



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

June 2005

From Our President:

The weather played havoc with Mays run days. The Mothers Day run of May 8th had a very low turn out (which is somewhat normal for that day, but unusually cold weather produced an even smaller crowd). Due to rain, our special run day for Wednesday May 18th was cancelled as well.

One of the storms, totally demolish the tarp which covered the Willamette and was anchored into the ground preventing vehicles from entering down the drive to the tool shed or snow cone area to off load supplies. The SOCNRHS (Southern Oregon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society) has removed the cover but do have plans to cover the Willamette later this summer. The area behind all the rolling stock, which was very muddy, has been filled in by the SOCNRHS and is now passable and we can now park in the back and off load our trains.

Harry Baker of the Masonic Lodge of Grants Pass is bringing a group of between 80 to 100 people to the park for a special run Thursday, July 14, 2005 and we have been asked to participate in this event. Please let me know, if you can work this event. I will have to let you know the times as soon as I have them confirmed.

Saturday Work Parties are on the Saturday prior to the run Sunday in order to maintain our garden railroad from 9AM until noon. Do come out and join us in keeping our garden looking great!

Happy rails to you,
Irene Zajac

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains will be June 17th at 7:30 PM at the HO clubhouse at the Medford RR Park.

Saturday Work Parties:

Saturday work parties 9AM—Noon...Saturday prior to run Sunday.

Sunday Run Days:

Jeremy Taylor is in charge of making up the calendar for the 'themed runs'. So contact Jeremy if you have any ideas on a theme.

In Search of A Round ToIt

In shame, by John Page

You may have seen one of those sigh. My in-laws had one painted on the back of their travel trailer. It's a big circle with the four letters inside: TOIT. I am desperately in need of some at this time.

I have four 1:20.3 narrow gauge freight car kits from the F&CC experimental kit run on the 1:20.3 Yahoo Internet Forum. I have another freight car kit from Bob Hartford. Then there is a shorty passenger car kit manufactured by Don Winter. These kits all sit untouched upstairs. I need a Round ToIt so I can start working on them.

Then I carefully printed out some flatcar plans and the construction manual from the fantastic modeling group on my LargeScale.com. The MLS plans are a complete and through manual with color pictures to drool over; covering all the basics and lots of details. The idea behind these flat cars was an instruction class on basic construction that could be adapted to a large variety of different F and G scale freight cars. Some of those guys have the pro-am skills of a **Frank Anderson**.

That series caused me to start a machining project to make a close-tolerance throat plate for my 10" table saw, so I could safely cut pretty accurate tiny lumber to at least semi-scale tolerances. I have two 1/2" aluminum plates rounded and slotted for a precision fit into my table saw now, but I've never gotten around to machining safety mounts to attach them to my saw. Another unfound that Round ToIt.

Sitting in my bedroom is the SOLST Bachmann Ten-Wheeler, waiting for a new set of crosshead guides. The OEM plastic originals are broken. I have ideas of building new ones out of small pieces of brass rail. The front truck is going to be redone with probably a heavy machined frame so it will stay on the rails.

I've got a dozen Bachmann plastic car kits upstairs, and some more Ten-Wheelers to go on Barry's Big Train precision chasses. These projects are waiting for me to learn how to mix paint colors for a couple of airbrushes. And the airbrushes are waiting for compressed air piping to the attic from the shop, plus a paint booth to fit in an upstairs window. The Round ToIts are getting more rare by the month.

Oh, then there is my first live steam engine kit, that cute little 0-4-0 Ruby. I got the frame partially assembled, when I broke off a 2mm tap trying to improve a threaded hole. This will require milling a fresh brass block to replace the original and six new tapped-hole operations. I plan on moving up to 2-56 taps and screws. And what about the new upgraded 1/2" or 9/16" modified steam cylinders? The stock Ruby comes with 3/8" cylinders, which

means nearly uncontrollable high speed and no pulling power. Larger cylinders turn the Ruby into a delightful steamer, with surprising power. So I have all of these little brass blocks out in the shop-unfinished. One of the first reasons that you buy a lathe or a mill (you find this out afterwards) is to build more tooling and accessories for said machine. And that requires even more Round ToIts! At least I found a few Round ToIts to get out to White City Metals and start gathering raw materials: pieces of rod, blocks, and sheets of brass, steel and aluminum. Some day I'd like to build a live steam whistle, too.

The worst problem is I have a really cool wife who loves gardening, fishponds, colorful plants of all sizes, and model trains. We have no lawns around our place. They were destroyed and replaced with gardens years ago. But there is still no right-of-way, no ties, no rails, no switches, no hi-ballers, not even a lowly way-freight. I've got a couple hundred feet of Code 250 rail in storage though, and some power supplies and wire. I can't decide whether to build at ground level or to elevate the track for live steam running. Also the weather is too cold, or too wet, or will soon be too hot. Aargh, this is a huge Round ToIt, gone into hiding at the speed of dark.

My hobby funds are tied up in too many unfinished projects. Does anyone have some spare Round ToIt's, cheap? Or have they become extinct? Actually, I guess I am more afraid of another diagnosis: laziness.

Cheers

Thanks John for the great article, we'll see you in the funny paper!

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Calendar of Events

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

| | | |
|---------|-------|-----------------------|
| Jun ... | 12... | RR Park Run Day |
| Jun ... | 17... | SOLST Meeting 7:30 PM |
| Jun ... | 26... | RR Park Run Day |
| Jul ... | 10... | RR Park Run Day |
| Jul ... | 14... | Special Run Masons |
| Jul ... | 15... | SOLST Meeting 7:30 PM |
| Jul ... | 24... | RR Park Run Day |
| Aug... | 14... | RR Park Run Day |
| Aug... | 28... | RR Park Run Day |
| Sep ... | 11... | RR Park Run Day |
| Sep ... | 25... | RR Park Run Day |

