



The Side Rod

The link that keeps all the wheels turning

SPRING 1998

Over-the-Hill Live Steam Club

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This is the second issue of "The Side Rod". The official newsletter of the "Over-the-Hill Live Steam Club". "The Side Rod" will be published quarterly, to arrive in March, June, September and December.

Has spring sprung at your location? At this location it is still raining and the weather guesser is saying we can expect 3 to 7 inches over the next 5 days. WOW, Spring!

At the O-t-H track sight the ground has been either under snow or wet from rain and outside work is impossible to perform. However, inside work has been progressing.

The new plastic tie track panel shop, has over the last three months assembled some 600 ten foot panels at the average rate of 25 panels a day. It took them a few days to get things going. The saw they were using worked well for wood ties but was not up to the task of cutting the denser plastic tie material. A "bigger" saw has been put into this service.

Once the bugs were worked out and refinements in the process ironed out, things have been running smoother. I'm sure that as they do the work they will figure out ways

to make things go even better.

The area that is now the "track shop" has been opened into the adjacent half of the building, and that half has now become the "switch shop". In the area between the two shops, a bathroom and small storage area for parts and tools not needed in the shops on a daily basis has been built. The bathroom can not be used as yet because the "outside" ditch work for the drain pipe can not be completed until the wet outside conditions are gone.

The switch shop has produced three switches in a trial run and is gearing up to make another 25 one hundred foot radius main line switches.

The fence along the County road (S. Chiloquin Rd.) has been cut in preparation for our "Main Entrance" for the general public parking area. The entrance drive has been started and then delayed because of the wet conditions. A fence is being planned for the east side of Train Mountains' Drive to

separate their driveway from the Over - the - Hill parking area.

Well that's about all that has been going on. Now for some items that we are planning for the future. You can be a part of these items during "Work" week, May 23 to 27, 1998.

Because "Spring" has sprung, the ground will start to dry out as the rains decrease over the next few weeks. We will be able to get the heavy equipment back to work moving the dirt needed for the realignment of track and during the work week we plan on putting down track that will give us at least one loop for public rides and the connection track to Train Mountain's "main" so we can transport goods and materials to and from any loading area.

The flat area near the tunnel is being considered as an area to be developed for tent and car camping (no motorhomes).

The dead or damaged trees have been marked and will be removed as soon as the ground dries up enough for the tree people to bring in their equipment.

Two "end of the train" rail cars (caboose) have been assigned by Train Mountain to occupy Over - the - Hill property. Their use has not been defined as yet. Some of the choices include restrooms, museum and rail history center, snack bar and retail shop.

The "switch" and "track" shops are open all year for any persons interested in helping put track panels or switches together. If you are interested in either, please give us a call and tell us

when you are coming. We will have an instructor available to get you started. Any help in any volunteer endeavor is greatly appreciated and we wish to thank all who have helped in the past and thank those who will help in the future.

As we get closer to the May Spring Meet, more help will be needed to get all the track panels to the rail heads and put into place. If you can help, please come and do what your physical health will allow. As you know most of us large scale railroaders are only young at heart and some of us have limitations on what we can do. ALL help, including the person who can only drive the water cooler around to the other crews is appreciated.

For information or to inform us you are coming to help out, please call one of the following:

Train Mountain (541) 783-3030
Over-the-Hill (541) 783-2670
Art Crisp (541) 783-2082

With your help, we can have a really nice track for all, young or old, operator or passenger, to enjoy.

COMING EVENTS

Next Board of Directors meeting will be during the Spring Meet.
Saturday, May 30
10:00 A. M.

36951 S. Chiloquin Rd.
Chiloquin, OR

This is when we anticipate the largest number of O-t-H members will be present. A notice of this meeting will be placed on bulletin boards at Train Mountain and Over the Hill.

