



Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains
PO Box 8361
Medford, OR 97504

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



The purpose of Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains is to further the enjoyment of large scale model railroads and to promote good fellowship among individuals and families interested in the operation of railways both indoors and outdoors.

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Frank Anderson-Editor

October 2005

From Our President:

Only one more run Sunday and the Medford Railroad Park will close for another season and what a great season we all have had. The reconstruction of the garden railway and the building of the village and repairs to bridges and trestles have been major accomplishments and all of you are to be commented on a job well done. The public surely has notice all of the efforts and many great remarks have come our way this year.

Now it is time to get ready for the Rogue Valley Railroad Show. This will be the 28th show held in Medford and should prove to be a good one. **Bill Meyer** or I will be contacting you regarding sign-ups for show-time slots, so get ready for Thanksgiving weekend. As always, your involvement with the show determines how much SOLST share will be at the end. You may also ask your friends, neighbors, and relatives to work the show for SOLST as long as you assure they will fulfill their commitment, they will get free entry to the show and of course SOLST will get the benefit of their volunteer hours. It is a win-win situation so don't be shy ask a friend to help you out! All of the tasks are easy and fun to boot.

Next Meeting: (Please note earlier start time!)

The next meeting of Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains will be October 21, 2005 at the home of **Mike, Barbara and Gary Miller** located at 1020 Brandon St, Central Point, OR 97502—541-665-5207. The meeting will begin at **6:30 PM** and end as quickly as possible, so we can enjoy the layout and run trains. Also Mike is willing to open the layout earlier than the meeting time for those who are interested, so let him know if you would like to show up sooner.

Sunday Run Days:

Oct 9th–Passenger Day...Oct 23rd–Anything Goes!

Happy rails to you,

Irene Zajac

Chasing the Challenger

by Jack Schaffer

Early Tuesday, September 6, found Mike and Gary Miller and myself up and ready to chase the Challenger. Mike had invited me to do a rail fan trip to see the UP 3985 Challenger. The Challenger was on its way from Salt Lake City, Utah, through Sacramento, and we caught it, as it was making its way north to Portland. Our trip took us from I-5 south to Grenada, Rt A12 to Rt 97. Then, with the help of an AAA map and Mike's GPS system, we would follow the rails to Klamath Falls. Easier said than done. Our first stop for photos was on a dirt road that was just a speck on the map. Good thing that Mike has four wheel drive. With all the tire tracks in the dirt, we expected to come across a huge group of rail fans awaiting the Challenger—nope, not a soul around. This was great. It gave us time to explore the trackside and find the best vantage point to take our photos. It also gave us time to do what we all did as kids and that was to tape some coins on the track to take home as souvenirs. The trick here is to find them after the train passes. After a brief wait for a southbound train to go by, we finally heard the sound and saw the faint outline of smoke heralding the arrival of UP3985. This locomotive is awesome. Since it was pulling a grade, the sound and vibration let us know this was one powerful engine.

A little history No. 3985 was built in 1943. It is one of 105 Challengers built. The Challenger has a 4-6-6-4 wheel arrangement. The frame of the locomotive is hinged to allow it to go through curves. With this design, in essence, it is two engines under one boiler. The drive wheels are 69 inches and the tender is 14-wheeled, with a water capacity of 25,000 gallons and 6445 gallons of No. 5 oil. Top speed of No. 3985 is about 70 miles an hour. It was retired in 1962 and restored to running condition in 1981.

Once No. 3985 passed, we continued our trip north to follow the Challenger. At our next stop, we joined the rail fan crowd made up of locals and those from Dunsmuir who had come up ahead of it. This was another spot where you could get close and personal with No. 3985. From here our trip may have gotten a bit confusing. We somehow managed to venture down the wrong road. What can you say about road maps and GPSs? It did not take us too long to figure out that Mt. Shasta was on the wrong side of the car. At this point, the chase was really on. We backtracked to Rt 97 and burned up the road, looking for that sign of smoke on the horizon. We finally caught up with No. 3985, coming into Dorris. Our next stop was a wayside, halfway between Dorris and Klamath Falls. This was my favorite spot. After climbing through a fence, we stood on a cliff overlooking the tracks. You had to be there. It was a trip back in history to see No. 3985 come into view as it made its way into the cut below us. It's what dreams are made of. From here we followed the Challenger on its flat run into Klamath Falls.

We got to the train station just as No. 3985 arrived. Yes, we were among the crowd that once again got up close and personal to this magnificent

locomotive. Sad to say, it was time to close the shutter on the camera and head home. We stopped at Arby's for a late lunch and then let Mike's GPS system guide us home. Wow, what a day. Thanks Mike and especially, Challenger No. 3985.



New address: Irene & Joseph Zajac
12572 Lower River Rd
Grants Pass, OR 97526
541-476-3209



Be sure to check out the clubs web site

<http://www.solst.com>

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Building the Medford Railroad Park Garden Railway

is now available on DVD! Jeremy Taylor converted the VHS video created by our own Norman Schumacher to DVD and will make anyone a copy. Your cost \$3 for DVD and cover. Give Jeremy a call or e-mail :

541-857-2949

jeremy.taylor@charter.net

Calendar of Events

Work Party Saturday before Run Sunday @ the Park 9AM until Noon

Oct ... 21...	SOLST Meeting 6:30 PM *
.....	Barbara, Mike, & Gary Miller
.....	1020 Brandon St, Central Point, OR 97502
.....	541-655-5207
Oct ... 23...	RR Park Run Day...Anything Goes!
Nov... 25...	Rogue Valley RR Show
.....	Friday Set-Up 8AM until Done!
Nov... 26...	Rogue Valley RR Show
.....	Saturday 9AM—5PM
Nov... 27...	Rogue Valley RR Show
.....	Sunday 10AM—7PM Thru Teardown/CleanUp

