## Operations Session a Success!



*Eugene RR Club members (yes, even the youngster) work the Crater Yard during the Labor Day Weekend Operations sessions.*

+ HI- BRUCE FYI  
ALL R.R. M.E.R.C.  
MEMBERS

# KLAMATH RAILS MODEL TRAIN SHOW

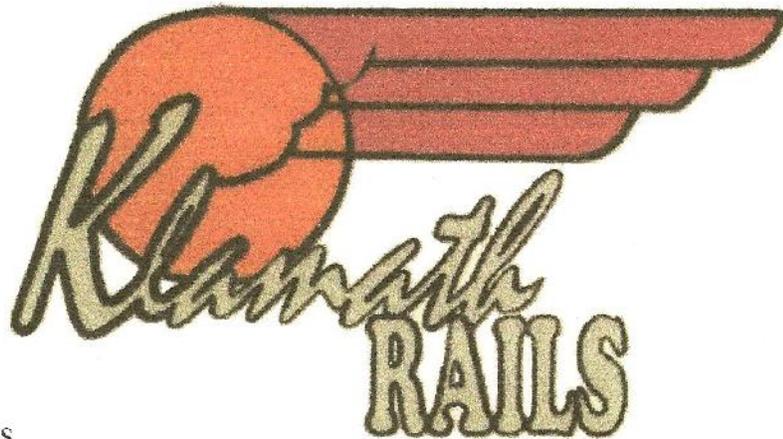
NOV. 1<sup>ST</sup> & NOV. 2<sup>ND</sup>

AT

KLAMATH COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

EXHIBIT HALL #2

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON 97603



### *Admission Prices:*

- \$5.00 Adults
- \$4.00 Seniors
- \$2.00 Students
- Free: Children under 7 years of age

*Vendors table Fee \$20.00*

Free Parking for public  
RV Hook-up (Full) \$15.00 per site per day

### **Door Prizes & Raffles**

**Contact Person: Steve Hart: 1-541-892-2550  
and Chuck Stutts: 1-541-892-6597**

## September General Membership Meeting Notes

The "program" for the September general membership meeting was primarily a discussion of preparations needed for the Rogue Valley Train Show, the Klamath Rails Show, and the preparations for implementing the final phase of the permanent layout (*see front page regarding modules*).

This year's job schedule for the Rogue Valley RR Show has some uncertainties, including job slots for the Public HO Layout. The Club is not sure that the layout will be refurbished in time, nor the logistics of transporting the layout. Not having the layout may be alright as floor space is uncertain. Jim also needs a list of Club members who will be working the RR Show, and who are able to fill in other positions that may not be taken by other park club members. We also discussed having a sign-up sheet for running trains to make sure we have adequately covered the Club's operations needs.

### Your Thoughts and Prayers Needed

Please keep the following persons in your thoughts and prayers. Carol Stark is undergoing tests and treatment for a serious ailment related to her one remaining kidney. The wife of club member Steve Hart, Patricia Ann Hart, passed away on July 24.

### October 2008 Calendar of Events

#### Public Run Session

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Each Month  
10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

#### Board Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Each Month  
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

#### General Construction/New Layout Saturdays

Generally From 9:00 AM to 4 PM

#### General Membership Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:30 PM to 9:00

**The final two Sunday run sessions for the public are Sunday October 12 and Sunday October 26! Please help with your attendance. Sign up in the Club house if you know your will be available in advance; otherwise, we can always use spur of the moment help.**

### RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2008

Oct 11-12 – Central Oregon Live Steamers & Eastern Cascades Model Railroad Club Open House, 21520 Modoc Lane, Bend, Ore. Info: 541-317-1545.

Nov 29-30 – 31<sup>st</sup> **Rogue Valley Railroad Show**, Medford Armory, Medford, Ore. Model railroad displays, exhibits, swap met, door prizes, raffle and more. Info: Bill 541-821-5547 or Brad 541-535-7952  
[bfawcett@mind.net](mailto:bfawcett@mind.net)

If you know of shows not listed here please let me know so we can share that information with our readers.  
Contact Bruce at [iwccr@charter.net](mailto:iwccr@charter.net) or 541-890-8145. 07/15/2008

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