

The Manifest

APRIL, 2014



NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As most of you know, we have changed our chapter name, thus we have also updated the header for our newsletter, as shown above.

We also have updated membership as well. For those of you who may not know, we now have Associate Members, who pay \$15 per year in dues to the Chapter and zero to National. They are eligible for the following:

- To participate in all Chapter projects and activities at the Railroad Park, in White City, Butte Falls and elsewhere.
- Covered by Chapter insurance the same as Regular, Student and Family members.
- Attend and speak at all Chapter and Board meetings
- Receive email versions of all Chapter publications

An Associate Member:

- Would not be a member of the NRHS
- Would not receive any national publications
- Could not run for or hold Chapter office
- Could not vote in Chapter elections

Copies of the new membership applications are available at the food stand.

Our first two run days have come and gone already. Our first run day was quite warm and well attended, the second was cooler and somewhat slower, but overall a good start to our new season.

The new train novelties we have for sale are gaining some attention, as well as the fact that we can now take debit/credit cards.

THE DAY THE TRAIN STOPPED VIC SEEBERGER

The year was 1930, I think, and I was about 8 years old. My maternal Grandmother, Mama Cora Layton, who raised me, decided we should go and see my Uncle Victor Layton in Kirven, Texas, about 200 miles south of us. We had been there before, but we always passed through Kirven and got off in Fairfield, Texas, a few miles from Kirven. Uncle Vick would have to drive over and pick us up at the depot in Fairfield. Kirven was a very small town, population just about a hundred people, or so. It had no depot, just a post office and a service station, with attached grocery store, and a few scattered houses.

This time would be a different story, however. Mama had purchased out train tickets at the Waurika, Oklahoma depot. There must have been a relief agent there at the time she bought the tickets, because she told him to list our destination as "Kirven, Texas", and he did.

We caught the steam-powered passenger train in Waurika and rode to Fort Worth, Texas. We changed trains there and soon, after we pulled out of Fort Worth, the Conductor came by to punch our tickets. This guy was nearly 6 feet tall and must have weighed over 200 pounds. He looked like a giant to me. My Mama was just under five feet tall and weighed about 90 pounds soaking wet. This big guy noticed our destination as Kirven and immediately told us we would have to continue on to Fairfield before getting off the train. Mama heard him out, and then she told him that we would be getting off the train at Kirven. She said that she had two brothers who worked for the railroad, a Conductor and an Engineer, and that she knew a little about railroad law. She said, by railroad law, they had to let you off the train at the destination written on the ticket.

This rotund, gray haired Conductor looked at her and when she finished, he laughed and told her that he had been on this same run for 20-odd years and the train had never stopped in Kirven, Texas

and furthermore, it would never stop in Kirven, Texas as long as he was the Conductor. Mama told him we either got off the train in Kirven, or she would see him in court.

I was trying to find a place to hide as an apoplectic Conductor departed down the aisle. He probably went up and talked to the Engineer (2nd in command). Soon he returned and tried his best to convince Mama to get off in Fairfield. But Mama stood her ground.

The train stopped in Kirven that day, briefly, just long enough for a red faced Conductor to place a small step stool on the ground and assist us down out of the train. He waved a hurried signal to the Engineer and the train high-balled it out of town.

I imagine they are still talking about, and I will never forget,
THE DAY THE TRAIN STOPPED IN KIRVEN, TEXAS...

Minutes Southern Oregon Chapter—NRHS Members' Regular Meeting, April 8, 2014

1. Membership Meeting Call to Order: President Bruce Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
2. Roll Call: Eleven members were present.
3. Old Business:
 - a. By-Laws Change: Bruce Kelly announced the notice of change of the Chapter's By-Laws, which had first been proposed at the March 11, 2014 General meeting. There was no discussion. Jerry Hellinga moved to adopt the revised By-Laws as presented. Chris Manley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
 - b. Name Change: Bruce Kelly announced the proposed change of the Chapter's official name from the Southern Oregon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society to the Southern Oregon Railway Historical Society, as had originally been proposed at the March 11, 2014 General meeting. There was no discussion. Jerry Hellinga moved to change the Chapter's official name to Southern Oregon Railway Historical Society. Chris Manley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. A brief discussion followed on an appropriate shortening of the name in casual conversation. The

membership agreed by consensus to refer to the Southern Oregon Railway Historical Society as SORail in less formal circumstances.

4. New Business: None
5. Adjournment: Allen Dobney moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jerry Hellinga seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Larry Tuttle, Secretary

Next General Meeting May 13, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

**Minutes Southern Oregon Chapter—NRHS
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
April 8, 2014**

1. Board Meeting Call to Order – President Bruce Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM
2. Roll Call: Bruce Kelly, Larry Tuttle, Jerry Hellinga, and E. Don Pettit and 7 other members were present. Ric Walch was absent.
3. Consent of the Agenda: Jerry Hellinga moved to consent to the Agenda. E. Don Pettit seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. .
4. Approval of March 11, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Minutes: Jerry Hellinga moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2014 Regular Board meeting. E. Don Pettit seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Jerry Hellinga passed out the April 8, 2014 Financial Statement. Larry Tuttle moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. E. Don Pettit seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
6. Standing Committees & Projects:

- a. Medco 4 Restoration – Jerry Hellinga stated that he has received the new stay bolts and is getting the tools to install them. He’s almost ready to get them installed and will need a small crew to assist him.
 - b. Food Stand – Larry Tuttle reported that the Food Stand will be stocked and staffed on opening day.
 - c. Newsletter – Doing fine.
 - d. Web Site Updates – Recent newsletters have been added to the site.
 - e. Butte Falls Tourist RR Opportunity – Nothing to report.
 - f. Fence move & Track Extension Project – Nothing new.
 - g. Sale of surplus / Duplicate Material – Nothing new
 - h. Railroad Park – Nothing new.
7. Communications: Tony Johnson stated that he was redoing some of the signs.
8. Old Business: (none)
9. New Business:
- a. Request for Letter of Support: Lisa Dykstra of Oregon Department of Parks & Recreation has requested a letter in support of their grant application to the NRHS for partial funding to restore the 1941 Weyerhaeuser Snow Dozer Plow on the OC&E trail. This application is on behalf of the Rails to Trail Alliance. Jerry Hellinga moved that SO Rail provide a letter of support to the NRHS for this project. E. Don Petting seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
 - b. Letter from Al Weber: Al Weber, NRHS District 6 Director, sent the Chapter a letter asking for a report on the “health” of the Southern Oregon Chapter including ideas, problems, concerns, dues collections/billing and financial status. His letter also outlined some changes that were being considered by the NRHS, including a new form of affiliation with the NRHS that does not include actual membership in the NRHS. The consensus of the Board was that he be informed of our “health,”

new name, new membership class and by-law changes. Larry Tuttle will write this letter.

10. Good of the Order :

- a. Bruce Kelly received a letter from Bruce Vandelden, who is moving to Oregon from Nebraska and is already a Chapter member.
- b. E. Don Pettit reported on the Sunday parking lot detail; there's a new schedule out; SO Rail is the responsible group in June and October.
- c. Allen Dobney reported a donation from Steve Coons
- d. Bruce Kelly reported that Tony Johnson has been keeping the lawns mowed.

11. Adjournment: Jerry Hellinga moved to adjourn; E. Don Pettit seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM

Larry Tuttle, Secretary

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday May 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING ENTERTAINMENT

We will have a **special guest** at our May meeting, one of our supporters from California, **Tom Mougovan**, who has put together a slide show, including logging and Northwest railroads. Please plan on attending and enjoying the show.

If you have any videos, or other items you would like to share with us for our entertainment portion of the meeting, please email me at (**c-manley@charter.net**) or call me at 541-890-7639 with the details and I will put you on the schedule.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

As always, we need articles for the newsletter. If you have something you would like to see included in an upcoming newsletter, please send your submission to **c-manley@charter.net** or call **541-890 -7639**. Thanks, Chris

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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

If you know of any other events that should be added to our newsletter, please email, (c-manley@charter.net), or call, (541-890-7639), with the details.

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