



Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains  
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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

September 2005

From Our President:

The special run for the members of the Butte Creek Baptist Church from Eagle Point on August 20 went very well. Jack Schaffer arrived with the beautiful new buildings for our new town and members went to work early in setting them into place and preparing for our guests.

As the visitors rode the steam trains around and got their first look at us it wasn't long before we had plenty of them over at the layout. There were so many cars in the lot you would have thought it was a run Sunday. Our guests also treated us to lunch and those who were into desserts had their fill at that table also from what I have heard.

Thank you to all of the SOLST members who made this day possible for this group and for attending the meeting as well. We got a lot done and more buildings a coming, yea! Also monies approved to get Thomas up and running like the champ he is to all the kids at the park.

Monies approved (lowest possible price) for 12 good lawn chairs for the public. I spoke with the manager of Lowes and asked if he would be willing to sell us the high-back green lawn chairs they currently have for \$10.97 for \$5 each. He said yes and had them loaded into my car. That following run Sunday we collected \$42.15 in the donation box from a very grateful public, who really needed to sit in the shade.

Happy rails to you...Irene Zajac

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains will be September 16th at the HO clubhouse at the Medford RR Park. Meeting begins at 7:30 PM and stops at 8:00 PM for Rogue Valley Railroad Show talk. Additional business will be handled afterwards.

**Sunday Run Days:**

Sep 25th-Big Steam...Oct 9th-Passenger Day...Oct 23rd-Anything Goes!

## Just a Newby!

by Dan Merrill

When Frank asked me to write a column for the newsletter this month I was a little surprised, after all I am just a “newby” to Garden scale model railroading! However, in the short time I’ve been a member of SOLST I’ve been very inspired. This hobby is great because it combines all of my interest into one! I’m a landscaper by trade and I enjoy gardening. My favorite hobby is trains and I enjoy woodworking as well. Until this season I had only dreamed of having my own layout and now we have track on the ground and bridges under construction in the workshop. (That workshop by the way was the starting point of my railroad and will double as the Stillwater engine house...more on my layout later).

My wife Kristine and I joined the club last November at the Rogue Valley Railroad Show. I’ve been a member of the White City “N” scale group and we have modeled in “N” scale for years. I had put off joining SOLST long enough and decided it was time. We were immediately welcomed and attended the Christmas party and I have been involved in rebuilding the outdoor display that was vandalized at the railroad park in Medford. In my 20+ years of service to the public in Parks & Recreation maintenance I have still never been able to understand the minds or motives behind vandalism and it’s never pleasant to deal with, however SOLST was able to turn the rebuilding process into something positive. This was a great opportunity for several members to learn and some upgrades were made. All curves are a minimum of 10’ radius now and I’ve learned how to bend rail, build track, level and ballast track (boy, we did a lot of that) and I’ve even been involved in installing bridges and adding ravines to give Thomas’ line some interest.

Mike Miller really “took us under his wing” so to speak and as a result our larger equipment can operate much smoother and the layout is looking better every week! Bill Meyer led a pruning workshop also when many Dwarf Alberta Spruce trees were donated and our forest is getting thicker. I’ve attended some great workshops at our meetings also—Frank Anderson is incredibly talented with foam carving and construction and EZ-Air® and Kadee® have been very helpful as well! I’ve met lots of friends and really enjoy the work parties—I hope to be able to take some people up on their invites to home layouts soon.

I guess I’m saying all that to say this...I’ve had a great year in model railroading so far and I’m looking forward to contributing to the modular display as we shift gears for fall next month. For those of you who haven’t made it out to the park much this summer, we still have 4 run days left and we work on each Saturday prior to run days. We are currently building the town of SOLST and have added several buildings, a lookout tower and a beautiful station built by Guy Jenkins. We are planning a road and some figures and details soon. For those of you who have been there every week and have been patient with me, and all of my questions...thank you!

Oh yah, getting back to the Stillwater engine house I mentioned earlier...My layout is coming along fairly slowly because my wife and I are adding some new features to our landscape that will also incorporate trains. I am building a covered bridge to make the transition from the shed to the layout and past the strawberry beds to the town of Stillwater. A strawberry festival will be taking place in town and a “wye” intersection has been installed here to turn engines around and back them into the engine-house. I had already begun purchasing sectional track from Aristocraft and so far that is working. I definitely see lots of benefit to bending your own rails and that may come into play later on. I am using all split jaw rail joiners (something I learned from the club rebuild). It’s expensive now but I think it will pay off later. Next we have built a stone bar-b-que with tile counters and the track passes through the bottom (creating some storage for cars) and then it passes the Stillwater Inn at the lake. Next the train will pass through Red Rock Canyon, which includes two tunnels and a small waterfall. This was a fun project and allowed us to build a raised flower garden right in view of our bedroom glass door. This line then will eventually continue on to the main loop around the gazebo and the waterfall and koi pond, which is currently under construction. This are will also incorporate an upper logging line for which I plan to buy a shay. There are seven bridges planned and lots of water! I have a long way to go but isn’t that what this great hobby is all about? We never really are “finished” with our layouts are we? Speaking of that, I’ve got a bridge to build!



Thanks to **John Page, Christopher Bray, Mike Miller and Dan Merrill** who has written articles for our newsletter. I will be in touch with more of you to contribute your ideas and know how to the club. So put on your thinking caps and see what you can come up with. It would really help me a lot if you would go ahead and pen an article and e-mail it to me. We need an article for each month.

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](mailto:jeremy.taylor@charter.net)

**Calendar of Events**  
**Work Party Saturday before Run Sunday**  
**@ the Park 9AM until Noon**

Sep ...	16...	SOLST Meeting...Just Trains & Desserts *
Sep ...	25...	RR Park Run Day... <b>Big Steam</b>
Oct ...	09...	RR Park Run Day... <b>Passenger Day</b>
Oct ...	23...	RR Park Run Day... <b>Anything Goes!</b>

