



River City Western Main Line

River City Modelers' Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2012 ✧ Spokane, Washington

Annual Train Show and Swap Meet, February 19th



The River City Modelers Club will hold its annual Train Show at Spokane Community College on Sunday, February 19th. The show features several working model railroads, local vendors of model railroading supplies and equipment and tables of individuals who have equipment to sell. New this year, River City Modelers will hold clinics to demonstrate techniques used in the creation of realistic model railroad layouts.

As in past years, the train show will be located in the Lair Student Center Building on the Spokane Community College campus. Directions to the campus may be found below or use *MapQuest* or *Google Maps* for more detailed instruction. The doors open at 9:30 a.m. and admission is \$5.00 for adults. There is plenty of free parking. Doors close at 3:30 p.m.

River City Modelers on the Internet

Thanks to work by member **Mike Tietz** and a generous contribution by member **Jerry Woelk**, River City Modelers opened a website in December to share information about the club and its activities to a wider audience. Thanks also go to member **Rick Clark** and his daughter Michelle who helped design and publish the site. The address is www.RiverCityModelers.org – we hope that you will take a look.

In addition to the website, member **Alan Ashton** has created a *Facebook*[®] “wall” that is updated regularly with pictures showing progress on the River City Western. Go to *Facebook*

and search for **River City Modelers**. Take a look at our wall, “like” what you see and “share” with friends and family.

River City Western Open House

The members of the River City Modelers Club will host an open house in conjunction with the Annual Train Show and Swap Meet. The club’s layout will be open for visitors on Saturday, February 18th (6-9 p.m.) and on Sunday, February 19th (noon-4 p.m.). Admission is free and donations to support the hobby of model railroading are gratefully accepted.

The layout is located at 1130 East Sprague near downtown Spokane. There is street parking in addition to a somewhat limited parking lot located on the west side of the building. There is also an elevator for the use of those who require accessibility options.

Crew Report

Meet **Roger Pepper**. Roger joined River City Modelers last May (2011) after he and his wife moved to Spokane from Iowa. Roger has had an interest in railroading since the early 1950s when he was impressed by the sights, sounds and smells of live steam trains on the Santa Fe. Today, he says that his favorite prototype railroad is the Southern Pacific (SP) which merged with the Union Pacific in 1996. Why? He likes the color schemes that the “EsPee” used and he is interested in how the railroad integrated diverse motive power. He followed the railroad through the years and comments about the various stages of equipment repair (or disrepair?) that he observed.

Roger’s favorite activity at the club is laying track. If you talk to him about that he will tell you stories about a club to which he belonged in San Diego that hand-laid track and scratch

River City Modelers Annual Train Show and Swap Meet – February 19th, 2012 at the Lair Student Center

Directions to Spokane Community College from Interstate 90

From I-90 Eastbound:

1. Take the Thor/Freya St. exit.
2. Turn left at Freya St.
3. Continue traveling north on Freya St. Freya becomes Greene St. at Mission Ave. The SCC campus is located at the intersection of Greene St. and Mission Ave. You may enter the campus from Greene St. or from Mission Ave.

From I-90 Westbound:

1. Take the Thor/Freya St. exit.
2. Turn right at Freya St.
3. Continue traveling north on Freya St. Freya becomes Greene St. at Mission Ave. The SCC campus is located at the intersection of Greene St. and Mission Ave. You may enter the campus from Greene St. or from Mission Ave.

built turnouts. Roger's activities at River City Modelers include installing turnout motors and wiring electrical uncouplers – both very important for club operations. Currently, Roger is working on a very sizable bridge that will carry the River City Western's mainline track over Whiskey Creek.

Roger says that he joined River City Modelers to learn new aspects of the hobby of model railroading. While that may be true, the other members of the club will learn a lot from Roger as well.



Reference materials regarding the Southern Pacific can be found on the internet at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Pacific_Transportation_Company

Mile Posts

There is a lot of activity around *Whiskey Creek* right now. The area offers some challenging scenery and sever bridges need to be installed to take the mainline over a deep gorge. The area is divided into the *lower mountain district* where a saw mill will eventually be served by a short branch line, the *mid-mountain district* that will feature several bridges as the mainline wraps around from *Overlook* to the *Hatton Siding*, and the *upper mountain district* that connects *Sumpter* on the upper level to *Overlook* on the lower level.

Part of the project will include straightening part of the mainline to accommodate a major bridge in the mid-mountain district (see previous article regarding Roger Pepper). This will involve cutting through the "spline" that currently spans Whiskey Creek – a project that could delay operations and one that few want to tackle.

Mike Tietz has been hanging on a sky hook (not literally) to work on the scenery basics. He has applied a base coat of paint and has set the time frame for the layout in September or October by giving the highest level of the mountain a dusting of snow (using Hydrocal®).

Elsewhere, **Mike Tietz** is working on a power generating facility located between *Jefferson* and *Coldwater* that will demand regular deliveries of coal once it is fully built and operational. Mike recently commented on how quickly clouds appeared behind the power plant (on the lower backdrop) with the help of one of our resident artists, **Mike Hartung**.

Work on the steel mill near *Fort Morgan* is progressing nicely under the direction of **Mike Hirsch** and **Gene Sponcler**. The buildings are substantially complete and the track work needed to service the sizable facility is well underway. The steel mill will be an impressive focal point for visitors entering the layout.

Little seen but vitally important, wiring of signals and turnout controls is proceeding. **Bob Deem** was last seen somewhere under the layout wiring signals and **Jim Haley** is adding his touch by wiring control panels.

Also behind the scenes, **Kevin Chain** is working on the computer programming (using Microsoft's Visual Basic®) to make the complex signal system work.

Interested in Joining RCM?

Model railroading is one of the most diverse hobbies. Our activities routinely encompass construction, history, art, computer programming electronics, logistics, photography and much more. As a club there is also a need for writing, fund raising, promotion and project management. Our members bring many of these skills as a result of their personal experiences, either from their past vocations or their participation in other activities. No experience in model railroading is required. Our motto is "Learn, Build, Enjoy."

For more information about joining River City Modelers, email RCM.Membership@gmail.com or visit the club.

Schedule

River City Modelers meet each Thursday evening at the club layout, 1130 East Sprague Avenue, near downtown Spokane. The first Thursday of each month is reserved for our monthly business meeting. Members are also at the club to work on various projects during many days and will gladly stop to give you a tour.

Visitors may drop by the club to see the layout and get additional information about club activities. Call (509) 535-3462 or email RCM.Membership@gmail.com for additional information or directions.

River City Modelers also encourages groups to schedule special tours of the layout (RCM.Membership@gmail.com).



This newsletter was published with financial assistance provided by **Globe Motors**. River City Modelers thanks **Globe Motors** for their support of model railroading and the development of the River City Western HO Scale railroad.

Visit our friends at **Globe Motors** for quality used cars and trucks at **5033 E. Sprague Ave., Spokane Valley, WA 99212**. Tell them that you saw their name in the River City Modelers' newsletter.

